



Sanitary Sewer Modified Consent Decree Program



CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

2024 MCD Annual Session Q&A

Baltimore City's Sanitary Sewer Modified Consent Decree (MCD) Annual Public Information Session was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), located at 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland.

The general session was opened by the Interim Director of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works, Richard J. Luna. Following his remarks, Paul Sayan, Acting Bureau Head for Water and Wastewater, presented on the MCD for the Sanitary Sewer System and the City's significant progress over the past 12 months.

Following the presentation, meeting attendees were encouraged to visit the various learning stations around the meeting room, where they engaged directly with subject matter experts from key departments within Baltimore City DPW. The learning stations detailed the primary activities of the MCD and the City's progress in each of those areas. Community members were encouraged to submit comments and ask questions of the DPW team in the following ways:

- In person at each learning station;
- Via written comment forms to be submitted following the meeting; or
- By submitting a comment form within the online virtual meeting room.

A summary of questions/comments received at each learning station are provided below.

Learning Station 1: Collection Systems

Presented by Jemil Yesuf, Engineer Supervisor, Office of Engineering and Construction, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

(Questions by JMT and RJM group representatives)

1. How often is the hydraulic model updated/recalibrated?

- The model is updated/recalibrated based on improvements to the collection system. These improvements can include MCD projects, CIP projects, and updates to the model when new observed flow meter and rainfall data become available. As part of development of the Phase II plan, the City's sewer model was recently calibrated to ensure that modeled flows correspond to observed data from ongoing flow and rainfall monitoring performed by the City.



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2. What software is being used by the hydraulic model and when was it developed?

- Infoworks ICM, version 2023 is the software currently being used. The model has been developed as part of the requirements of the Consent Decree and Modified Consent Decree.

3. What are the parameters that changed?

- Information describing the pipes and manholes will be changed if new information becomes available following improvements to the collection system through maintenance, rehabilitation, and capital improvement projects. These parameter changes include sediment depth, pipe roughness coefficient, inverts, and shape. During calibration, estimated parameters may be adjusted based on meter data. The amount of sanitary flow coming into the system as well as the amount of rainfall entering the system is also adjusted accordingly to fit metered data. To simulate different storm events, parameters such as rainfall versus time and evapotranspiration are updated.

4. Is there anything seen on the model, like large flow to the system that pipes cannot handle?

- Yes. The model is being used to identify areas where the system does not meet capacity and level of service requirements. The causes for this will vary depending on location but could include undersized pipes, sediment deposition, and/or excessive inflow/infiltration entering the system exceeding pipe capacity. In all these cases, the City is working on addressing these issues throughout the collection system.

5. What is the hydraulic restriction at BR WWTP and how is it affecting the collection system?

- Before the Headworks project, a significant hydraulic restriction impacted the flow to the Back River WWTP, the impact extends six miles upstream and contributes to repeated manhole overflows. In addition, due to the hydraulic restriction, sediments were built up over several years and compromised interceptor conveyance capacity and contributed to overflows in upstream areas even after the Headworks Project was completed. As a result, the sediment that has built up over time now needs to be removed, and the City is taking measures to address this issue that requires a significant amount of time and effort.



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6. Is the model part of the requirements of the Consent Decree?

- Yes

7. Are all the pipes underground connected?

- The collection system conveys and ultimately discharges to two wastewater treatment plants, Patapsco and Back River. Each plant has a mostly independent collection system with a couple of interconnections that allow excess flow to go from one area to another during certain maintenance periods.

8. What causes floods?

- Flooding often occurs during large wet weather events due to conveyance capacity deficiencies in the collection system and/or maintenance related issues (chokes, debris, or blockages, etc.) The excess water from wet weather events may enter the collection system as inflow and infiltration through defective public or private assets and cause flooding or overflows into basements, roadways, and streams before reaching the City's wastewater treatment plants.

9. How old are the pipes?

- Some of the oldest pipes in the City date back to 1906, but there may be older pipes in the system with undocumented install dates.

10. Some SSO structures are still open. Two in particular (67 & 72) continue to have overflows of close to one million gallons each. What is the plan to eliminate them?

- The City is currently implementing a large interceptor cleaning project to remove significant sediment deposition restricting capacity of the sewer pipelines conveying sanitary flow to Back River WWTP. This will potentially lead to the elimination of SSO structures 67 & 72.

11. SSO structures where recent rehab and hydraulic improvement projects were completed were activated recently during large storms and during post construction monitoring (PCFM). Do we have to wait 18 months of PCFM before implementing additional corrective measures?

