

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES

Guide to the Records of the WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION 1918-1994

Record Group 15: Boards, Committees, and Commissions

**December 24, 1997
Revised December 22, 2016
Updated 2018**

Montgomery County Archives
Montgomery County Records Center
8540 Anniversary Circle, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
(301) 926-5002
archive@montgomeryhistory.org
www.montgomeryhistory.org

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Until its charter was approved by voters in 1948, Montgomery County was loosely governed by elected County commissioners. No authority was in force for water and sewer planning or oversight and the County thus contained a hodgepodge of municipal and private water and sewerage systems.

In 1916 the General Assembly created the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and transferred water and sewerage responsibilities to it. The Commission's original jurisdiction consisted of a 95 square mile belt located immediately outside the Washington, D.C. line. Its funding came from state revenues which were supplemented by County bonds. The State Health Department lent it its first engineering staff.

The original WSSC commissioners personally surveyed and inspected every water and sewerage system within their jurisdiction and found it to be profoundly inadequate in nearly every way. In 1918, WSSC purchased all of the existing water and sewerage systems within its district, with the single exception of the Glen Echo system. In 1922, the WSSC was also granted planning authority for a permanent system of highways and streets when its engineers discovered that many of the existing streets were too poorly planned to support water or sewer lines. The WSSC was also given the authority to approve all plats for subdivisions before they were recorded.

The area and population under the WSSC's jurisdiction has expanded steadily, as has its staff and budget. It continues to provide water, sewerage, and stormwater drainage services to the ever-growing suburban Maryland district. The Commission produces ten year water supply and sewerage disposal plans, and operates under five year water and sewer programs, subject to comment and approval by the governing bodies of the two counties. It is composed of four departments: Engineering, Financial, Legal, and Secretary or Administrative.

EXTENT

10 cubic feet: 8 records boxes, 7 flat files

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records primarily consist of reports, studies, and informational brochures and handbooks produced by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. One folder containing material relating to lawsuits filed in opposition to a proposed advanced wastewater treatment facility at Rock Run is also included. Other material includes minutes, agenda, regulations, policies, and appointments.

The records are arranged into five series:

Series I: Legal

Series II: Printed Material

Series III: Site 2 Working Group

Series IV: Appointments

Series V: Rules, Regulations and Policies

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Legal, 1981

(1 folder)

This file contains transcripts of hearings as well as an opinion delivered by the Maryland State Attorney relating to the proposed Rock Run Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Series II: Printed Material, 1918-1984

(9.75 cubic feet)

The materials in this series include annual reports and other items describing the Commission's history, organization and activities; several five year water and sewer programs; plans and studies for advanced wastewater treatment facilities (AWT) including those proposed for Dickerson and Rock Run; and service application procedures. Other topics include water storage and sludge composting. Of special significance is a copy of the 1918 report submitted by the WSSC to the Maryland General Assembly after its initial survey of water and sewage systems within its jurisdiction.

Records in this series found with the Audiovisual Record Group 19 are:

- Atlas of Cancer Mortality for U.S. Counties, 1977

Records in this series found within the Flat Files are:

- 3 oversized publications, Montgomery County Regional Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Volumes 1-3 of 23 (Flat File 8)
- 2 oversized publications, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Volumes 4 & 5 of 23 (Flat File 9)
- 5 oversized publications, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Volumes 6-10 of 23 (Flat File 10)
- 4 oversized publications, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Regional Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Volumes 11-14 of 23 (Flat File 11)
- 5 oversized publications, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Regional Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Volumes 15-19 of 23 (Flat File 12)
- 1 oversized publication, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Wastewater Delivery System Study (Flat File 13)
- 4 oversized publications, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Regional Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Volumes 20-23 of 23 (Flat File 13)
- 1 oversized publication, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report Volume II (Flat File 14)
- 1 oversized publication, WSSC Publications: Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Dickerson Site. Project Development Report Volume II (Flat File 14)

Series III: Site 2 Working Group, 1993-1994

(1 folder)

This series consists of minutes and an agenda for meetings held by the working group which provided oversight for the Montgomery County Regional Composting Facility located in the eastern part of the County.

Series IV: Appointments, 1985-1987

(1 folder)

This series consists of County Council resolutions confirming the County Executive's nominations to the WSSC.

Series V: Rules, Regulations and Policies, 1992-1994

(2 folders)

This series contains 1992 and 1993 modifications to the plumbing and gasfitting regulations of the WSSC and policies for water and sewerage service in effect in 1994.

