

November/December



GreenPort of Baltimore

2015

Green Business Is Good Business



Welcome to the GreenPort Newsletter

Welcome to GreenPort, a bi-monthly newsletter from the Maryland Port Administration about its projects, programs, and events that help protect natural resources in the Chesapeake Bay region. The Port Administration believes that stewardship and sustainability of the environment and protection of human health are essential elements of its mission.

Please spread the word! Anyone interested in a new subscription to the GreenPort newsletter please click [HERE](#), or visit the [GreenPort](#) web site.

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GreenPort Web Site

A new version of the [GreenPort](#) is now on-line
— and you are just a click away from exploring it!

GreenPort is a section of the MPA web site that provides information about the agency's efforts to reduce water pollution, conserve energy, and clean the air.

You'll find information about the dredged material management program, including its success in restoring eroding Bay islands and creating valuable habitat for birds and terrapin. Learn about tours and educational opportunities for students and community groups, and discover the story behind specific sites like Masonville Cove and the Inner Harbor Water Wheel. You can also read the annual GreenPort review and browse a collection of fact sheets that provide clear overviews of important topics. Take a moment to visit [GreenPort](#) today.

Environment

Poplar Island Wins National Engineering Award

The MPA's Poplar Island environmental restoration project has been awarded the Innovation in Sustainable Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Located in Talbot County, [Poplar Island](#) is one of Maryland's top environmental restoration projects built with dredged material from shipping channels leading to the Port of Baltimore.



The American Society of Civil Engineers presented their award for Poplar Island to (From left to right): Col. Edward Chamberlayne, District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore; Justin Callahan, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; James Harkins, Maryland Environmental Service; Kathy Broadwater, Maryland Port Administration.

Photo Credit: MPA

"We are very fortunate to have an outstanding partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said MPA deputy executive director Kathy Broadwater. "Together we created a sustainable approach to keep the shipping channels safe and navigable while restoring the environment and providing opportunities to observe wildlife in its natural setting within the Chesapeake Bay."

The award recognizes the project's innovation, which combines traditional design and construction such as dikes, dredging, and grading with techniques for constructing wetlands to

create productive intertidal wetlands and upland habitat.

Robert D. Stevens, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, said that Poplar Island “is a stellar example of what can be accomplished when vision, collaboration and creativity come together to improve economic, social and environmental sustainability.”

Smart Trashcans for Smart Litter Prevention

Imagine this: you arrive at work, check your email, and find a message from a trash can. This happens to MPA environmental specialist Bryce Selby on a regular basis. Selby is leading the installation of six new Big Belly trashcans — four at the Dundalk Marine Terminal and two at the World Trade Center.

The Big Belly, a solar-powered, gentle-compression trash receptacle, connects wirelessly to the Internet. Selby receives automated e-mail alerts that communicate its fullness level and the charge of its battery. Selby also can view a map that shows the location of each Big Belly so that he can plot the most efficient route for trash pick-up.

“This is part of an overall litter reduction program,” Selby said.

The Big Belly holds a higher volume of trash because of its compression feature, and it contains trash securely. “Once it’s in, it’s in. We don’t have to worry about windy days or birds picking at the trash and dropping it outside the receptacle,” Selby said.

The Big Belly also draws attention. “When I was outside the berth house building, one of the Port workers asked if it was actually a trashcan because it looks so high tech, with indicator lights and solar panels,” Selby said.

Now that people have become accustomed to it, usage has increased and visible trash has decreased.



The Big Belly is a "smart" trash can that is part of the MPA's trash reduction program.

Photo Credit: MPA

“The whole point of the project is to prevent trash from getting into the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland waterways,” said Barbara McMahon, manager of Safety, Environment & Risk Management for the MPA. “We want to work with Port users to help them become conscious that loose trash — litter — eventually ends up in the waterways.”

MPA Leads Tour for Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The MPA recently hosted two senior staff members from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on a tour of the Dundalk and Seagirt Marine Terminals.

The tour was led by MPA environmental manager Bill Richardson, Dredged Material Management Program chief Shawn Kiernan, and environmental analyst Holly Miller.

The goal was to gather input and from the Bay Foundation's water quality experts, Terry Cummings and Doug Myers, while showcasing some of the MPA's innovative water quality projects taking place on its marine terminals. These include:

- An algal turf scrubber at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, which uses natural algae growth to remove unwanted nutrients from the Patapsco River
- A "floating wetland" on Colgate Creek (between the Dundalk and Seagirt Marine Terminals), which creates a mini, vegetated ecosystem on a floating structure that filters pollutants from the water and provides aquatic habitat
- A Perk Filter installed in a storm-drain inlet at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, which helps remove pollutants (phosphorus and total suspended solids) from stormwater

Myers and Cummings were pleased to see the MPA's [proactive management of stormwater](#) and encouraged widespread adoption of similar innovative practices in waterfront areas where typical rainwater infiltration isn't possible.



Terry Cummings and Doug Myers of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation look at the algal turf scrubber with the MPA's Bill Richardson and Holly Miller.

Photo Credit: MPA

Dredging

Christina Correale to Direct the MPA

Dredging Program

The MPA has selected Christina Correale to oversee its [dredging program](#) as its new director of Harbor Development.

“Without continuous dredging of our channels, massive ships that continue to increase in size would not be able to reach the Port of Baltimore and support thousands of good-paying jobs,” said MPA executive director James J. White. “Chris Correale is uniquely qualified to lead this department and continue the Port of Baltimore’s outstanding reputation as a national leader in dredged material management.”



Correale will oversee the selection, environmental feasibility, engineering and design, construction, and operation of dredged material placement sites, with a specific importance placed upon beneficial and innovative reuse.

Correale comes to the MPA after five years as principal of the EcoLogix Group, where she was a senior advisor to the MPA on dredged material management projects. She previously was chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District Operations Division, where she oversaw all aspects of its navigation program, including Baltimore Harbor and its channels operations and maintenance.

“I’m extremely honored to become part of an organization that helps drive the economy of Maryland while helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay,” Correale said. “I look forward to continuing to work with all the stakeholders who have been engaged in helping the MPA with dredged material management issues.”

Workgroup Reviews Approval Process for the Reuse of Dredged Material

A new interagency workgroup is reviewing the state approval process for the innovative and beneficial reuse of dredged material and making recommendations that could clarify the process for acceptable projects in the future.

The Innovative and Beneficial Reuse Regulatory Workgroup is led by the MPA and includes representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Department of Natural Resources, State Highway Administration, and Maryland Geological Survey; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers; and the Maryland Environmental Service.

The [dredging of shipping channels](#) that support the Port of Baltimore generates 5 million cubic yards of sediment every year. As existing placement sites for dredged material reach capacity, more options will be needed. Because of this, the MPA has been exploring the potential for re-using or processing dredged material for practical uses. Examples include producing blocks, fill

and other construction materials; mitigating mined-out sand and gravel pits; restoring eroded shorelines; using as landfill daily cover material; and capping brownfields.

"Maryland does not currently have a defined process for reviewing and approving potential uses of dredged material, so this workgroup is focused on improving that framework," said workgroup chair and MPA senior policy analyst Kristen Weiss.

The workgroup has been meeting monthly since August 2015 and, at this time, policy recommendations are expected in the spring of 2016.

"Viewing dredged material as a resource and creating policies to facilitate it's reuse, all while protecting the environment and fostering innovation, is a great way to reach common ground among the many stakeholders in this effort," said Matt Rowe, MDE deputy director for Science Services Administration. "We look forward to collaborating with our workgroup partners to help clearly define the approval processes."

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GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.

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