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Poolesville Comprehensive Master Plan Update Testimony: Montgomery Countryside Alliance March 19, 2024

Montgomery Countryside Alliance submits the following for the record in support of ensuring careful stewardship of our shared sole source aquifer as a foundational aspect of Poolesville's comprehensive planning. MCA is a 501(c) (3) with members and supporters throughout Montgomery County, including within the municipality.

We have reviewed the draft comprehensive plan and note that our testimony and the reporting from our contractor, hydrogeologist Patrick Hammond, pertains to:

Chapter 10, section 4, Streams
Chapter 11, Water Resources
Chapter 12, Sustainability

I will submit the full report once completed which will likely be before the end of the month. But the overarching message is good planning will be based on good, up-to-date data, ensuring that the goals that the plan has set forth can be met. Mr. Hammond will be available to talk with the town as desired to answer questions about his findings. He has a long history of working with Poolesville's water system and deep knowledge of our sole source unconfined groundwater aquifer.

Key takeaway: Pat's reporting (see link) indicates that to meet the plan's projected growth the Town would need to continue to over appropriate groundwater from Horsepen Branch watershed. A previous study (linked -reporting) authored by Mr. Hammond determined that the watershed has been ecologically impaired due to the Town's water withdrawal coupled with the level of developed impervious surface. Of the 4 watersheds serving the Town Broad Run in the only remaining one that is not overallocated.

Attachments:

[Understanding and protecting groundwater](#)
[Hammond preliminary reporting](#)
[Hammond studies](#)

PLENTY magazine, Spring 2024, article "The Good Gift" – submitted hardcopy
[Media – DC area faces water supply issues](#)

Respectfully submitted,



Caroline Taylor
Executive Director

