

Article IV. Water Quality Control.

Sec. 19-47. Purposes; Authority.

(a) The water quality goals of the County are to:

(1) protect, maintain, and restore high quality chemical, physical, and biological conditions in the waters of the state in the County;

(2) reverse past trends of stream deterioration through improved water management practices;

(3) maintain physical, chemical, biological, and stream habitat conditions in County streams that support aquatic life along with appropriate recreational, water supply, and other water uses;

(4) restore County streams, damaged by inadequate water management practices of the past, by reestablishing the flow regime, chemistry, physical conditions, and biological diversity of natural stream systems as closely as possible;

(5) help fulfill interjurisdictional commitments to restore and maintain the integrity of the Anacostia River, the Potomac River, the Patuxent River, and the Chesapeake Bay; and

(6) promote and support educational and volunteer initiatives that enhance public awareness and increase direct participation in stream stewardship and the reduction of water pollution.

(b) The federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and state water quality standards require that the County establish regulations governing discharges into protected waters of the state.

(c) To accomplish the purposes of this Chapter, the County Council has established this Article. In administering and enforcing this Article, the County should consider the economic impact of any action it takes or requires.

(d) The County must work in conjunction with municipalities, counties, agencies of the state, and the federal government to establish interagency agreements and to take other steps necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Chapter. (1994 L.M.C., ch. 31, § 1.)

Sec. 19-49. Administration.

The Director must administer and enforce this Article.

(a) The Director must coordinate programs relating to water pollution abatement and seek the cooperation and assistance of all County agencies, municipalities and regional agencies, and state regulatory agencies when their programs affect the County.

(b) The County Executive, subject to confirmation by the Council, must appoint a Water Quality Advisory Group, composed of up to three non-voting representatives of government agencies and three representatives each of the public at large, academic and scientific experts, environmental groups, the agricultural community, and the business community. The Water Quality Advisory Group must recommend to the Executive and the Council by March 1 each year water quality goals, objectives, policies, and programs. Each member must be appointed for a 3-year term unless appointed to fill the balance of an unexpired term, but the initial terms may be staggered. The Group each year must select a chair and any other officer it finds necessary.

(c) The Director may recommend regulations to establish water use classes and water quality standards or criteria which exceed minimum state water use classes, standards, or criteria as set forth in state regulations, or for other purposes necessary to administer this Article. The Executive may adopt regulations for these purposes under method (1).

(d) This Article and any regulations adopted under it must not waive any requirement imposed by the federal Clean Water Act, the state Department of the Environment, or the state Department of Natural Resources. (1994 L.M.C., ch. 31, § 1.)