- The MCD requires 18 months of Post Construction Flow Monitoring to confirm a project met the stated objectives to allow for a structure to be closed. The City will evaluate the PCFM data, the size of the storm, and perform CCTV and site investigations in the public



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sewers located both upstream and downstream of the SSO structure before making a determination whether it is safe to permanently close these structures or if additional corrective measures are needed.

12. Will they ever close 67& 72?

- See answer to Question 10 above.

13. Is there anyone here from Baltimore County, since the County provides 40% of sewage problems the City has?

- The meeting is open to anyone to attend and is meant to provide an update of the City's Sanitary Sewer MCD.

14. What is the status of the coordination with Baltimore County?

- The City is continuously in coordination with the County on various matters including the sewer system.

15. Do you have a joint plan with Baltimore County? Do you have a joint office?

- There is an agreement between the City and County which governs the interconnectivity between the two systems. There are no joint offices with the County for the sewer system.

16. Is the coordination okay with Baltimore County?

- See answer to Question 14 above.

17. Can you tell Baltimore County no?

- See answer to Question 15.

18. Is there a flaw in structure when two different sewer systems are not connected to each other? Shouldn't they be together and work as one?

- The City has a separate sewer system. This means that some pipelines, storm sewers, are dedicated to carry stormwater runoff flows. Other pipelines, sanitary sewers, are designated to carry sanitary sewer flows. These systems are intended to be separate



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and not connected. For more information on the history of the sewer system in Baltimore please visit <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/pw-bureaus/water-wastewater/surface/history>

19. The first graph under Learning Station #1 appears to indicate that the overflows were projected to or did decrease from 2.4B gal in 2007 to 235M gal in Phase I, and then 40Mgal and 3 Mgal after 5 and 10 years—but I'm not sure of the intermediate date; so 5 and 10 years from when? Given that we are now over 16 years from the 2007 baseline, and that the SSO overflow total from Q4 of 2023 alone was over 11 million gallons, how is this chart reflective of reality, and what steps are being taken to update it with realistic historical data and projections?

- This is an example graph of what the model could provide, it was not meant to provide an update on the City's system. The 5-year and 10-year LOP are referring to the 5 and 10-year levels of protection (LOP) required in the MCD and not actual 5/10 years. The volumes provided are potential targets for the City to confirm it has met the LOP. These graphs are not meant to provide an actual update in terms of numbers but is demonstrating how the City utilizes the model to set and meet the goals required by the MCD.

20. 3900 Belair Road (manhole/stack outlet?) appears to be a constant source of very large sewer overflows. Although it is not designated as an SSO, it appears to function as one. Why is this not included in that listing, and what is being done to decrease the inflows and infiltrations/stop the overflows, in this subwatershed/sewer pipe system?

- 3900 Belair Rd. is not an SSO structure since it does not have a direct connection between the sanitary sewer system and the storm system. It overflows directly out of the sanitary sewer system manhole into the environment. There have been multiple projects completed as part of Phase I and others planned under Phase II which will help eliminate the SSO at 3900 Belair Rd.

Learning Station 2: Maintenance & Preventative Maintenance

Presented by Jamison Smith, Engineer, Office of Engineering and Construction, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. The neighbor's tree may be impacting the sewer lateral. What can we do? (basement backups)



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- Customers may call 311 to request Baltimore City DPW send a crew to inspect the line to see if any root intrusion has taken place.

2. Can Baltimore County create an online SSO map like Baltimore City's version?

- Baltimore County oversees and maintains the performance of their system and how the information is communicated to stakeholders. The City cannot comment on their projects.

3. Can we have Rec and Parks at Belair Rd Herring Run location after a big storm event to dissuade people from swimming?

- Whenever an SSO occurs, signs are posted near waterways warning that urban streams are subject to pollutants and runoff and that contact with the water should be avoided. These signs are put in place by DPW crews while at the site of an SSO.

4. How do you prevent sewer issues?

- Preventing sewer system issues requires collaboration between homeowners/residents and the City. Homeowners/residents are urged to responsibly maintain the sewer system by adhering to DPW's provided guidelines on do's and don'ts of what to put down the drain. On the City's part, a range of proactive measures are undertaken, including routine maintenance, CCTV inspections, and hydraulic modeling, among others.

Learning Station 3: Building Backup Support

Presented by Vince Pompa, Operations Officer, Bureau of Water and Wastewater, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. If the Basement Backup Expedited Reimbursement Program (BBERP) is being phased out what program is it going to be replaced with?

