



Briefing to Charles County Commissioners: Benedict Water Quality Study Results and Next Steps

Presenters

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Jason Groth, Deputy Director PGM

November 1, 2022

Purpose

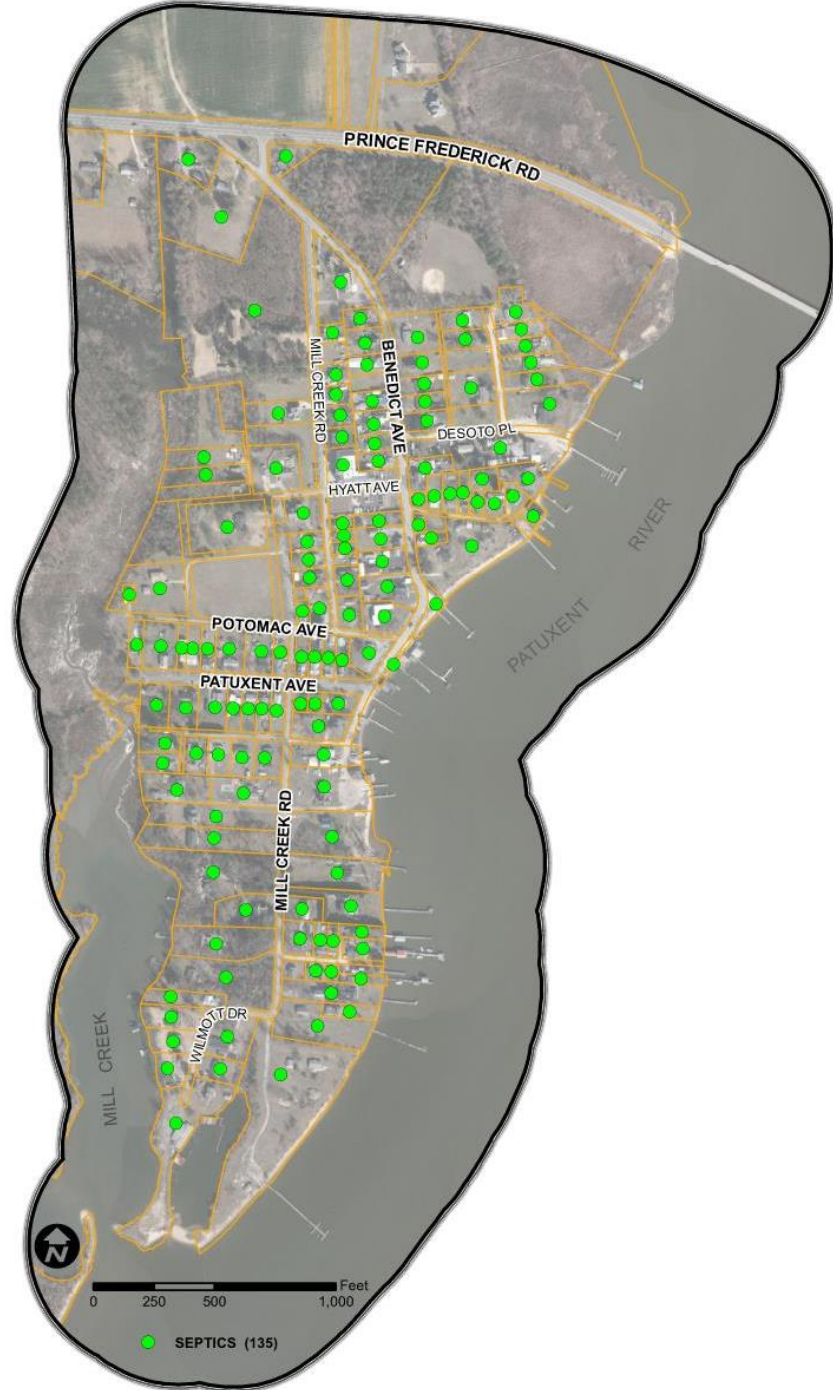
- Provide a brief refresher/ history.
- Recent related activities/ actions taken.
- Present staff recommended future actions/ planned activities.

