

**COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
TALBOT COUNTY**

2007 Legislative Session, Legislative Day No. July 10, 2007

Resolution No. 141

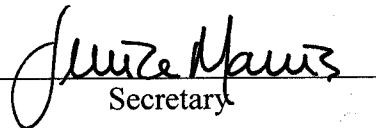
Introduced by: Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Harrison

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN FOR TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND TO REVISE THE CURRENTLY ADOPTED SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALL SEPTAGE GENERATED IN TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND; PURSUANT TO THE POWER AND AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE, TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND

By the Council: July 10, 2007

Introduced, read the first time, and ordered posted, with Public Hearing scheduled on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland.

By order: _____


Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 141

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN FOR TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND TO REVISE THE CURRENTLY ADOPTED SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALL SEPTAGE GENERATED IN TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND; PURSUANT TO THE POWER AND AUTHORITY CONTAINED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE, TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND

WHEREAS, the County Council of Talbot County, State of Maryland, by Resolution Number 100 has adopted the October 2002 Report of the Review of the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, said plan is necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, Talbot County is required to adopt a plan for treatment and disposal of septage generated in Talbot County; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Talbot County adopted Resolution 68 to include a Septage Management Plan for all septage generated in Talbot County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the currently adopted Septage Management Plan must be updated to include changes in the ownership of the treatment and disposal facility within Talbot County; and

WHEREAS, the Septage Management Plan has been prepared and certified to be in compliance with the policies and regulations of governing bodies and agencies having jurisdiction in Talbot County;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the County Council of Talbot County, Maryland as follows;

SECTION 1:

The Septage Management Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted and shall be permanently entered into the currently effective Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan as Chapter 3 – Septage Receiving, Treatment and Disposal Facility – Septage Management Plan.

Be it further resolved that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its date of passage.

**COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN
TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 141**

ATTACHMENT

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES, ADOPTED AS RESOLUTION NO. 68 ARE ATTACHED HEREIN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF AMENDMENT TO THE TALBOT COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN, ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 100.

- I. INCLUDE CHAPTER 3 – SEPTAGE, RECEIVING, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITY – SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN AS SHOWN.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution No. 141

Having been posted and Notice, Time and Place of Hearing, and Title of Resolution No. 141 having been published, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 in the Bradley Meeting Room, Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland.

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time:

Enacted: _____

By Order: _____
Secretary

Duncan -
Foster -
Bartlett -
Carroll -
Harrison -

SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

As a result of amendments to COMAR 26.04.02 and 26.04.06 (effective December 10, 1990) concerning septage disposal, septage is now required to meet the standards required for the disposal of sewage sludge. These regulations do not apply to grease or oil from grease traps or oil separators. Based on recent census data, there are approximately 17,347 dwelling units in Talbot County. Using the geographical information system software, just over 8,000 dwelling units are served by an on-site sewage disposal system which consists of a septic tank and tile field.

Assuming 8,000 septic systems exist in Talbot County and a similar number of on-site sewage disposal systems with septic tanks exist in Caroline County, the average volume of septage generated per year can be estimated. With the average size of a septic tank being 1,500 gallons and assuming that one-third of the total number of septic systems are pumped out once every three years, approximately 8,000,000 gallons of septage is generated each year. Based on the last full year of operation of the privately-owned septage treatment and disposal facility, approximately 8,300,000 gallons of septage was treated and disposed of at this facility. This equates to about 22,000 gallons per day (gpd) of septage based on operating the facility 365 days per year. This correlates well with the local Waste Haulers Association report that they pump an average of approximately 21,000 gpd.

On November 15, 2005, the privately-owned septage treatment and disposal facility in Talbot County closed. When this facility closed, the septage generated in Talbot and Caroline Counties was diverted, treated and disposed of at the Cambridge and Hurlock Wastewater Treatment Plants. Due to limited materials handling facilities at these wastewater treatment plants, the City of Cambridge requested that Talbot County establish a septage treatment and disposal facility within three years of the closing of the privately-owned septage treatment and disposal facility in Talbot County. This was a condition of the City of Cambridge's verbal agreement to accept septage from Talbot County.

Since the November 15, 2005, Talbot County identified and reviewed five alternatives to determine the optimum septage management solution. These alternatives included: disposal of septage at the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Michaels; disposal of septage at the Unionville Pump Station with treatment at the Region II Wastewater Treatment Plant; development of a new County-owned and operated facility for septage disposal; participation in an agreement with a neighboring jurisdiction with septage disposal facilities in place; and acquiring the privately-owned septage treatment and disposal facility. The last alternative, acquiring the privately-owned septage treatment and disposal facility was considered to be the most cost effective solution which provides a long-term solution.

Under this plan, Talbot County will own and operate the septage treatment and disposal facility, in accordance with Maryland Regulations. In addition to owning and operating the septage treatment and disposal facility, Talbot County will control septage collection and disposal by issuing disposal permits. These disposal permits will make contract haulers and the entity generating the septage responsible for the materials and/or contents that are treated and disposed of at the Talbot County treatment and disposal facility. In addition, these permits shall specify what materials the Talbot County-owned septage and disposal facility is permitted to treat. To assure the proper operation and maintain permit compliance with the Maryland Department of the Environment, Talbot County shall schedule meetings, as needed, with the contract haulers to review operational issues and explore ways to improve the treatment of septage.

At any time, the Talbot County septage treatment and disposal facility shall be available for inspection and monitoring by the County Health Department and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Operations will be suspended if recurring permit violations occur. The cost for septage disposal at this facility will be set by the Department of Public Works with these fees being subject to review and approval by the County Council.

Permits issued to contract hauler(s) will allow septage from the Mid-Shore area of Talbot, Kent, Queen Anne's and Caroline counties. However, during periods of inclement weather, the Department of Public Works will control the amount of septage being accepted at the treatment and disposal facility after providing a minimum of five (5) business days of written notice to the contract hauler(s) of the restriction. To ensure that all septage is disposed of in an acceptable manner, the currently adopted ordinance shall be revised to reflect Talbot County's ownership of the septage and treatment disposal facility.