

FINAL DRAFT
SUMMARY OF THE COX CREEK
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
July 12, 2017 5:45 PM

Attendees:

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works: Chris Phipps
COC Facilitator: Angie Ashley
Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn: Diane Ingram
Cornell University: Brian Davis
Greater Pasadena Council: Allan Straughan
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Eddie Lukemire, Lauren Mentzer, Robert Natarian
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Sergio Adantor, Kristen Fidler, Katrina Jones, Shawn Kiernan
Mahan Rykiel Associates: Isaac Hametz, Maddie Hoagland-Harrison, Xiang Huang, Jingting Li, Qing Li
North County Land Trust: Bill Jones, Laura Jones
Resident of Legislative District 31: Gary Gakenheimer
Resident of Orchard Beach: Stanley Labuda
South Baltimore Business Alliance (SBBA): Vince Glorioso

Action Items:

- Ms. Ashley will work with Ms. Katrina Jones to facilitate a Poplar Island tour for those who have not yet had the opportunity.
- Maryland Environmental Service (MES) will address Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones' concerns regarding the planting of American Sycamore and Black Willow in the storm drain mitigation plot.
- Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) will consider coordination with Under Armour/Sagamore and South Baltimore 6 (SB6).
- Mr. Straughan will provide MPA with additional information on Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) air quality monitor placement opportunities.
- Ms. Ashley will contact Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee members not in attendance to brief them on the meeting and share meeting materials. *(Ongoing)*
- Ms. Ashley will update the COC on important dates and activities related to the proposed Cox Creek Expanded (CCE) project. *(Ongoing)*
- MDOT MPA will continue to internally discuss increased public water access at Cox/Swan Creek. *(Ongoing)*
- COC members will help identify places that would be ideal for biofiltration as part of community enhancements. *(Ongoing)*

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Angie Ashley

Ms. Ashley convened the meeting and welcomed the committee members. She then turned the meeting over to the committee's Chairman, Mr. Glorioso. Before approving

the previous meeting minutes, Mr. Glorioso reviewed several points of interest. He stated that business can suffer in the summer, but for MDOT MPA there has been a lot of activity. He praised MDOT MPA's efforts on the purchase of Point Breeze Business Center, an addition of approximately 70 acres. He also noted that the Port of Baltimore was the fourth fastest growing port in the country, and first in container efficiency. Mr. Glorioso gave a brief description of Governor Hogan's newly announced Waste Reduction/Resource Recovery Plan Executive Order and the beneficial impact it should have on the Innovative Reuse Program. The previous meeting's summary was reviewed and Mr. Glorioso requested a motion to approve, which was made by Mr. Straughan and seconded by Mr. Gakenheimer.

2.0 Outreach Update

Ms. Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA

Public Information Meeting

Ms. Katrina Jones gave a summary of outreach events since the last meeting in January. On April 6, 2107 MDOT MPA held a Public Information Meeting at the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Hall. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting, where a presentation and information booths about the Cox Creek expansion project were displayed. A question and answer session brought to light several environmental concerns. The first concern centered on previous industrial activities that occurred in the copper refinery. Ms. Jones stated that MDOT MPA was able to address those questions and further discuss cleanup efforts underway in conjunction with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Some of the attendees, who had never attended dredging meetings before, had general concerns about dredging in the Harbor Channels. Ms. Jones stated that MDOT MPA answered the questions by describing the dredging as maintenance work. Maintenance dredged material has been rigorously sampled, and the containment facilities are designed to accept this type of material. A final concern came from the grandmother of a young birder. She was skeptical of the expansion construction work and worried that environmental conditions might be ignored. Ms. Jones was delighted to explain that the young birder convinced his grandmother to attend the meeting and become more educated on the environmental mitigation efforts MDOT MPA has incorporated into the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). While not a concern, attendees asked about access to the site for recreational activities, such as fishing and hiking. Ms. Jones stated the final suggestion received at the Public Information Meeting was to include other communities in the surrounding area to keep them up to date on the expansion progress. She then shared the posters that were displayed at the Public Information Meeting with the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee members.