Series VI: Photographs, 1981

(1 folder)

This series contains four photographs of two dams/reservoirs: Triadelphia Lake as seen from Brighton Dam, and Duckett reservoir seen from Duckett Dam.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open for research.

LANGUAGE

English.

PROVENANCE

Most of these materials were transferred from the Rockville Regional Library. Some printed material was culled from several accessions, including 2000-02, 2000-03, and 2000-13.

PROCESSING PROCEDURES

General processing procedures consisted of discarding duplicates, unnecessary binders, and routine transmittals. Oversized documents and photographs were removed from the original location in their assigned series and placed in separate containers. Separation sheets were inserted in the original location within the folder to indicate the new location of any records placed elsewhere.

Preservation copying of newspaper clippings was performed whenever feasible. Records in folders were arranged, unless otherwise indicated, in forward chronological order, with undated records appearing at the end of the folder.

PROCESSING STAFF/FINDING AID AUTHOR

MCA staff.

BOX INVENTORY

Series I: Legal

Box 1

Rock Run AWT Plant Court Hearings, 1981

Series II: Printed Material

(Box 1, cont.)

Report on the Advisability of Creating a Sanitary District in Maryland, Contiguous to the District of Columbia and Providing It with Water and Sewerage Service, 1918

Montgomery County, MD: Study of Economy, Governmental Organization and Finances, 1949

Washington Suburban Sanitary District, Maryland, 1949

Budget of WSSC, 1954

Your Sanitary Commission, 1954

Reinforcement and Expansion Program for the Commission's Water Distribution System, 1955-1960

Your Sanitary Commission, 1956

Bond Information, 1959

Official Statement, \$10,000,000 Washington Suburban Sanitary District, 1960

Upper Montgomery County Sewerage Study, 1960

Water Program, 1960-1965, Adopted, 1960

Annual Report, 1961

Sewerage Program, 1961-1966, [1961]

Annual Report, 1962

Reinforcement and Expansion Program for the Commission's water Distribution, 1962

Sewerage Program, 1962-1967, 1962

Annual Report, 1963

Report on Refuse Collection by the Montgomery County Refuse Authority, 1963

Your Service, 1963-1966

Water Program, 1963-1968

Annual Report, 1964

Stream Enclosure Report, Montgomery County, 1964

Water Program, 1964

Annual Report, 1965

Water Program (Preliminary) Fiscal 1965-1969, 1965

Water Program, FY's 1966-1970, Adopted 1965, 1965

Reservoirs, Conservation, Recreation: Public Relations booklet, March 1966

Report #2 of the Middle Income Housing Commission, 1968

Annual Report, 1965-1966

Annual Report, 1966-1967

Sewerage Program, 1966-1970

Damascus Sewage Report, 1967

Annual Report, 1967-1968

(Series II: Printed Material, Cont.)

(Box 1, cont.)

Budget, 1969-1970, 1969
Sewerage Program, 1967-1971
Water Program, 1967-1971
Sewage Program, 1968
Annual Report, 1968-1969
Water Program, 1968-1970

Box 2

Proposed Budget, 1970-1971, 1970
Sewerage Program, 1968-1972
Water Program, 1968-1972
Annual Report, 1969-1970
Sewerage Program, 1969-1973
Water Program, 1969-1973
Approved Budget, 1971-1972, 1971
Sewerage Study, 1971
Annual Report, 1971-1972
Proposed Budget, 1972-1973, 1973
Approved Budget, 1972-1973, 1972
Preliminary Site Selection, AWT Facility, Montgomery County, MD, 1972
Report on the Proper Governmental Structure for the Exercise of Functions Performed by the
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 1972
Report on WSSC Sewage Flows, Commitments and Capacities, 1972-1973
Approved Budget Detail, 1973-1974, 1973
Approved Budget, Summary, 1973-4, Volume 1, 1973
Management Review of FY 1974 Proposed Operating Budget, Final Report, 1973
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report Volume I: Narrative
Description, 1973
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report Volume III: Outline
Specifications, 1973
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report Volume IV: Subsurface
Investigations, 1973 (1 of 2 folders)
Proposed Budget Detail, 1973-1974 Volume 2, 1973
Proposed Budget, Summary 1973-1974, Volume 1, 1973
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report Volume IV: Subsurface
Investigations, 1973 (2 of 2 folders)
Site Preparation, Central Sanitary Landfill, Part II, 1973
Approval of the Six Year CIP for FY's 1975-1980, 1974
Approved Budget, 1974-1975, 1974

