

Commissioner Patterson failed to answer a question posed by me and another speaker at the last Public Comments Session concerning his job as a teacher in the Prince George's County Public School system. There has been an accusation in the media saying that Mr. Patterson has been suspended from his position due to leaving work to attend political functions while shown as on the job and receiving pay. This is a serious charge that needs to be answered. If true, what is your explanation? If not, why have you not refuted it?

The actual status of water availability in Charles County continues to be ignored by the commissioners. Residential development continues at an accelerated pace. Every new development drains the aquifers we rely on now and for the foreseeable future. We are told that plans are in place to increase the amount the state of Maryland allows to be drawn from the aquifers and that we are contracting with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to supplement our supply. So no need to worry.

Anyone reviewing our predicament can easily see there is ample cause to worry. The County Comprehensive Sewage and Water Supply document clearly defines the scope of problems with WSSC water that do not exist with groundwater. Groundwater is essentially free, except for the cost of pumping and local delivery. This is not the case with WSSC water. Water users will not only pay for the water itself but the infrastructure required to get it here. The distance adds not merely expense but quality and health issues. This is clearly defined in the county plan. We are also unsure of the availability of increased supply in the future. The WSSC gets its water from the Potomac River. The area it serves has also seen significant growth in demand and the river is a variable and finite source. The only other source is the mirage of desalination.

The question that is obvious would be why isn't water conservation being aggressively pitched to citizens, particularly those on public water systems. The less we use, the longer we can avoid the extremely costly alternatives to groundwater. The county recently requested an increase in the rate of extraction from the aquifer serving the Waldorf area. A requirement for making the request was to provide a conservation plan. To say the plan is laughable is generous. Its components are changing the water bill so recipients actually see how their usage impacts the amount charged and to send 1000 conservation kits per year to users. Since the trend has been to lower the allowed amounts rather than increase, it is unlikely the state will approve it (thankfully).

It seems quite clear that the reason for obscuring the water issues is so that new residents (along with everyone else) have no clue that their water bill is due to increase by 500-1000 percent in the future. This would hamper the sales of the residential sprawl so important to contributors. We are all victims of this deception and people should raise their voices.

I have included links to our "plan" and the New York Times article that terrified the developers and their supporters on the Board.

Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan for Charles County:

<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/716/638279480971900000>

New York Times groundwater article including Charles County:

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/28/climate/groundwater-drying-climate-change.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=3i2hgN74YmKjBVt0O80niUes5z4XaZsWr5ff\\_rCOV3EpMPtHtMzv96kMvRH8mev\\_ONSV6p7otJEsCbe6b8puCNiiO\\_I0EmE0LiK0ESOAZQgLgE8jfVmHPnR5Kwswyb3XKNzFsvtrHVT\\_2wWPEUAGXowIE32l-5hZ2SGCjK9-zWdJqslf0mANFzCmQ8oh\\_ojk35rlbv32L9bhNU5oV1KsOQS0hH2vXHGuQTf5wZcVB4Jwah3QLImVwQakxB42ZfTcrH1SfAqpmxYZ-KbcHanWx71jmFWm8QyiZviy2EqyGX9fe79p2fhxqUs98R1xmB814zvg5A5\\_Og4dzzPyXDxuoXed\\_KdwZvv-GLRgnKUa5XrO3cwlUP4rf3MIRBM&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/08/28/climate/groundwater-drying-climate-change.html?unlocked_article_code=3i2hgN74YmKjBVt0O80niUes5z4XaZsWr5ff_rCOV3EpMPtHtMzv96kMvRH8mev_ONSV6p7otJEsCbe6b8puCNiiO_I0EmE0LiK0ESOAZQgLgE8jfVmHPnR5Kwswyb3XKNzFsvtrHVT_2wWPEUAGXowIE32l-5hZ2SGCjK9-zWdJqslf0mANFzCmQ8oh_ojk35rlbv32L9bhNU5oV1KsOQS0hH2vXHGuQTf5wZcVB4Jwah3QLImVwQakxB42ZfTcrH1SfAqpmxYZ-KbcHanWx71jmFWm8QyiZviy2EqyGX9fe79p2fhxqUs98R1xmB814zvg5A5_Og4dzzPyXDxuoXed_KdwZvv-GLRgnKUa5XrO3cwlUP4rf3MIRBM&smid=url-share)

Water Conservation Plan

[638040235327770000 \(charlescountymd.gov\)](https://www.charlescountymd.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/638040235327770000)