Inflow Tours

On April 8, 2017 MDOT MPA held an Open House at the Cox Creek DMCF and offered site tours to the community. Approximately 20 people attended and there was no obvious opposition to the DMCF operation, expansion construction, or environmental mitigation areas. Attendees mostly asked about remediation efforts that would take place during and after demolition, and about the timeline of work to be completed. On April 29, 2017, MDOT MPA hosted the Harbor Team at the Cox Creek DMCF for a chance to watch

inflow at the site. The opportunity to witness inflow was new to many members and helped to “demystify” the process.

Ms. Jones discussed the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting that will occur in the summer of 2017, and the opportunity to visit Poplar Island in September. An invitation to the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee members was extended, as space allows. Ms. Ashley will send formal invitations to the Committee to join the field trip when more information becomes available.

3.0 Cox Creek Expanded Update

**Mr. Shawn Kiernan, MPA
Ms. Lauren Mentzer, MES**

Overview

Ms. Mentzer began the Cox Creek Expanded update with an overview of the project phases and Upland demolition. Phase 1 of construction covers the demolition of the Upland buildings, raising of the existing dikes and construction of dikes to +60’ mean lower low water (MLLW) elevation, followed by the filling and construction of dikes to +80’ MLLW. Phase II incorporates the potential acquisition of the Cristal property for lateral DMCF expansion.

Demolition – Building 201

Demolition of above grade structures was completed in early 2017; however, Building 201 remains standing due to ongoing sampling and characterization of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) materials. Over 1,200 samples have been collected to date in determining the impact of contamination. Demolition of Building 201 should begin after all materials are characterized and a final plan has been approved by the EPA in early 2018. Mr. Glorioso asked for clarification regarding borrowing around Building 201, and asked if that meant Building 201 would remain standing for a long period of time. Mr. Kiernan explained that PCB contamination in Building 201 was found to be widespread. Because of this, the increased sampling and characterization of affected materials has delayed the schedule for demolition. After characterization of all materials in the building is complete, MDOT MPA will determine what material needs to be transported to a certified landfill for hazardous material, what material can be remediated to a reasonable level, and what material can be disposed of in other ways. Although this has caused a delay in demolition, Mr. Kiernan stated that contractors will be able to access borrow material around Building 201 for use in construction of the new dikes. Mr. Kiernan hopes that by January 2018, an EPA approved plan will be in place for demolition of Building 201. Ms. Mentzer continued the update by adding that demolition of below grade structures will occur during borrow material excavation. Mr. Glorioso asked if MDOT MPA knew what the incremental economic impact of this delay was. Mr. Kiernan said that he will not know the total cost until the characterization is complete.

Ms. Mentzer explained that Phase 1 of remediation of the Upland area was nearly complete. This included the investigation and removal of soil contaminated with PCBs, metals, and petroleum. Phase II of remediation includes removing larger areas of soil contaminated with PCBs and metals, and removal of unsuitable material for dike

construction. Mr. Straughan asked if there was a risk of moving a stockpile of soil and finding a deeper area of contaminated material that was previously used as fill. Mr. Kiernan clarified that there may be an area of greater PCB contamination, but since MDOT MPA and their contractors are working with soil, there should not be PCBs traveling through the material as it tends not to migrate.