Box 3

Colesville Water Storage Facility, 1974
Detailed Environmental Report Concerning Advanced Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility and Delivery System, Montgomery County, MD, 1974
Justification of Approved Budget 1974-1975, 1974
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report, Dickerson Site, Volume I: Narrative Description 1974
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report, Dickerson Site, Volume III: Outline Specifications, 1974
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant Project Development Report, Dickerson Site, Volume IV: Subsurface Investigations, 1974
Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant, Volume I: Wastewater Delivery System Study, 1974
Proposed Budget 1974-1975, 1974
Report on Evaluation of Additional Delivery System Alternatives, Montgomery County, Maryland, 1974
Report on Patuxent River, 1974
Report on Potomac River, 1974
Review of WSSC Water Transmission System Expansion Program, 1974
Water Storage Guide, 1974
Addendum to Detailed Environmental Report Concerning AWT Facility and Delivery System, Montgomery County, Maryland, 1975
Boyd's Pilot Study Water and Sewerage Systems, 1975
Report on Infiltration/Inflow Work at the WSSC Presented to the Commission by the Research Division on August 20, 1975
Montgomery County AWT Sewerage System Infiltration/Inflow Analysis, 1975
Feasibility and Planning of an Operations Center Facility, 1975

Box 4

Proposed Budget, 1975-1976, 1975
Approved Budget, 1975-1976, 1975
Justification of Approved Budget 1975-1976, 1975
Montgomery County Interim Sewerage Program, Consortia Treatment Plant Proposals, 1975
Preliminary Report Pumped Storage Project, 1975
Pumped Storage Project, 1975
Report on Project W-80 Tunnel Feasibility, 1975
Administrator's Decision on the Proposed Dickerson Wastewater Treatment Plant Grant Application, 1976
Construction Alternatives Analysis, Montgomery County Regional AWT Plant, 1976
Proposed Budget, 1976-1977, 1976
Justification of Proposed Budget, 1976-1977. 1976
Approved Budget 1976-1977, 1976
Maryland Response to the Tentative U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Report on the Dickerson AWT Plant, 1976

(Series II: Printed Material, Cont.)

(Box 4, cont.)

Maryland Response to the Tentative U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Report on the Dickerson AWT Plant, Summary, 1976
Feasibility of Land Treatment of Wastewater in Montgomery County, MD, 1977
Report on Recommendations for Policy Decisions Regarding Land Treatment Facilities for Montgomery County, MD, 1977
Study of How to Transfer Selected WSSC Functions Performed for The Prince George's County and Montgomery County Governments (Cresap, McCormic and Paget, Inc.) 1977
Proposed Budget, 1977-1978, 1977
Justification of Proposed Budget, 1977-1978, 1977
Approved Budget 1977-1978, 1977
Site Evaluations and Preliminary Design for a Sludge Composting Facility, Volume I: Executive Summary, 1977

Box 5

Site Evaluations and Preliminary Design for a Sludge Composting Facility, Volume II: Site Evaluation and Preliminary Design Report, 1977
Site Evaluations and Preliminary Design for a Sludge Composting Facility, Volumes III-V: Environmental Assessment, Traffic Analysis, Air Pollution Control Analysis, 1977
Proposed Budget 1978-1979, 1978
Approved Budget 1978-1979, 1978
Monthly Status Reports, June-October 1978, 1978
Monthly Status Reports, November-December 1978, 1978
Official Statement, 1978
Monthly Status Report, January-March, 1979
Monthly Status Report, April-June 1979
Monthly Status Report, September-December 1979
Proposed Budget 1979-1980, 1979
Approved Budget 1979-1980, 1979
Proposed Capital Improvements Program 1981-1986, 1979
Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Final Draft Report, Volume I: Executive Summary, 1980
Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Report, Table of Contents and Introduction, 1980
Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Report, Water Quality, 1980
Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Report, Water Supply, 1980
Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Appendices, Effluent Systems, 1980
Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Report, Influent Systems, 1980

(Series II: Printed Material, Cont.)

(Box 5, cont.)

