

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY
George R. Sparling, County Attorney
David A. Weiskopf, Deputy County Attorney



COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
James R. Guy, President
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a Public Hearing on October 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, Maryland to consider a proposed repeal of Resolution No. 98-34 and revision of the Office of Environmental Health fees as follows:

Service	Current Fee	Proposed Increase	Proposed Fee
Soils Evaluation (Standard)	\$212	\$28	\$240
Soils Evaluation (Sand Mound)	\$212	\$28	\$240
Septic System Inspection (Trench)	\$106	\$14	\$120
Septic System Inspection (Tank Only)	\$ 53	\$ 7	\$ 60
Sand Mound Inspection	\$200	\$25	\$225
Record Plat Approval (per lot)	\$106	\$14	\$120
Site Plan Approval	\$ 80	\$10	\$ 90
Seasonal Pool Permit	\$106	\$14	\$120
Year Round Pool Permit	\$106	\$14	\$120
Food Service License High Priority	\$292	\$38	\$330
Food Service License Moderate Priority	\$159	\$21	\$180
Food Service License Low Priority	\$106	\$14	\$120
Temporary Food Service Permit	\$ 42	\$ 8	\$ 50
Food Service Plan Review (New)	\$212	\$28	\$240
Food Service Plan Review (Remodel)	\$106	\$14	\$120

Citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the public hearing.

Note that as a result of the evidence and comments made at the public hearing, amendments may be made to the proposed resolution.

Written comments, questions and suggestions may be submitted on or before October 16, 2015, to: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

A copy of the proposed Resolution is available in the Public Information Office, Governmental Center, 41770 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650. The Commissioners invite public comments and participation.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

By: George R. Sparling, County Attorney

Publish: September 18, 2015
September 25, 2015

P.O. BOX 653 ♦ GOVERNMENTAL CENTER ♦ 41770 BALDRIDGE STREET, LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
PHONE 301.475.4200 X1700 ♦ FAX 301.475.4660 ♦ www.co.saint-marys.md.us



St. Mary's County Health Department



Meenakshi G. Brewster, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Administration & Vital Records	301-475-4330
Community Health Services	301-475-4330
Resource Coordination	301-475-4330
Environmental Health	301-475-4321
Environmental Health Fax	301-475-4373
Medical Assistance Transportation	301-475-4296
State Health Department (Toll Free)	877-4MD-DHMH
Maryland Relay Service	1-800-735-2258

July 16, 2015

St. Mary's County Board of Health
Chesapeake Building, P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Re: St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental Health Fee Schedule

Dear St. Mary's County Board of Health:

Background & Introduction

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) provides numerous services to the residents of our County in order to promote an environment that optimizes population health and safety. Our Environmental Health services are primarily utilized by food service facilities, homeowners, and local businesses including contractors. Fees corresponding to these services are very modest and significantly lower overall than those of our surrounding counties. The current environmental health fee schedule falls far short of the actual cost of services, as confirmed by a desk audit conducted by our agency in 2013.

St. Mary's County Health Department seeks a slight increase in service fees in order to better offset the actual cost of service and implement specific customer service initiatives designed to improve efficiency and transparency benefitting our Environmental Health clients. The proposed fee schedule still does not cover the actual cost of services rendered; the changes would be very minimal from the current schedule. The proposed fee increases range from \$7/service to \$38/service with the average fee increase of \$18/service. The projected increase to the Department's annual budget is estimated between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

The Environmental Health fee schedule was last updated in 2007. At that time, the County Board of Health had recommended reviewing the fee schedule every two years. The recurring review was not implemented, however, with the arrival of the nation's recession. Now, eight years later, we are proposing another small adjustment to the fee schedule that is based on an inflationary model (similar to the model supporting the 2007 increase). The proposed implementation date requested is October 1, 2015.

Demand for environmental health services has bounded upward since the last Environmental Health fee schedule increase in 2007. This is despite a significant reduction (11%) in environmental health staffing since that time. The St. Mary's County population has increased by 13% while the demand on our environmental health services has increased by 49% since 2007.

We feel the proposed slight change in fees is well worth the potential benefit to our clients and county. For examples, transitioning records fully to electronic format would improve quick access to data for both staff and the public – leading to enhanced workforce efficiency and increased transparency as we work towards providing our public with direct access to nonmedical records. Funds would also be utilized to improve industry communications with both public and private sectors.

Summary

Proposed SMCHD environmental health fee schedule changes: average of \$18/service fee increase (range \$7/service - \$38/service). Based on an inflationary model. New fee schedule still far less than the actual cost of service. Proposed implementation October 1, 2015.

Fee change will contribute to initiatives designed to improve workforce efficiency, make records available electronically to the public, and improve communications with clients and partners.

Prior Board of Health direction

Last approval of an Environmental Health fee schedule change in 2007, based on inflationary model. At that time, the Board of Health recommended a review of the Environmental Health fee schedule every two years.

Proposed Timeline

July 28, 2015 – Board of Health to consider motion to move to public hearing on new SMCHD Environmental Health fee schedule

August 2015 – Public hearing on proposed environmental health fee schedule changes

September 2015 – Report to Board of Health on outcomes of public hearing with motion to approve recommended environmental health fee schedule

October 1, 2015 – Implementation of new SMCHD Environmental Health fee schedule

St. Mary's County Board of Health
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The current fee schedule and the minor changes proposed reflect our agency's desire to keep fees low in order to minimize the burden on residents and businesses utilizing environmental health services. We feel the benefits allowed by the proposed increases would be of tremendous value to our residents and local businesses.

