

Planning commission recommends approval of master water and sewer plan

By Cheryl Mattix cmattix@cecilwhig.com | Posted: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:16 pm

ELKTON — Cecil County’s planning commission voted to recommend changes to the county’s master water and sewer plan Monday night that would designate all sections of the growth corridor as “ready to serve” for water and sewer within the next five years.

That’s a significant change from the current 10-year-old plan that showed several sections as slated for services as long as six to 10 years into the future.

Cecil County Council will make the final decision on that recommendation later in January after they hear from citizens on the proposal at a public hearing set for Jan. 6.

Director of Planning and Zoning Eric Sennstrom introduced a draft of the new plan to replace the 2004 document at Monday night’s meeting of the county’s planning commission.

The proposed plan showed changes such as extension of water lines from Cecilton to West View Shores and other communities affected by poor water quality from Pearce Creek dredge spoils. But it still contained some sections in the growth corridor designated as W-3 and S-3, which is not anticipated for service for six to 10 years.

“We received comments from the town of North East, Recovery Centers and Artesian Water requesting similar changes to these plans,” Sennstrom said.

Water and sewer master plans are used as planning tools in the county. They show three designations:

- W-1, S-1: areas that already have public water or sewer
- W-2, S-2: areas slated to get water or sewer within the next two to five years
- W-3, S-3: areas not expected to get public utilities for at least six to 10 years

Joe DiNunzio, executive vice president of Artesian Water Company, expects to be ready to provide water sooner than six to 10 years through his company’s water franchise agreement to serve large sections of Cecil County.

“We provided a different version of the map,” DiNunzio said.

He asked for a large portion of the growth corridor to be changed from W-3, S-3, to W-2, S-2. He said this would speed up the process of actual construction.

The county requires an amendment to the master water and sewer plan if a specific site wants to install water or sewer service sooner than what is shown on the map.

“It can be a lengthy process as long as nine months to get an amendment adopted,” DiNunzio said.

“We’re asking you to change this so there’s no disruption going from W-3 to W-2,” he said. Sennstrom said the plan simply means that certain areas “may” be served with public utilities, not that they “must” be served.

Gary Stewart, owner of a large industrial commercial site in the growth corridor, also asked for the change to be made, as well as the town of North East, from all W-3 areas to convert to W-2 areas in the growth corridor.



Planning Commission recommends approval

Members of the Cecil County Planning Commission discuss the county’s proposed changes to the master water and sewer plan Monday night.