Background

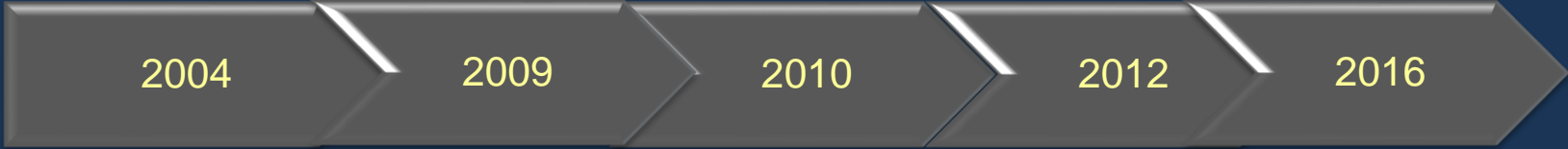
- **Benedict is a rural residential community located in Eastern Charles County.**
- **Total of 156 lots, approximately 135 on septic tanks, 21 undeveloped/no primary structure**
- **The wastewater treatment and disposal consists of individual on-site septic tanks and subsurface disposal systems.**
- **Benedict has been identified in the 2006 County Water & Sewer Comprehensive Plan as a septic tank failure area (Appendix -4M) and listed on Sewer Category Map # 5**

Benedict Area Septic Map

Total Septics (Approx. 135)

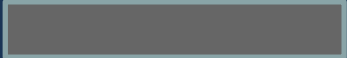


Project History

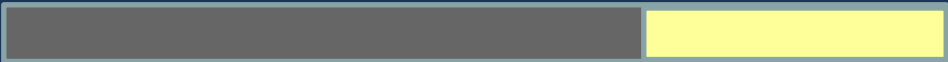


MILESTONE

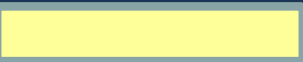
**BENEDICT SEWER
FEASIBILITY STUDY**



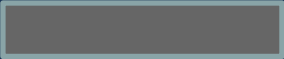
**BENEDICT CENTRAL SEWER
SYSTEM DESIGN**



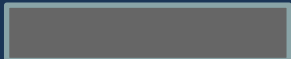
**CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM
DISPOSAL SITE LIMITATIONS**



