



St. Mary's County Plumbing Fuel Gas Board

Annual Report

January 2021 to July 2022

Members

Bernie Taylor, Propane Industry Representative, Chair
Richard Montgomery, Master Licensed Plumber, Gasfitter & Backflow Cross Connection Seat
Vice Chair
John Fluhart, Master Plumber Seat
Daniel Garrison, Master Plumber & Gasfitter Seat
Ed Hogan, Metropolitan Commission Representative, Executive Secretary
Heather Mortiz, Health Department Representative

Staff Support

Amber Thompson, Permits Manager
Sandie Greene, Recording Secretary

The St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board was established by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to review plumbing and gas codes for use by the plumbing and gas trades in St. Mary's County, to hear complaints and, to render code disputes.

In January 2017 Senate Bill 140 was placed in effect a Local Plumbing Code – Repeal. The Repeal read “For the purpose of repealing a certain provision of law related to the adoption of a plumbing code in St. Mary's County; and generally relating to the repeal of a provision of law that relates to the adoption of a plumbing code in St. Mary's County.

The County Attorney at that time George Sparling made the decision to follow suit with the Senate Bill 140 decision. After a few years of discussion with the then Acting County Attorney then County Attorney David Weiskopf and the order of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County a new Resolution number 2019-34 was signed creating the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Advisory Board.

Due to the onset and ongoing COVID restrictions the Board did not start meeting again until January 12, 2021. Under the new Advisory Board By-Laws, the Board would meet twice a year unless deemed necessary to discuss a dispute or offer advise to officials within the St. Mary's County Government.

Meetings

Per the new Board will meet bi-annually in January and in June of each year.

Health Department: On June 1, 2021, members of the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Advisory Board met for the first meeting of 2021. Topic of discussion was the Plumbing, Fuel and Gas Legislation. Discussion included the updates and changes in St. Mary's County.

On July 26, 2021, members of the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Advisory Board met with member Heather Mortiz, St. Mary's Health Department Representative as she led the discussion of Title 26, Maryland Department of the Environment, Subtitle 04 Regulation Water Supply, Sewage Disposal and Solid Waste, Chapter 12 Graywater Reuse Systems.

Areas of concern and discussed were the following:

01- Purpose and Policy

03 — Definitions to be evaluated:

(3) "Bucket Irrigation"

(8) "Graywater"

(10) "Graywater Reuse System"

(11) "Graywater Storage Tank"

04 General Provisions and Requirements for Graywater Reuse Systems

05 Graywater Quality for Reuse

A. Type 1 Graywater for Outdoor Subsurface Irrigation: Uses and Methods.

C. Type 3 Treated greywater: Uses and Methods.

06 Graywater Reuse System Design, Construction and Operation Standards

Design and Construction of Irrigation Systems

The Advisory Board met again in January 2022 and voted to keep the same Board Members in their respective places.

Cross Connection: The topic of conversation was Cross Connection in St. Mary's County. Over the last 18 months research has commenced along with the assistance of Assistant County Attorney John Houser. As Maryland Department of Environment, MDE, representative Georgella Samu has advised the Community Water systems are responsible for having a cross connection program. Since the St. Mary's County Health Department does not oversee the Community Cross Connections Mr. Houser has asked again if MDE is responsible for the oversee. This is an ongoing discussion working with the MDE.

Memorial: In June 2022 the Board had a recognition and memorial plaque hung in LUGM for long time member Charles Downs who passed in a boating accident in July 2018.

Budget

Currently the Board has a \$50 budget line for Postage and Mailings and has not spent any of the following \$50 as of this time. The Budget for the year 2021-2022 was removed.