

History of Garrett County Stormwater Management Ordinance

The history of the Garrett County Stormwater Management Ordinance begins with the issuance of the Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance first adopted by The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County May 3, 1971 requiring a grading permit for every disturbance over 5000 square feet or 100 cubic yards of excavation.

A Critical Analysis of Stormwater Management Practice – with special emphasis on the Prevention of Stream Channel Enlargement completed by Charles Richman at The John Hopkins University July 1, 1982 recognized that the process of urbanization can have profound effects on stream channels in areas undergoing development.

Based on this analysis, and information gathered from a variety of sources, the State of Maryland adopted into law stormwater regulations pursuant to COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) mandating all county governments to adopt, regulate, and administer these stormwater regulations.

The first Garrett County, Maryland Stormwater Management Ordinance was DULY ADOPTED by vote of The Board of Garrett County Commissioners June 19th, and recorded July 5th, 1984.

The provisions of this Ordinance are adopted pursuant to Natural Resources Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and shall apply to all development occurring within the unincorporated area of Garrett County.

Item 1.0 of the Ordinance Purpose and Authority is to protect, maintain, and enhance the public health, safety, and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse impacts associated with increased stormwater runoff. Proper management of stormwater runoff will minimize damage to public and private property, reduce the effects of development on land and stream channel erosion, assist in the attainment and maintenance of water quality standards, reduce local flooding, and maintain after development, as nearly as possible, pre-development runoff characteristics.

Over the next 17 years the state reviewed and monitored stormwater management throughout the state and identified necessary improvements and revealed a need to refocus the approach to fulfill the original intent of the water pollution control program. The new stormwater management design standards goal was to address the redevelopment and new development for differing areas of the state to more accurately reflect the diverse topography and soil types of the state, and clarifications concerning the implementation of non-structural methods for groundwater recharge. Resulting in the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I & II and requiring each county or municipality submit stormwater management ordinance revisions by December 31, 2000.

As a result of this refocus, new state regulations again mandated Counties to revise Stormwater Management Ordinances to incorporate by reference - The 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I & II - to serve as the official guide for stormwater principles, methods and practices and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Maryland Conservation Practice Standard Pond Code 378. The revised ordinance and references were DULY ADOPTED by The Garrett County Commissioners September 4th, 2001 and included the incorporated areas (TOWNS) of the county.

From 2001 until 2007 the state further monitored review and approval processes and field inspections of stormwater management structures throughout the state with respect to effectiveness of the controls discharging to the waters of the state.

In addition, regulations governing TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) limits of Suspended solids and other particulates discharging into the Chesapeake Bay were also being developed.

As a result of this monitoring, the state realized a need for refocus and modifications to the stormwater regulations to include the use of Environmental Site Design (ESD) to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) to maintain after development as nearly as possible, the predevelopment runoff characteristics, and reduce stream channel erosion, pollution, siltation, sedimentation, local flooding, and use appropriate structural best management practices (BMPs) only when necessary.

These New state laws once again mandated counties pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, to revise and adopt these new laws that apply to all development occurring within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Garrett County. The BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS adopted these changes to the Stormwater Management Ordinance June 16, 2010.

The stormwater Ordinance is available at www.garrettcountry.org on the county website Permits and Inspections Stormwater Management Ordinance.

The Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance was revised to include ESD controls by The Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County in 2013.

It is indeed an honor to work for and serve the citizens of this beautiful area I call home.

I am passionate about what I do and strive to educate and assist the citizens of this county of the importance of Stormwater Management.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. God Bless!