**WATERFRONT VILLAGE
REVITALIZATION PLAN**



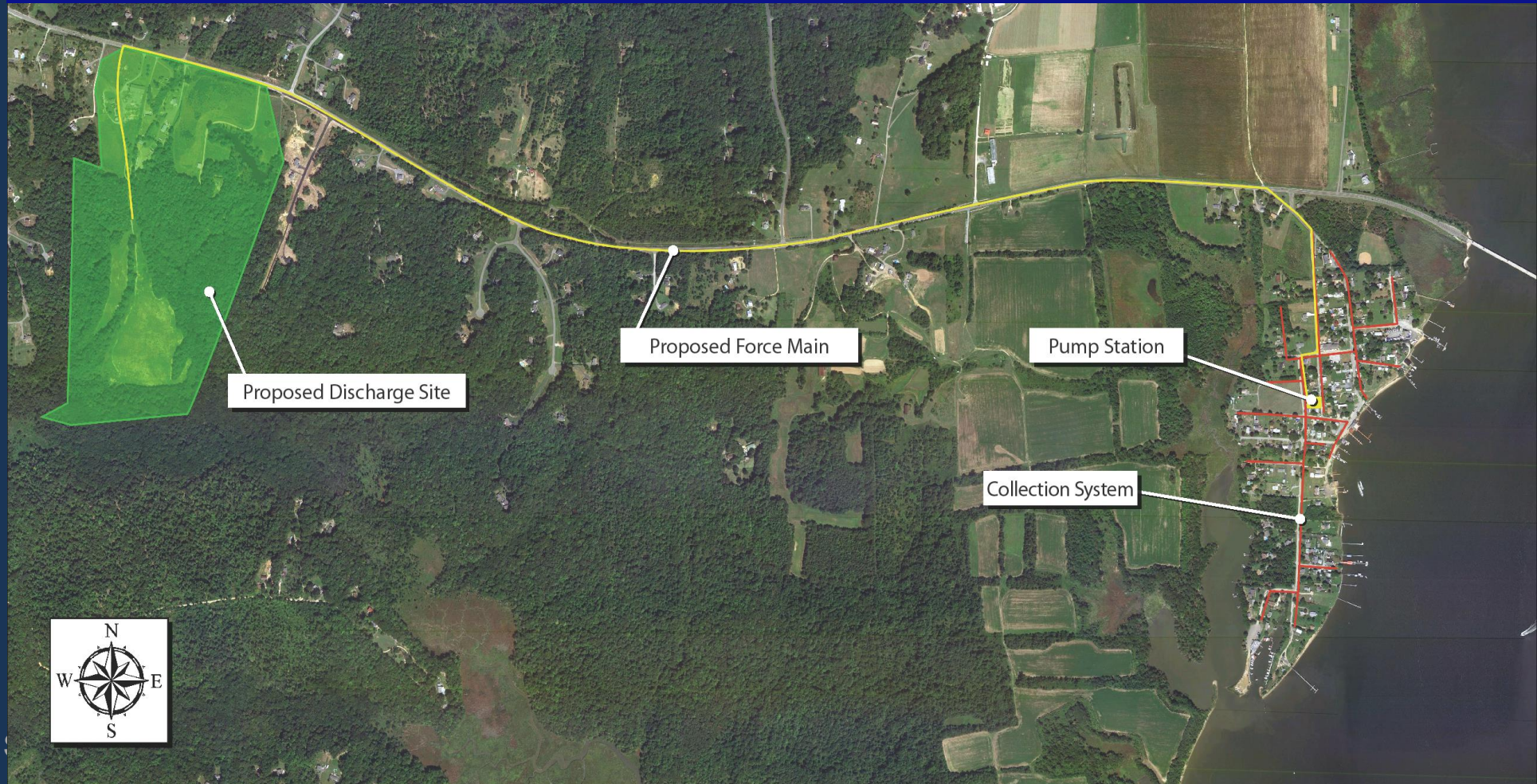
“ZERO” DISCHARGE STUDY



BENEDICT CENTRAL SEWER SYSTEM

2010 - CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT

- Design & construct a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system with a spray site for discharge



Project History (continued)

Waterfront Village Revitalization Plan

5 Revitalization Goals:

- **Protect the integrity, scale and character of the village.**
- **Create better visibility and identity along MD 231.**
- **Create a safe and walkable streetscape in the center of the village.**
- **Create public access to the river, creek and wetland areas.**
- **Create public parks that interpret the unique history of Benedict.**

Project History (continued)

Waterfront Village Revitalization Plan

Work Completed To Date:

- **Series of “War of 1812” special events during bicentennial.**
- **Riverwalk – 2015**
- **Village entrance enhancements – 2016**
- **Town green design – 2016**
- **Shoreline erosion design – Ballfield project**
- **Property owner coordination**
 - **Benedict marina**
 - **Russo properties**

Project History (continued)

2016 “Zero” Discharge Study

- **Eliminate discharge to the environment by achieving a high level of treatment and reusing the treated effluent for various reuse applications.**
- **The results identified seven possible wastewater disposal alternatives for Benedict.**
- **All the alternatives require centralized wastewater treatment.**
- **A cost-benefit analysis of the study resulted no viable options at that time.**

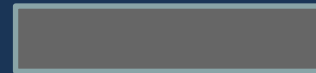
Recent activities/ actions taken

University of MD Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Study

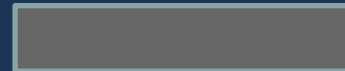


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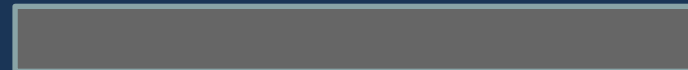
UMCES - STUDY INITIATED
AND BENEDICT PROPERTY
OWNERS NOTIFIED



