Colonial Beach: Comprehenesive assessment and planning for wastewater system upgrades



WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VA | CLEAN WATER | 2023-2025

COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Town of Colonial Beach provides sewer service to approximately 4,000 residents in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Its service area includes both the town population and some residents of the surrounding county, and the town also serves a sizable influx of summer visitors. Median Household Income in Colonial Beach is 65% of the state average.

Colonial Beach's wastewater treatment facility is fifteen years old and has multiple challenges including nutrient, BOD, and solids exceedances; high rates of inflow and infiltration, under-investment in preventive maintenance, as well as highly publicized sewage overflows.

Colonial Beach had identified several needed upgrades, including a new supervisory control and data acquisition system as well as pump station rehabilitation. The town requested assistance further assessing wastewater and stormwater needs as well as identifying and seeking funding to meet those needs. In particular, assistance was needed to compile documentation needed to secure awarded funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which would fund system improvements.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Region 3 WaterTA Team worked with Colonial Beach to assemble and submit material needed to secure ARPA funding. The Team also conducted a comprehensive wastewater system technical managerial and financial assessment and subsequent workplan to prioritize and address the identified concerns, which positions Colonial Beach to pursue funding to address its wastewater and stormwater needs moving forward.

In addition, WaterTA was on hand to assist with negotiations related to a consent decree between Colonial Beach and the State of Virginia, making progress toward complying with requirements.

KEY OUTCOMES

- **Submission of materials to secure ARPA funding** for wastewater system improvements
- Refocusing of attention on allocation of resources to conduct **preventive maintenance**
- Procurement of a **private, experienced operator** to manage the plant
- Procurement of an **engineering consultant** to complete design and evaluation of pilot project
- Progress in **consent decree negotiations**
- Ongoing **funding identification and support**

The Region 3 RealWaterTA program helps Mid-Atlantic communities access funding to address water infrastructure needs. This program is coordinated by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center and funded by US EPA.

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PRIMARY WATERTA PARTNER ON THIS PROJECT:

MOONSHOT MISSIONS