- Currently the BBERP Program and SOS Program are both still active. Please use these links to learn more about the SOS program and BBERP.
(<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/soscleanup>)

2. Customers should have the choice to choose between the Basement Backup Expedited Reimbursement Program or the SOS Cleanup program because we have residents that can afford to get their basements cleaned by themselves and then you have residents who cannot therefore I think that they should have the choice to choose between either or and also whether it rains or not but a customer's basement gets flooded the city should be the one responsible for cleaning it up.



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- The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) Sewage Onsite Support (SOS) Cleanup Program provides cleaning and disinfection services at no cost to residential customers, who reside in Baltimore City, and are impacted by sewage damage caused by a capacity-related wet-weather event resulting from heavy or sustained rain. DPW's SOS Cleanup Program provides **cleaning, disinfection, and disposal services** in the aftermath of a sewage backup to remove the health risk from your property when you need it most. Both programs are being executed in accordance with the requirements of the Modified Consent Decree. Both the SOS and BBERP programs are currently active and therefore provide residents an opportunity to request reimbursement.

3. What is the SOS program?

- The Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) Sewage Onsite Support (SOS) Cleanup Program provides cleaning and disinfection services at no cost to residential customers, who reside in Baltimore City, and are impacted by sewage damage caused by a capacity-related wet-weather event resulting from heavy or sustained rain. DPW's SOS Cleanup Program provides **cleaning, disinfection, and disposal services**. Please use this link to learn more about the SOS program (<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/soscleanup>).

4. What's the difference between Sewage Onsite Support Program (SOS) and Basement Backup Expedited Reimbursement Program (BBERP)?

- The BBERP Program offers a reimbursement up to \$5,000 per dwelling unit, per event for reasonable, documented clean-up, disinfection and disposal services costs incurred by the customer. Reimbursement is based on the eligibility requirements set forth in Appendix E of the Modified Consent Decree. Final determinations are issued within 60 days of receiving all necessary information and documentation. Although not required, it is helpful to report the backup to the City as soon as possible after discovery by calling 311 or submitting an application through the DPW website . The Sewage Onsite Support (SOS) Cleanup Program provides cleaning and disinfection services at no cost to residential customers, who reside in Baltimore City, and are impacted by sewage damage caused by a capacity-related wet-weather events resulting from heavy or sustained rain. DPW's SOS Cleanup Program provides **cleaning, disinfection, and disposal services** in the aftermath of a sewage backup to remove the health risk from your property when you need it most.



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5. What is an SSO Structure?

- An SSO Structure is a connection from the sanitary sewer system into the storm sewer system which activates when wet weather flows exceed the capacity of the sanitary sewer main, and the level of the backup reaches the elevation of the SSO structure and therefore discharges excess flows into the storm system.

Learning Station 4: Compliance

Presented by Kim Grove, Chief, Office of Research and Environmental Protection, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. Are there sampling sites outside Baltimore City and what is working relationship with Baltimore County?

- There is one sampling location just outside the City border within Baltimore County along Powder Mill Branch. The City continues to coordinate with Baltimore County on a regular basis.

2. Are there Employment Opportunities?

- Please check the City website for any job openings at DPW (<http://baltimorecity.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/External>)

3. How did maintenance at Back River and Patapsco WWTPs go unidentified?

- While issues originated years prior, 2021 was the year that many of the issues at both plants escalated. During this time, like much of the country, the City endured a number of challenges including staffing shortages, the retirements of senior personnel, and supply-chain disruptions. Despite this, the DPW team, in partnership with regulatory agencies, has worked to identify a pathway to overcome years of challenges and implement a strategic plan of action. As a result, the City has already addressed the overwhelming majority of issues and continues to tackle the longer-term action items. Since 2022, DPW has made the following improvements:
 - Ensured the plants' compliance—Back River reached full compliance with its effluent parameters in June of 2022 and Patapsco in January of 2023 (although Patapsco was meeting its daily, weekly, and monthly numbers starting in September 2022).
 - A renewed focus on hiring and recruiting new staff through an updated HR hiring process.
 - Modernized and executed preventative maintenance programs, including the repair and rehabilitation of critical assets at both plants.
 - DPW was able to return the solids processing operations at both plants to full service and alleviate the excess inventory.



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The City has made crucial investments in these valuable assets and continues to prioritize improving all aspects of WWTP compliance.