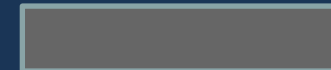
GROUNDWATER WELLS
INSTALLED



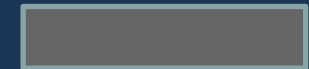
GROUNDWATER SAMPLES
COLLECTED



FINAL STUDY COMPLETED

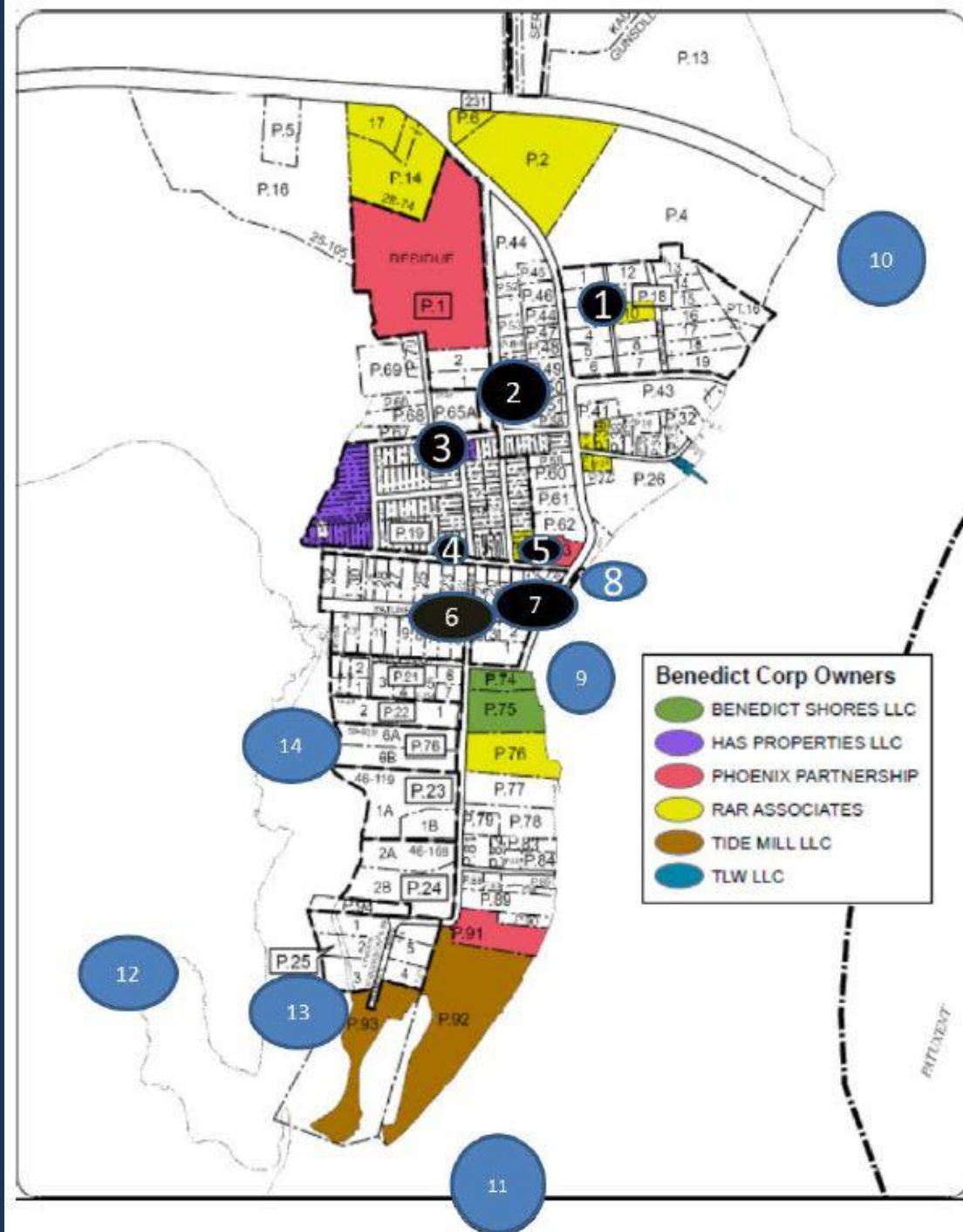


DISCUSSION WITH UMCES &
MDE STAFF



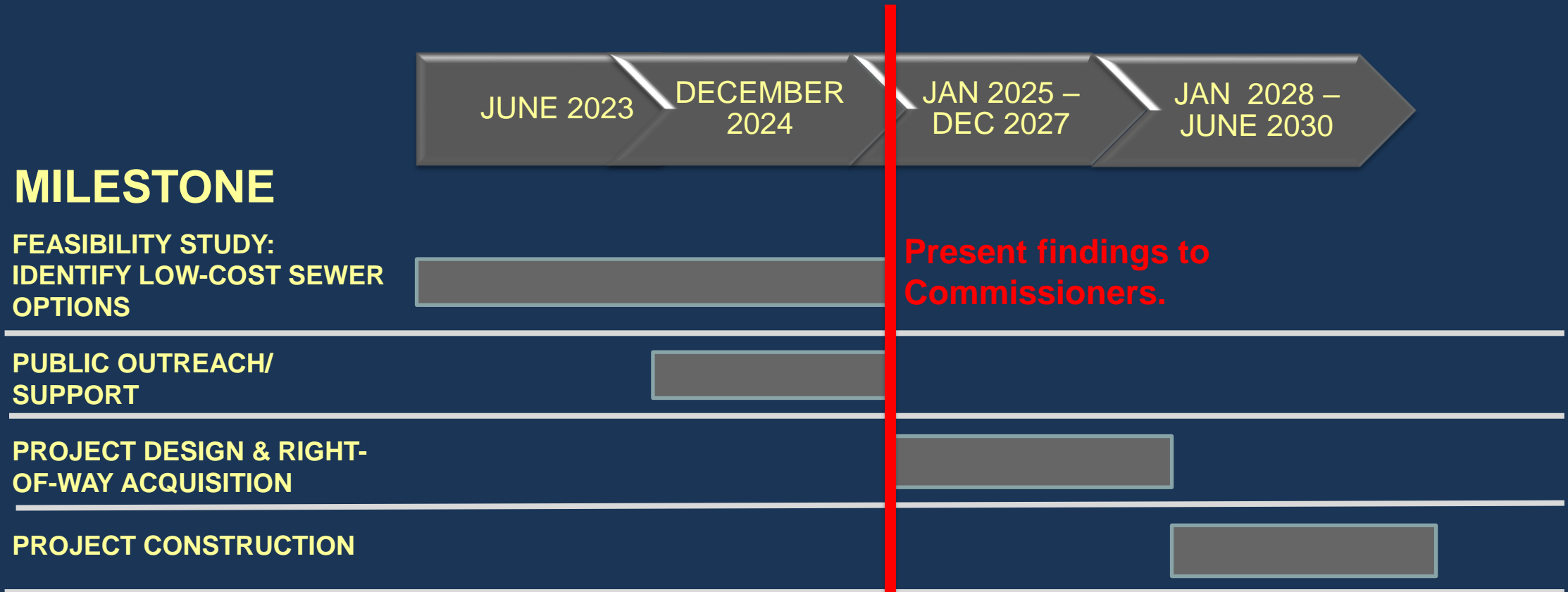
UMCES Study Sample Locations Map

Sampling Locations
Black dots: groundwater wells
Blue dots: surface water samples



Recommendations:

Future Actions/ Planned Activities



QUESTIONS?



Presented By:

**Charles County Government
Planning & Growth Management**

200 Baltimore St, La Plata, MD 20646

MD Relay Service: 7-1-1

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