Sincerely,

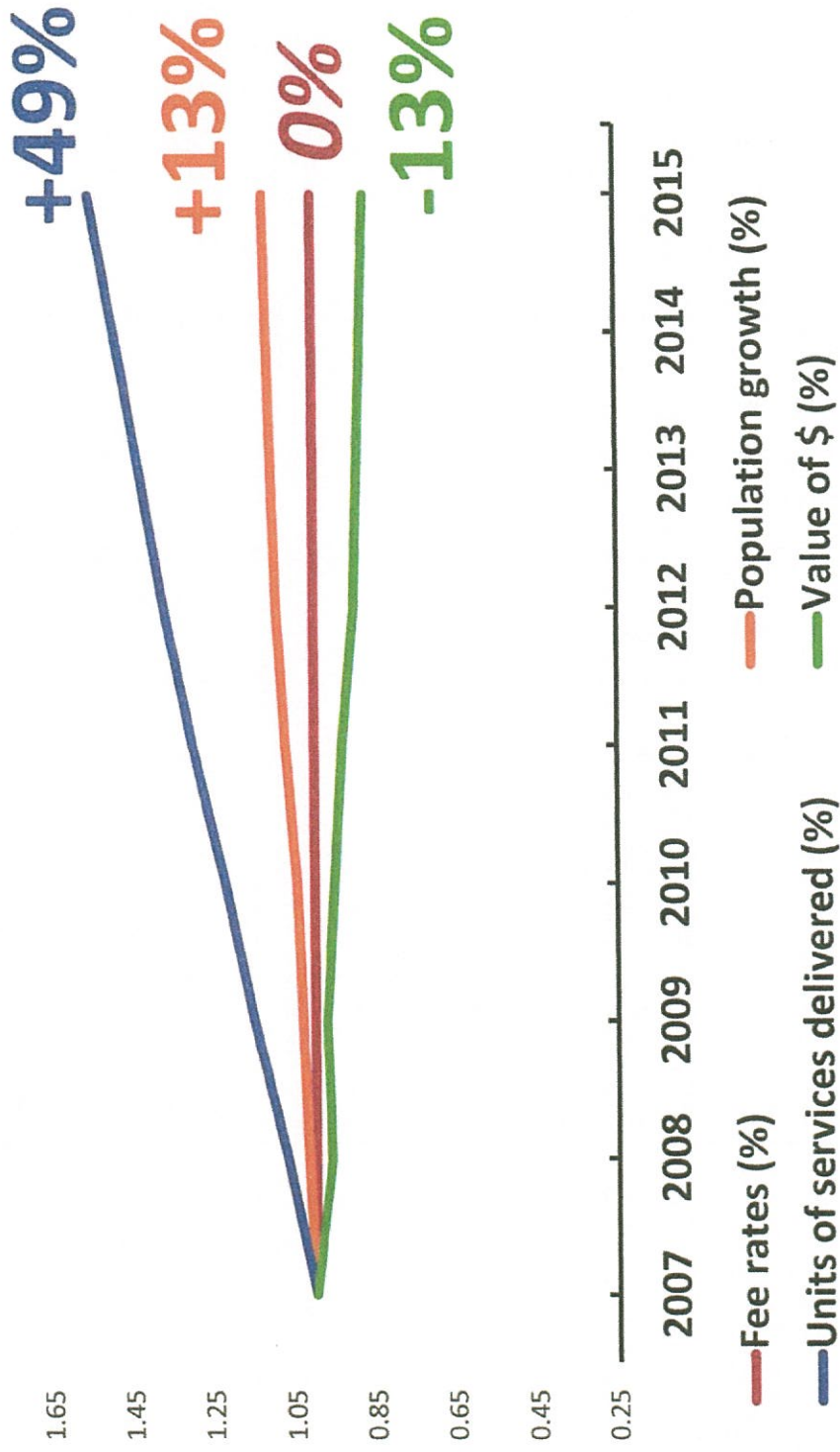


Meenakshi G. Brewster, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Health Officer
St. Mary's County, Maryland

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Enclosures

Environmental Health fees, summary of factors, 2007–2015



St. Mary's County Health Department, Environmental Health Division; United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey; United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

**Subject: Environment - To Approve Fees for the
Office of Environmental Health**

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RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE FEES FOR THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, pursuant §3-201(a) of the *Health - General Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County are *ex officio* the Board of Health for St. Mary's County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant §3-202(c)(1) of the *Health - General Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, each county board of health may set fees and charges in connection with its rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, a notice of a public hearing was advertised on September 18, 2015, and September 25, 2015, in *The Enterprise*, a newspaper of general circulation in St. Mary's County, and a public hearing was held on October 6, 2015, to receive public comment and consider proposed fees for the Office of Environmental Health of the St. Mary's County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners for St. Mary's County find that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of St. Mary's County to approve fees for the Office of Environmental Health of the St. Mary's County Health Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, pursuant to §3-202(c)(1) of the *Health - General Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* that:

SECTION I. Resolution No. 98-34 is repealed.

SECTION II. The following fees for the Office of Environmental Health of the St. Mary's County Health Department are approved:

Service	Current Fee	Proposed Increase	Proposed Fee
Soils Evaluation (Standard)	\$212	\$28	\$240
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Subject: Environment - To Approve Fees for the Office of Environmental Health

SECTION III. This Resolution shall be effective on the date written below.

Those voting Aye: _____

Those voting Nay: _____

Those Abstaining: _____

Date of Adoption: _____

Effective Date: _____

ATTEST:

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Rebecca B. Bridgett
County Administrator

James R. Guy, Commissioner President

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Approved as to form and legal
sufficiency:

Tom Jarboe, Commissioner

George R. Sparling

George R. Sparling
County Attorney

Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner

John E. O'Connor, Commissioner