

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-07**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY FOR MYSTIC HARBOUR SANITARY SERVICE AREA AND RIDDLE FARM SANITARY SERVICE AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland adopted a comprehensive water and sewerage plan for the County on August 23, 1994, pursuant to Section 9-503 of the Environment Article of *The Annotated Code of Maryland*; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Commissioners have proposed to amend the *Worcester County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan* to provide for revision of certain water and wastewater informational items and the addition of capital projects. The amendment will also provide for interconnection of public water systems between Mystic Harbour and Riddle Farm to add redundancy for maintenance purposes and special circumstances and well as to provide for an interconnection for a treated effluent force main between Mystic Harbour and Riddle Farm for additional storage in the Riddle lagoon and irrigation area access in the Riddle Farm spray fields; and

**WHEREAS**, the Worcester County Planning Commission, at their February 6, 2025, meeting, reviewed the amendment application to the Worcester County Water and Sewerage Plan and found the proposal consistent with the *Worcester County Comprehensive Development Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Commissioners held a public hearing April 1, 2025, to hear public comment on this amendment to the *Worcester County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of their investigation and evaluation of the proposal per the provisions of Section 9-503 et. seq. of the Environmental Article of *The Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Commissioners have determined that the proposed amendment to the *Worcester County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan* for revision of certain water and wastewater informational items and the addition of capital projects as well as the provision of a water system interconnection and a treated effluent interconnection between the Mystic Harbor and Riddle Farm Water and Sewer Planning Areas, is desirable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that:

1. *The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan* for Worcester County is hereby amended as specified in the proposal of Robert Mitchell on behalf of the Mystic Harbor and Riddle Farm Water and Sewer Planning Areas to revise certain water and wastewater informational items and the addition of capital projects *Plan*.
2. The informational updates would include the addition of the following capital projects:
  - a. Interconnection of the Mystic Harbour and Riddle Farm water systems with the Herring Creek Water Main Interconnection
  - b. Mystic Harbour Treated Effluent to Riddle Lagoon
  - c. Sunset Avenue Relief Sewer
  - d. Mystic Harbour Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Building Rehab
3. The proposed upgrades to the Mystic Harbour WTP includes updating the controls, with chemical feed and automation equipment will also be updated providing more reliable

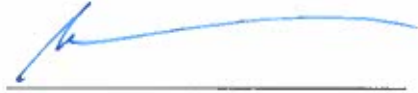
- treatment operations and increased water quality. These upgrades would allow the plant to automatically adjust during the daily variation seen during the peak summer months. Corroded and deteriorating metal filter units will be rehabbed as part of this project.
4. The Sunset Avenue Relief Sewer project is to install 2,685 feet of 6" forcemain underneath Sunset Ave and Golf Course Rd in order to provide redundant collection system infrastructure to prevent backups and potential overflow of the sewer system in West Ocean City (WOC).
  5. The third project is a planned interconnection of the Mystic Harbour and Riddle Farm Water Systems via a Route shown on proposed Map 3-14a. The proposed project will interconnect the Mystic Harbour and Riddle water service areas, providing a redundant water source supply for the Riddle Farm area which is already interconnected with Ocean Pines. This addition will further provide resiliency to all such interconnected water service areas.
  6. The fourth project is a planned interconnection between the Mystic Harbour treated effluent force main and the Riddle Lagoon that holds treated effluent for irrigation of the Riddle Farm golf courses and rough and areas. That route is shown on proposed Map 4-14a and is a denied access line designated only to transport treated effluent between the Mystic and the Riddle service areas. By installing a connection from Mystic Harbour WWTP to Riddle Farm Lagoon, the system will have an additional discharge location that will reduce the need for use of injection wells. In addition, it will provide an additional irrigation water source for the Riddle golf courses in lieu of pumping groundwater from wells, which is still done to provide supplemental water to the golf courses.
  7. Amendment language will be added to *The Plan* as part of Section 3.2.4, "Mystic Harbour Water System" and Section 3.2.19 "Riddle Farm Water System":  
"An interconnection will be made to interconnect the Mystic Harbour and Riddle Farm water systems. This pipeline will extend from an existing water main on Old Bridge Road (Rt. 707) under Herring Creek and continue westward on the south side of Rt 50. until reaching the eastward extent of the Riddle water distribution system. A secondary connection will be made through the eastern entrance of the Riddle Farm community to a connection point at the Maid at Arms Lane intersection. This will be shown on proposed Map 3-14 a. The intent of the interconnection is not to add new users or increase the service areas of either planning area. The purpose is to add redundancy for maintenance purposes and special circumstances. With the prior Riddle Farm- Ocean Pines interconnection, this will further provide system resiliency to all the surrounding areas. Any future amendments to *The Plan* should be carefully examined to decide whether existing or planned development would be appropriate to be served by the interconnected systems."
  8. Amendment language will be added to The Plan as part of Section 4.4.2, "Mystic Harbour Sewer System" and Section 4.4.10 "Riddle Farm Sewer System":  
"An interconnection will be made for treated wastewater effluent via force main between the Mystic Harbour WWTP and the Riddle Farm Treated Effluent Lagoon. The route will be from the Mystic Harbour treated effluent force main on Stephan Decatur Highway (Rt 611) and the Riddle Farm Treated Effluent in the Riddle Farm community. This route will be shown on proposed Map 4-14a. The line will exclusively be for treated effluent transmission and will be a denied access line that will have no connections along the planned route. The intent of the interconnection is not to add to the new users or increase the service areas of each planning area. This project is planned to accommodate the full capacity of the Mystic Harbour wastewater treatment plant with Riddle's underutilized spray system and the limitations placed on the Mystic plant's outfalls by limits for surface irrigation and reduced efficiencies of the shallow injection wells."

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this proposed amendment to the *Worcester County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan* shall be forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for their review and approval in accordance with the provisions of Section 9-507 of *The Annotated Code of Maryland* and that this amendment shall be officially incorporated into the *Worcester County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan* upon approval by MDE.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of April 2025.

Attest:

Worcester County Commissioners



Weston S. Young  
Chief Administrative Officer



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Theodore J. Elder  
President



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Eric J. Fiori  
Vice President



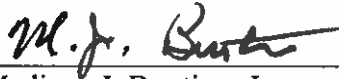
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Caryn G. Abbott  
Commissioner



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Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.  
Commissioner



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Madison J. Bunting, Jr.  
Commissioner



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Joseph M. Mitrecic  
Commissioner



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Diana Purnell  
Commissioner