Dike Design/Test Dike

Mr. Kiernan provided an update on geotechnical tests that were performed at the Cox Creek DMCF. Two test dikes were constructed to study the behavior of displaced dredged material in the DMCF. Clay material from the Borrow Area in the Upland was used to construct these test dikes. The results of the tests will show compaction, plasticity, displacement/settling potential, and other geotechnical effects, as well as aid in writing the specifications to bid this job to a contractor. Additionally, the results will determine the volume of material needed from the Borrow Area to construct the base dike widening. The first test dike was constructed on top of dried dredged material on the south end of the South Cell approximately eight months ago. After construction of the first test dike, monitoring of the surface elevation and boring samples occurred to track settling and mud displacement. Preliminary results showed that there was displacement and the material underneath of the test dike was pushed out approximately 15 – 17'. Mr. Kiernan explained that he was expecting 12 – 14' of displacement to occur. The second test dike was constructed on wet material on the east side of the South Cell approximately two months ago. Geotechnical engineers let the material settle and are currently taking boring samples to determine initial compaction and displacement. Preliminary results of the second test dike showed less displacement than the first test dike. Ms. Ashley asked why there was less displacement on the second test dike than the first. Mr. Kiernan speculated that displacement may have been less on the second test dike because of the water in the South Cell following inflow, but is uncertain until more details are submitted by the engineering consultant. Ms. Ingram asked if any cracking of the test dike has occurred. Mr. Kiernan said that it had not cracked yet, which means no displacement has occurred directly under the test dike. Mr. Jones asked if the base dike will be compacted and built in lifts. Mr. Kiernan answered that the dike must be built in compacted lifts, and that wick drains will also be used to aid in that process. He added that the base dike widening plans are nearly complete and that these two tests greatly helped in determining the volume of material needed to be moved when writing the bid for the project.

Operations & Maintenance Complex

Mr. Kiernan began by informing the Committee that the construction for the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Complex was put out for bid and that two bids were received. Both of the bids received were higher than the engineering estimate. MDOT MPA will hold meetings with the bidders to discuss feasible options to reduce the bid prices, without losing any of the critical components of the complex. Mr. Kiernan hopes that by September a final cost will be determined to move forward with construction.

Tree Mitigation Planting Plan

In April, MDOT MPA and MES met with the Department of Natural Resource's Critical Area Commission (DNR CAC), and MDE to determine what mitigation would be

required for the storm water outfall as part of the O&M Complex construction. DNR CAC typically requires a one to one tree mitigation ratio; however, in MDOT MPA's agreement with the North County Land Trust, a three to one tree mitigation ratio will be used. Eleven trees will be impacted by the construction of the outfall; therefore thirty three trees will be replanted. Ms. Laura Jones asked if the walking trail through the conservation easement was still a consideration. Mr. Kiernan explained that all ideas are still being considered, but nothing has been finalized to date. He would like to compile a list of community enhancement ideas, and is looking to the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee for help. Ms. Ashley asked if anyone from the Committee was interested in helping to plant these trees, but no one volunteered. She also asked for a species list, and Ms. Mentzer was able to read through a preliminary planting list that included Red Maple, Black Gum, American Sycamore, White Oak, and Black Willow. Ms. Laura Jones asked why American Sycamore was being considered and added that she doesn't think Anne Arundel County wants them planted. Ms. Laura Jones also noted that Black Willows are prone to lightning strikes. Mr. Kiernan stated that he will talk to the Arborist about the concerns.

4.0 Innovative and Beneficial Reuse Update Ms. Kristen Fidler, MPA

Ms. Fidler began her update with an administrative review of the MDE Guidance Document and Technical Screening Criteria that was released for public comments in March. The document came from the Innovative Reuse Regulatory Workgroup. MDE is in the process of responding to all of the public comments and revising the final document, which should be finished by the end of summer 2017. Most of the comments MDE received focused on making the document more reader and user friendly. Ms. Fidler explained that this is more of a living document and can be adapted to new end uses of sediment, new technologies, and other unforeseen advancements. Her second update was an announcement about Governor Hogan's Waste Reduction/Resource Recovery Plan Executive Order. The Executive Order is housed with MDE and deals with many different strategic partnerships for MDE to initiate with state agencies and local government partners, all aimed at waste reduction and resource recovery. In two different provisions of the Executive Order, channel dredge material is called out as a resource with value and vast opportunities for reuse. Additionally, the Executive Order mentions MDE partnering with MDOT MPA in two ways. The first reference is in developing the Guidance Document and Technical Screening Criteria. The second is calling on state agencies to be leaders in the reuse of dredged material in applications such as construction projects, land reclamation projects and climate change resiliency efforts.

