Charles County, MD – Wastewater/Drinking Water Project

Project Location: Charles County, MD

Team Members Needed: Please see description and responsibilities of team members needed (at a minimum):

1. **Subject Matter Experts** – *Professional Engineers licensed in the State of Maryland that have:*
   - wastewater expertise (including experience designing individual septic system)
   - drinking water expertise
2. **Responsible Engineers in Charge (REICs)** – *Professional Engineers licensed in the State of Maryland with at least four years of professional experience in wastewater and/or drinking water (can also be Subject Matter Expert)*
3. **Quality Assurance Managers (QAMs)** – *Professional Engineers with at least four years of experience in wastewater or drinking water*
4. **Project Lead** - Project Manager (no professional certification required)

Full descriptions and roles/responsibilities are linked and can be found on our website. Outside of those listed above, additional general project team members are welcome.

Project Background: CECorps is partnering with the US Water Alliance through their National Environmental Finance Center to provide technical assistance to a community in rural Maryland that is struggling with public health challenges related to inadequate sanitation and unsafe drinking water. The community is faced with widespread failing individual septic systems and shallow, contaminated wells located in close proximity to failing wastewater infrastructure. A minimum of eight houses are currently facing immediate health risks due to failing septic systems, though the community anticipates more houses will be identified. The immediate objective of this project is to develop, design, and permit an interim wastewater solution for the eight identified houses. The US Water Alliance is concurrently working to collect additional community wide data to understand the scale of these challenges. Input from community members will be gathered through a community visioning exercise to determine potential long term solutions that best meets their needs. The long-term solutions may eventually require development of a Preliminary Engineering Report for both wastewater and drinking water.

Description of the Community: A large portion of the Charles County community struggles with drinking water and wastewater challenges due to a historic lack of investment and support. Many households are underserved and overburdened, lacking access to basic sanitation and water services. Many families have lived in the community for generations. The US Water Alliance is actively coordinating with community members and local non-profit organizations to build relationships and engage residents in the technical assistance process.

Project Scope of Work: The immediate scope for this project, to be completed by the subject matter expert or a team of subject matter experts, is to conduct an investigation of eight septic
systems that have failed within the community, identify the cause of failure, and make recommendations for improvements. This is anticipated to include mounded septic system design and developing supporting documentation required for permitting.

Based on the outcome of the community visioning process, it is anticipated that Community Engineering Corps’ long-term involvement with this community may also include the development of two Preliminary Engineering Reports - one evaluating long-term drinking water solutions and the second evaluating long-term wastewater solutions. The Preliminary Engineering Reports are anticipated to be utilized in applications for federal and state funding opportunities for capital improvement projects.

**Timeline:** This is a high-priority project due to ongoing public health concerns. However, Community Engineering Corps anticipates that an interim solution may take one year to complete with a desired completion date of May, 2025.

**Contact:** If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the technical scope, contact Brooke Poppe, Program Engineer, at brooke.poppe@ewb-usa.org.

You can schedule a meeting with the Program Engineer here!