



City of Rockville

## MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2010

TO: Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Manisha Tewari, Planner

VIA: David Levy, Chief of Long Range Planning

SUBJECT: Municipal Growth Element (MGE) and Water Resources Element (WRE)

Enclosed with the memo are your copies of the Public Hearing Draft of the Municipal Growth Element (MGE) and Water Resources Element (WRE)

Consistent with direction given by Rockville's Mayor and Council on October 12 of last year during the review of the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP), City staff released to the public on Monday April 12, 2010, the Public Hearing Drafts of the Municipal Growth and Water Resources Elements of the CMP. The documents and other relevant information, including the variety of options for how the public can give input, can be found online at the City Web site, at <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/masterplan/elements/index.html>. The Planning Commission Public Hearing for both elements is scheduled for June 9, 2010.

### **Background:**

The Municipal Growth and Water Resources Elements are new requirements of Article 66 B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended by House Bill (HB 1141) in 2006. House Bill 1141 requires that all municipal comprehensive plans in Maryland include Municipal Growth and Water Resources Elements. Every municipality in Maryland with planning authority is required to adopt these technical elements into its comprehensive plan by October 1, 2010. Additional information on State requirements, including these two new elements, can be found at:

<http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurWork/CompPlans/Requirements.shtml>.

The Municipal Growth Element discusses how and where population and employment growth is likely to occur and assesses the impacts of projected growth on public services and infrastructure such as Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Schools, Libraries, and Parks.

The Water Resources Element identifies water resources for drinking and other purposes that are necessary to meet the needs that arise from projected growth. Receiving waters and wastewater treatment areas are identified. This element is also concerned with water resource protection, ground water resources, water quality standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Consistent with the requirements of Article 66 B, copies of both the Municipal Growth Element (MGE) and Water Resources Element (WRE) have been sent to the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and the City of Gaithersburg.

**Next Steps:**

The following is the proposed schedule for the public process and subsequent adoption of the Municipal Growth and Water Resources Elements:

- May 12, 2010 Presentation to Planning Commission
- June 9, 2010 Planning Commission Public Hearing
- June 16, 2010 Planning Commission Close Public Record
- June 23, 2010 Planning Commission Discussion and Instructions to Staff
- July 14, 2010 Planning Commission Decision and Recommendation to Mayor and Council.
- July 19, 2010 Presentation to Mayor and Council
- August 2, 2010 Mayor and Council Public Hearing
- August 16, 2010 Mayor and Council Close Public Record
- September 13, 2010 Mayor and Council Discussion and Instructions to Staff
- September 27, 2010 Mayor and Council Introduction and Adoption
- September 28, 2010 Convey MGE and WRE to Maryland Department of Planning in compliance with October 1, 2010 deadline.

Enclosures-

- Public Hearing Draft of Municipal Growth Element
- Public Hearing Draft of Water Resources Element