

Baltimore Regional Water Work Group

Meeting #1

Baltimore City
Comptroller Bill
Henry, Chair

January 7, 2026

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Procedures/Housekeeping
3. Work Group Schedule
4. Water Utility Overview
5. Consultant Process
6. Public Comment



Welcome from Work Group Chair

Baltimore City Comptroller
Bill Henry

Introductions

1. Delegate Dana Stein, District 11B (*legislative sponsor*)
2. Senator Mary Washington, District 43
3. Adam Ortiz, Deputy Secretary for External Relations, Maryland Department of the Environment
4. Antoinette Ryan-Johnson, President, City Union of Baltimore (CUB)
5. Karen Dettmer, Director of Water Resources US, Ramboll
6. Karen Henry, Director of Anne Arundel Department of Public Works
7. Kishia Powell, CEO of WSSC Water
8. Kelly Baxter, Water/Wastewater Treatment Practice Leader, Mott MacDonald
9. Matt Carpenter, Deputy Director, Baltimore County Office of Budget & Finance
10. Matthew Garbark, Director of Baltimore City DPW
11. Michael Swygert, Chief, Metropolitan District Financing and Petitions, Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation
12. Patrick Moran, President, AFSCME Council 3

Elect Vice Chair

Housekeeping

Each meeting will be recorded and posted on the workgroup website. The recordings will serve as the meeting minutes.

The Work Group will follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Work Group Tasks

Review the report of the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force submitted in accordance with Chapter 179 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023;

Analyze the issues relevant to implementing a regional water governance model in the Baltimore region.

Analyze whether creating a City–County Rate Board is necessary to ensure fairness for consumers and balance city and county rates.

Review the regional governance models recommended in the report of the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force of 2023.

Work Group Schedule

1/7/2026: Work Group Meeting #1

Baltimore City Hall, City Council Chambers

2/11/2026: Work Group Meeting #2

*THIS WILL BE MOVED TO THE END OF FEBRUARY OR
EARLY MARCH*

Jefferson Building at 105 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD
21204, Room 104

5/20/2026: Work Group Meeting #3

Baltimore City Hall, City Council Chambers

9/16/2026: Work Group Meeting #4

Jefferson Building at 105 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD
21204, Room 104

10/20/2026: Work Group Meeting #5

Baltimore City Hall, City Council Chambers

12/31/2026: GOAL | Report Completion

Water Utility Overview

- Baltimore City owns and operates three enterprise-funded utilities:
 - Water Utility
 - Wastewater Utility
 - Stormwater Utility
- Stormwater serves Baltimore City **only**
- Water and Wastewater serve the entire Baltimore metropolitan region

Water Utility Overview

Supply System

Reservoirs (Total Capacity: ~86 billion gallons)

- Prettyboy Reservoir (North Baltimore County)
 - 20B gallons
 - Fed by Gunpowder Falls → flows to Loch Raven
- Loch Raven Reservoir (Baltimore County)
 - 23B gallons
 - Fed by Gunpowder Falls
- Liberty Reservoir (Baltimore & Carroll Counties)
 - 43B gallons
 - Fed by Patapsco River

Water Utility Overview

Treatment Infrastructure

Filtration Plants (Total Capacity: ~405 MGD)

- Ashburton Filtration Plant
 - Fed by Liberty Reservoir
 - 165 MGD capacity
 - Constructed 1956
- Montebello Plant No. 1
 - Fed by Loch Raven
 - 128 MGD capacity
 - Constructed 1915
- Montebello Plant No. 2
 - Fed by Loch Raven
 - 112 MGD capacity
 - Constructed 1928

Interconnection: 35-mile pipeline capable of conveying water from the Susquehanna River to Montebello

Water Utility Overview

Distribution System

- Regional system serving **1.8 million people** across **560 square miles**
- **4,500 miles of water** main maintained by Baltimore City DPW
- Major storage facilities at:
 - Druid Hill Park
 - Hanlon Park
 - Montebello
 - Guilford
- Multiple pumping stations, towers, and tanks supporting **five pressure zones**

Water Utility Overview

Regional Service & Agreements

- Baltimore City: Retail, metered water service
- Baltimore County: Retail, metered service (MOU)
- Howard County: Wholesale finished water (MOU)
- Anne Arundel County: Finished water MOU (not currently active; City receives some water)
- Harford County: Raw (unfinished) water from Loch Raven (MOU)
- Carroll County: Raw (unfinished) water from Liberty (MOU)

Water Utility Overview

Collection System

- **3,100 miles of sanitary sewer mains** regionwide
- ~1,400 miles maintained by Baltimore City
- 18 pumping facilities:
 - 8 major stations
 - 10 minor stations

Water Utility Overview

Treatment Plants

- Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Located in Baltimore County
 - 180 MGD design capacity
 - Constructed 1911
 - Serves ~1.3 million residents
 - Outfall: Back River
- Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Located in Baltimore City
 - 63 MGD design capacity
 - Constructed 1940
 - Serves ~450,000 residents
 - Outfall: Patapsco River



Water Utility Overview

Regional Usage/Agreements

- Baltimore City – all of the City is served by both plants
- Baltimore County – MOU to send wastewater to plants
- Howard County – MOU to send wastewater to the plants
- Anne Arundel County – MOU to send wastewater to plants

Water Utility Overview

Stormwater Utility

- 59 miles of coastline
- 116 miles of streams, including:
 - Jones Falls
 - Herring Run
 - Gwynns Falls
- 1,146 miles of storm drain pipe
- 52,438 storm drain inlets
- 27,561 manholes
- 1,709 outfalls to waterways
- Multiple stormwater pumping stations
- Serves Baltimore City only



Water Utility Overview

Legal Authority & Framework

- Baltimore City authorized under Public Local Laws to:
 - Establish, operate, and regulate water supply systems
 - Set and collect water charges
- Metropolitan District Act of 1924
 - Established Metropolitan District of Baltimore County
 - Requires City to extend water service at cost plus overhead
- Metropolitan District Act of 1945
 - City retains operational control
 - Rates set by agreement between City and County
 - Water furnished **at cost — no profit or loss**

Key Agreements & Cost- Sharing History

- 1969: Multi-county agreement (Baltimore, Howard, Anne Arundel) for 60-inch water main
- 1972: Water cost-allocation agreement with Baltimore County
- 1974: Wastewater agreement establishing cost methodology
- 1980: Amendment clarifying construction costs and flow rates
- 1986: Cost allocation agreement with Baltimore & Howard Counties
- 1993: Arbitration decision following City–County litigation
- 2001: Hillen Pumping Station cost-sharing agreement
- Ongoing agreements with:
 - Carroll County (raw water)
 - Harford County (raw water)
 - Susquehanna Water Authority

Request for Proposals for Consultants

Distributed by
Baltimore City
DPW

- Analyze the implementation of a regional water governance model under HB 1509.
- Assess equity impacts and recommend mitigation programs for vulnerable residents.
- Develop a financial and legal transition plan, including stormwater considerations.
- Evaluate the need for a City–County Rate Board to ensure fair and stable rates.
- Compare regional governance models and support public engagement and legal needs.
- Support overall Work Group needs.

Public Comment

Restricted to time-limited, in-person comments, but written will be received and shared with the work group.