

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Lawrence P. DiRe, Town Manager
DATE: September 5, 2023
SUBJECT: 9a. Adopt Chestertown Comprehensive Stormwater Plan

Background

The process to develop the Chestertown Comprehensive Stormwater Plan began in 2020, was impacted by the COVID pandemic closures of that year, involved a broad group of concerned and involved stakeholders and final produced the final draft document in June 2021. The attached document is divided into five sections and provides information on specific aspects of stormwater master planning. **First**, there is an executive summary describing the Chester River's current water quality condition and explaining the purpose of the Comprehensive Stormwater Plan (henceforward the "plan"). **Second**, describes the federal government requirements for watershed projects and identifies monitoring locations used to determine water quality. **Third**, the plan lays out six strategies and twelve recommendations toward meeting the plan's stated goal of "A healthy Chester River, safe for swimming and fishing, and free from all water quality impairments." (Section 3.2, page 10). **Fourth**, the Chestertown Stormwater Digital Atlas website [Chestertown Stormwater Plan Atlas \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) is a digital companion resource that shows the locations of stormwater BMPs around town and maintains data recordings of phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment reduction. **Finally**, Watershed Restoration Practices which are grouped into four phased groups - proposed, designed, approved and completed. This section also addresses certain process and funding requirements as well as a table of projects. The attached document is dated June 2021.

As stated in section 5.1 (page 15) of the plan "This Plan is a living document. Projects are selected based on a combination of overall project feasibility and pollution reduction. Factors considered include but are not limited to: stakeholder input, project cost, pollution reductions, visibility and educational opportunity, site characteristics, and land use analysis. Projects are not listed in order of importance, impact, or feasibility." Adopting the plan is an important step in both recognizing the document's value as a data and resource contribution, and in the practical sense of being a requirement for future capital project funding pursuits.

Issue

Should the town adopt the Chestertown Comprehensive Stormwater Plan dated June 2021?

Recommendation

Staff are proposing the mayor and town council adopt the plan as submitted and recognize that adoption does not place a financial obligation on the town to unilaterally

incur the cost of any one or all proposed projects. Pending further discussion provide direction to staff.