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Report, Environmental Analyses, 1980

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume II: Technical Report, Economic Assessment; Conclusions 1980

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume III: Technical Appendices, Effluent Systems, 1980

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume III: Technical Appendices, Environmental Analyses, 1980

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume III: Technical Appendices, Influent Systems, 1980

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume III: Technical Appendices, Water Quality, 1980

Alternative Points of Discharge for Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Draft Report Volume III: Technical Appendices, Water Supply, 1980

Interagency Task Force Report on the Study of Alternative Points of Discharge of the Rock Run Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plan Facility Project, 1980

Box 6

Monthly Status Reports, January-March, 1980

Monthly Status Reports, April, May, September, 1980

Monthly Status Reports, October-December, 1980

Proposed Budget 1980-1981, 1980

Approved Budget 1980-1981, 1980

Monthly Status Reports, January, February, April, 1981

Guide to Water and Sewer Service, 1981

Plan of Study: Rock Creek Transmission Relief Facility Plan, Project S-49.09, 80CM3453-A, 1981

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Volume I: AWT Plant Technical Report, 1981 (3 folders)

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Volume I: AWT Plant Appendices, 1981 (3 folders)

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Volume II: Conveyance System, 1981 (Folder 1 of 4 folders)

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Volume II: Conveyance System, 1981 (Folders 2-4 of 4 folders)

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Executive Summary, AWT Plant Conveyance System Environment, 1981

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Volume III: Environment, 1981 (Folder 1 of 4 folders)

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Volume III: Environment, 1981 (Folders 1-4 of 4 folders)

Box 7

Rock Run AWT Facility Draft Project Development Report Executive Summary, Environment, 1981

Rock Run: Introduction to Wastewater Treatment: Physical, Chemical and Biological Processes, 1981

Rock Run AWT Facility: Mobile Workshop and Facility Tours, 1981

Water Distribution System, Montgomery County, 1981

Sewer and Stormwater Service, 1981

Rock Creek Transmission Relief Facility Plan: Draft Plan, 1982

Rock Creek Transmission Relief Facility Plan: Interim Report, ca. 1982

Rock Creek Transmission Relief Facility Plan: Needs Assessment, 1982

Sligo Creek Facility Plan, 1984

Montgomery County Regional Advance Water Treatment Plant: Oversized Publications, n.d.
(See Flat Files 8-14)

Piney Branch Sewer Study, Contract No. 87CM1545-A, Final Draft, Dames & Moore, 1987 (2 volumes) 1988 Year End Report, 1988

1988 Year End Report, 1988

An Examination of WSSC's Minority Business Program, Executive Summary and Recommendations, 1988

1989 Year End Report, 1989

FY 1990 Preliminary Proposed Budget, Jan. 1989

FY 1990 Proposed Budget, Feb. 1989

1990 Year End Report, 1990

FY 1991 Proposed Budget, Preliminary, Feb. 1990

FY 1991 Proposed Budget, 1990

FY 1991 Approved Budget, 1990

Montgomery and Prince George's Main and Dependent Zones Water System Facility Plan, Sep. 1990

Proposed Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 1992-1997, 1990

Seneca WWTP Upgrade, Construction Phasing Evaluation Report, 1990

1991 Year End Report, 1991

FY 1992, Proposed Budget, 1991

FY 1992 Approved Budget, 1991

WSSC Financing Alternatives, Bi-county Working Group Final Report, 1991

FY 1993 Proposed Budget, 1992

FY 1993 Approved Budget, 1992

Proposed Capital Improvements Program, FY 1994-1999, 1992

Appraisal Report of Property Value Survey in the Area of WSSC Water Storage Facilities, Valued as of July 28, 1993 (Philip R. Lamb and Co., Inc.), 1993

Appraisal Report of Property Value Survey in the area of WSSC Water Storage Facilities, Valued as of November 12, 1993 (Philip R. Lamb and Co., Inc.), 1993

Box 8

FY 1994 Proposed Budget, 1993

FY 1994 Approved Budget, 1993

Strategic Sewerage Study, Executive Summary, 1993

Blue Plains Briefing to the Prince George's and Montgomery County Councils, 1993 Proposed
Capital Improvements Program, FY 1995-2000, 1993

Proposed Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 1995-2000, Draft, Public Hearing
Document, 1993

Proposed Capital Improvements Program, FY 1995-2000, Public Hearing Document, 1993

Adopted Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 1995-2000, 1994

Report of the Working Group on WSSC Spending Controls, 1994

Proposed Capital Improvements Program, FY 1997-2002, 1995

WSSC and Our Environment, n.d.

Series III: Site 2 Working Group

(Box 8, cont.)

Minutes and Agenda, 1993-1994

Series IV: Appointments

(Box 8, Cont.)

Appointments, 1985-1987

Series V: Rules, Regulations and Policies

(Box 8, Cont.)

Plumbing Regulations, 1992-1993

Policies for Water and Sewerage Service, 1994

Series VI: Photographs

(Box 8, Cont.)

Duckett Reservoir/Dam and Triadelphia Lake/Brighton Dam, 1981