



## Memorandum

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Alfred Lott, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** City Water Service - WSSC

**DATE:** 04/28/2022

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### Purpose

In March the City Council discussed a meeting some members had with WSSC regarding the potential for the City's water system to be taken over by WSSC. Faced with significant cost to address tuberculation with the City's water system the Council wanted to explore the potential for transferring responsibility to this regional water provider, who already serves a large portion of Bowie residents. The City Council directed staff to meet with WSSC to continue the discussion.

Staff is providing the below notes and will update Council on the results of the fact-finding meeting with WSSC in regard to the City's water service at the May 2, 2022 City Council meeting.

### WSSC Meeting

- Met with WSSC Staff on 4-18-22 at 10:00am
  - Staff included, Inter-governmental relations, Engineering, and General Counsel
  - City was represented by Jose Aldayuz, Hong Yin, Alfred Lott, Mati Bazurto, and Daniel Mears
- WSSC is bound by the WSSC Water Code of Regulations (Chapter 13.05 Acquisition of On-Site Water/Sewer Systems) regarding the acceptance of water systems.
- City must provide record plats, site plans, maps, and other plans for WSSC to evaluate its system.
  - After preliminary evaluation at Bowie's expense, an engineering feasibility report must be prepared.
  - WSSC regulation details numerous components of the system to be evaluated.
  - After City prepares a report, WSSC evaluates and inspects the system at the City's expense.
  - If accepted, the City will need to provide complete and certified as-built drawings and plans to WSSC standards.
  - There will need to be a legal transfer of all assets and Rights of Way. These would need to be prepared for the entire water system.

- There will need to be an official takeover agreement prepared after Bowie has met all required improvements, plans, and other criteria. All of this is at the City's sole cost.
- First Step would be a Joint Staff Review to get WSSC staff over to our site to see our evaluation documentation, inspect the system (cursory) and discuss feasibility. This would be at the City of Bowie's expense for their staff time and resources.
- If we get past the Review, the next step would be a formal evaluation.
- There is the potential for additional unexpected costs beyond remediating tuberculation prior to transferring the water system to WSSC. These could include costs to remediate engineering defects, deficiencies, or different standards in the Bowie system. Bowie may need to bear the cost of discontinuing its water production and expanding the physical interconnections with WSSC to provide water from their production systems.
- WSSC recommended that we hire a consultant to conduct an Alternative Analysis—to determine whether it is best for the City trade or to retain the water system.
- 49% of new federal infrastructure money for underserved communities. (Via the MD Revolving Loan Fund)
- Budget needed for WSSC Recommended an Alternative Analysis (takeover vs continued ownership).
- Look at new infrastructure funding.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None