4. What is stream impact sampling?

- Stream Impact Sampling includes monitoring the quality of the streams and harbor in the City of Baltimore. The Stream Impact Sampling program is a comprehensive effort designed to document chemical analyses of city streams over long spans of time. Each of the 33 sampling locations is visited once a month, and laboratory analysis is performed on the samples for parameters such as metals, nutrients & sediment, biologic (Bacteria), and other Water Quality Indicators.

5. How does 311 work with reporting and response and status?

- 311 connects Baltimore citizens, businesses & visitors with a vast array of city services, programs, and information. Either by a live agent-assisted phone call or through the self-service web or mobile portal, 311 allows customers to report a problem, request a service, check the status of a previously submitted service request, and obtain information regarding City programs or events. During a session with Baltimore's on-line 3-1-1 portal, a user may affirmatively submit information to the City of Baltimore in conjunction with reporting a problem, requesting a service, or asking a question. A user interacts with the on-line 3-1-1 portal via a computer, tablet, smart phone, or other equivalent device by completing electronic forms and optionally attaching images, documents, and other artifacts. The City encourages users of its on-line 311 portal to provide only information that is required or requested, and to avoid including any unneeded, personally identifiable information (PII) such as social security numbers.

6. Where are the Stony Run locations? There is a concern about Hopkins House white discharge into Stony Run.

- There is a sampling location of Stony Run near the intersection of Stoneyford Rd and Linkwood Rd.

7. What causes flooding in basements?

- Basement flooding could be caused by multiple sources including groundwater, surface water, and/or storm sewer backup. It varies by the location and depth of the basement in relation to the nearest surface water and/or groundwater levels.

8. How do we report tap water complaints and concerns (taste, discoloration, etc.)?

- Baltimore City customers can call 311, and Baltimore County customers can call 410-396-5352 for information and assistance.



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9. Who repairs basement flooding issues –Baltimore City or the homeowner?

- Please see responses under Learning Station #3

10. Learning Station #4 provides a map of the City’s water quality monitoring locations, and types. Are the results of these tests publicly available, and if so where/how often?

- Yes, please refer to the website below for more information.
[//publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/watching-waters](https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/watching-waters)

Learning Station 5: Headworks

Presented by Michael Hallmen, Division Chief, Wastewater Facilities Division, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. How have the Headworks improvements affected the outflows?

- The Back River Headworks improvements project provided large storage, known as “Equalization Tanks,” that store wet weather wastewater flows greater than what the plant can safely manage. Additionally, the Headworks project has eliminated a long-standing “bottleneck” condition that existed in the large pipes conveying wastewater to BRWWTP. The condition prevented free flow to the BRWWTP and was the cause of some upstream SSOs. Removal of this condition has reduced SSOs and provided desired wastewater velocities in the sewer.

2. Does Baltimore City sit passively while Baltimore County continuously adds sources of flow to an already overtaxed system?

- There is an agreement between the City and County which governs the interconnectivity between the two systems and must be followed by both municipalities.

3. Learning Station #5 relating to Headworks—I had some discussion at the table during the meeting, and I would like to clarify some of what I think I heard:

- a. **How often have the new large Headworks storage tanks been activated? Has this only been during rain events, or in other conditions also? Has that storage capacity been adequate to handle all volumes coming into the plant, even during large storm events? (and if not what bypasses have happened or flows that have exceeded capacity?) Given that volume and flow are still restricted by the sediment in the large inflow pipeline, are these storage tanks projected to be able to handle the increased flow during large rain events once that pipe is fully cleaned?**
 - The tanks have been activated 88 times mostly for rain events, but they could also be activated for other reasons as deemed necessary by plant operations. The storage capacity has been adequate to handle all volumes coming into the



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plant that fell within expected seasonal rainfall patterns, even during some large storm events. The Headworks did experience a couple of partial bypass events this year when, due to record seasonal rainfall, the flow to the plant exceeded the design capacity. The portion of the flow that bypassed the treatment train was then blended with the fully treated flow prior to discharge. Despite the plant experiencing heavier than usual flows, effluent compliance has remained within permit parameters during all large rain events. They are projected to be able to handle the increased flows once the interceptor pipe is cleaned.

- b. I believe I heard that the main large inflow pipe is 40,000 feet, and only 8,000 feet of that have been scoured and cleaned of sediment so far. Is that correct, or are there other correct figures? What is the current rate of cleaning, and when is that work projected to be completed? Are there procurement, funding, contractor or other issues that are delaying this work?**
- Yes, that is correct, about 8,000 feet out of 40,000 feet have been cleaned. There was a pause for a few months in order to process a change order. The contractor is active again starting in January of 2024 and is projected to complete the project in 2027. This is a conservative estimate and is highly dependent on the amount of sediment found within the interceptor during the cleaning process. The City is looking at other avenues in order to complete this project quicker.
- c. Relating to the Back River treatment plant, I understand that there have been some bypasses of at least portions of the treatment processes. Have these been for overall capacity-related reasons, or other operations problems? Since Headworks became operational, when have these bypasses occurred, how often, how and when are they reported, and what additional testing or public notice steps are taken when such a bypass occurs? Have there been bypasses at the Patapsco plant also? —with similar questions on details and reporting/notice.**
- The overflows and/or bypasses experienced by both plants were due to excessive wet weather events which produced 2-3 inches of rain within a few hours. All the requested information regarding bypasses and overflows is compiled and submitted to MDE as required by permit. During the partial bypass events at Back River, the City activated the light on the outfall sign, as required by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Consent Decree.

Learning Station 6: Design Projects

Presented by Carlos Stephenson, Engineer II, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. What is the overall scope of the Phase II projects?

- Phase II projects currently include CCTV, design, and rehabilitation contracts. The CCTV contracts provide condition assessment data of the pipes and manholes. The design



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contracts analyze the condition assessment data to determine which assets require rehabilitation. And the rehabilitation contracts repair the assets as needed.

2. Which are the accelerated projects in Phase II?

- The accelerated projects include SC 1004, 1005, 1006, and SC 1007, while SC 1008, SC 1009, SC 1010, and SC 1012 are rehabilitation contracts.

3. Are the engineers for Baltimore City reviewing the design plans for Phase II?

- Yes

4. How can we increase our outreach efforts particularly in reference to the Herring Run?

- Public outreach efforts are ongoing throughout the City. If there are additional specific needs for certain areas like Herring Run, then please reach out to DPW's Office of Strategic Alliances for further assistance.

5. Do we have end dates for the Phase II projects?

- All Phase II projects must finish by 12/31/2030, as required by the Modified Consent Decree.

6. Learning Station #6 lists 5 design projects for this year, 4 for 2025, and 6 or more for 2026. Which ones are these? And, the map identifies dozens of subwatershed areas—which of these are being worked on now and going forward (and are the others completed, or what status)? For those projects that appear to cross the City/County border, how does the County participate in planning, work, and funding? Also, what does one of these projects typically involve? —there is no description of what type of work is being done in each area. Are these project descriptions publicly available and if so, where?

- Each year and project delivery type includes design and construction contracts. The five projects for 2024 include two design contracts and three construction contracts. The four projects in 2025 and six projects in 2026 are all construction contracts. Currently, there are four CCTV contracts ongoing which are inspecting the pipes in each of subwatershed areas. There are no design and construction contracts ongoing in these areas as part of Phase II. The areas shown to cross into the County are actually a mistake and should've been clipped. The City does not intend to inspect any assets within the County, they just happen to share the same subwatershed (such as JF47, JFWR14, etc). The Phase II projects include CCTV contracts, design contracts, and construction contracts. The CCTV contracts provide condition assessment data for all assets within each of these subwatersheds, the design engineer reviews the condition assessment



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data and determines the rehabilitation needs, and the construction contracts perform the required rehabilitation work.

Learning Station 7: Projects in Construction

Presented by Angela Cornish, Construction Project Supervisor II, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. How do you, as a contractor, get a contract to clean basement SSOs?

- For information on how to contract with the City, please visit [//mayor.baltimorecity.gov/city-contracting-basics](https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/city-contracting-basics)

2. Are there any upcoming projects for Dead Run in Leakin Park?

- At this time there are no sewer projects scheduled for Dead Run in Leakin Park.

3. Learning Station #7 lists construction projects in process. For SC941, it states that it will be completed by 1/31/24—has that happened? What were/are the projected I&I volume decreases from that project? (which appear not to have had a sufficient material impact on SSOs 67 and 72). What other projects are planned for these watersheds, particularly upstream of those SSOs? SC966 just says ongoing—please see my questions above under Headworks; at what rate this work is being done, and when will it be completed?

- SC941 reached substantial completion on 10/17/2023. Final completion of the project is planned in Spring of 2024. Structures 67 and 72 were meant to be closed after the completion of the Headworks project. However, since the discovery of the sediment within the interceptor leading to Back River, it was determined that cleaning will need to be done to be able to close 67 and 72. SC966 is planned to be completed in 2027, however the time of completion is highly dependent on the level of sediment found within the interceptor during the cleaning process. DPW is looking at other avenues to completing this project quicker.

Learning Station 8: Office of Communications & Office of Strategic Alliances

Presented by Jennifer Combs, Public Relations Coordinator, Office of Communications, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. Is it safe to flush doubled-sided toilet paper down the toilet?

- Yes, double-sided toilet paper is safe to flush down the toilet.

2. Is it safe to flush “flushable” wipes down the toilet?



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- No, it is not safe to flush so-called “flushable” wipes down the toilet. These wipes do not dissolve like toilet paper. They have been known to clog sewer pipes and form “fatbergs” in Baltimore and throughout the world. A “fatberg” is a mass of waste matter formed by wipes and other non-biodegradable solids mixed with fat, oil, and grease (FOG) deposits.

3. Learning Station #8 includes a screen shot of the interactive map of sewer overflows. I do appreciate having this map and being able to check sites occasionally. But in my experience it is often outdated or slow to be updated (e.g., just saying over 10,000 gallons, or TBD for several days); and it is very difficult to see the details for a site (I have to slide the window over to cover the map to see the details); and I have not been able to see historical data for a site at all (usually just the last 1-2 overflows).

- Thank you for the comment, DPW is continuously working on improving this map to provide the most up-to-date information to the public.

Learning Station 9: Office of Boards & Commissions

Presented by Deena Joyce, Chief, Office of Boards and Commissions, Baltimore City Department of Public Works

1. What is being taught in the Small Business Development Training Program (SBD) classes?

- The DPW Small Business Development Training Program is an 11-week program designed to help prepare Baltimore-based small businesses to work on DPW capital improvement projects. The 2023 training curriculum included the following topics:
 - M/WBE Certification
 - Prequalification with the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC)
 - Procurement with Baltimore City
 - Writing a Business Plan
 - Project Management and Scheduling
 - Marketing and Business Development
 - Introduction to Blueprint Reading
 - Estimating and Bidding
 - Bonding
 - Working Capital
 - Construction Cost Accounting
 - Construction Best Practices
 - Contract Administration
 - OSHA 10 Hour Certification



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2. What is the City doing to mitigate flood issues?

- Based on its risk analysis, the City develops and implements long-term mitigation strategies. Mitigation consists of sustained activities that reduce the loss of life and property due to the occurrence of hazards. Mitigation measures include land use regulations, building codes, floodproofing, and stormwater management. The Baltimore City Department of Planning has the overall responsibility for floodplain management in the City. Floodplain management is a community program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing future flood damage. These measures generally include zoning, subdivision, building requirements, and special-purpose floodplain ordinances.

3. Asked about SSO Cleanup

- Please refer to Learning Station 3- Building Backup Support.

4. Education of how the SOS Program cleanup works for uneducated customers.

- Please refer to Learning Station 3- Building Backup Support.

5. What is prequalification and how can I sign up?

- Prequalification is required for all design consultants and construction-related firms bidding to perform services of \$50,000 or more by **The Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC)**. In order to become prequalified, consultants and contractors must submit completed applications which are reviewed by OBC to ensure the applicants have the technical capability and financial capacity to perform satisfactory work for the City. Additional information on prequalification can be found at the following website: [Prequalification for City of Baltimore \(OBC\) | Baltimore City Department of Public Works](#)

Learning Station 10: Small Business Development Program

Presented by Kerwen Whatley, Small Business Development Program Director

1. Are there any plans to train small businesses in ecological care?

- There are no plans to train small businesses in ecological care at this time. We are in the process of reviewing our curriculum for 2024. We will evaluate the need to include ecological care in the 2024 curriculum.



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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The way the meeting is conducted does not allow questions to be heard by everyone. A public meeting should allow for public discourse. We want to hear each other's concerns.

Why didn't we hear any reference to Patapsco?

The presentation seemed too general.

Back River seems to be going backwards since 2020. Need more specific examples.

Add more specifics to overall presentation.

Provide handouts and specifically understand the needs of the audience.

Public perception of DPW – it lacks transparency.

It is difficult to overcome seeking reassurance that agency knows what they are doing.

Comment: This is just a comment and I know that I might sound repetitive, but I do think that when it comes to any basement backup this city should be the one that's covering it the residents should not have to come out of pocket for anything if the backup goes hand in hand any issues on the City side.

Comment: "I use the online SSO map every day."