Ms. Fidler continued her update with a review of outreach activities in a renewed effort to gain the general public's support of the Innovative Reuse Program. One of the ways MDOT MPA has been working on gaining that support is through the use of hashtags on social media. The #sedimenttosolutions 2017 photo contest ran from Earth Day to Memorial Day, and over sixty entries were received. The top three entries will be displayed in the August edition of the Port of Baltimore Magazine. Winning photos will also be shared on social media. Other outreach activities included the MDOT MPA Innovative Reuse infographic and video, which were entered in the American Association

of Port Authorities 2017 Communications Awards Programs. MDOT MPA won three awards; an award of excellence for the video, and two awards of distinction for the infographic and the video and infographic together as a campaign.

Ms. Fidler finished her updates with a discussion about the next steps for the Innovative Reuse Program. Those include wrapping up recommendations and implementation of different programs from the Innovative Reuse Regulatory Workgroup. MDOT MPA is looking to evaluate near term uses for stockpiled fill material at Cox Creek as part of several small-volume demonstration partnership projects in 2017. These projects may include partnerships with entities such as Harbor Point, Port Covington and Trade Point. The entities may need much more material than MDOT MPA has to offer, but it will be a great opportunity to walk through the MDE testing process, use the Guidance Document, and gain public approval and support. After success with small-volume partnerships, MDOT MPA can evaluate how to scale up the operation of drying and reusing material for large-volume and long-term partnerships. Ms. Fidler also announced that MDOT MPA is sponsoring a Design with Dredge research collaborative summer internship program. Students in the master's program at Cornell University are working with Mahan and Rykiel Associates (MRA) to help MDOT MPA visualize and communicate what dredged material could be used for.

5.0 Design with Dredge Research Collaborative Mr. Isaac Hametz, MRA

Mr. Hametz began by thanking the Committee for acting as a test group to present his most recent work with connecting people and the landscape with dredged material. He explained that the Design with Dredge summer program began as an idea in 2016 when trying to understand the Port of Baltimore as a cultural landscape and not just an economic engine. In 2017 the summer program has focused on how dredged material can be understood as a cultural product and as something that people can relate to aesthetically and materially. The interns in the program are studying these relationships on three different scales; the system of dredged material management, the site design of a dredged material containment facility, and the installation of public art made with dredged material to engage the community.

Mr. Hametz explained that the edge effect of ecology describes a place of an enhanced exchange of biodiversity, and ultimately, where land and water meet is one of those areas. In urban environments, specifically in Baltimore, there are many edge effects i.e. land and water, urban and rural, parks and residential areas. Not only can urban edges be spatial, but they can also be temporal or social. Dredged material can be a great way to explore the paradigm of edges because it straddles the edges of water and land, and natural and man-made. The interns have been studying the metaphor of *dredge effects*. This metaphor is used to explore if dredged material can help extend and enrich the understanding of urban edges, as well as how to socially, ecologically, and economically enrich Baltimore city. Ultimately this could help enhance the flexibility and adaptability of MDOT MPA's management of dredged material.

Mr. Hametz wants to host a series of hands-on workshops where people can touch and engage with dredged material in an attempt to create a public art installation that the

community builds together. After featuring the art, the materials can be disassembled and used for habitat restoration. Several ideas include making bricks with dredged material, clay, and dry grass; making seed balls with dredged material, compost, and seed mix; and making reef structures with dredged material, cement, and oyster shells. Mr. Hametz envisions mixing these products with other materials to create the artwork and featuring the design at an event like Light City in Baltimore. Mr. Davis asked the Committee if these types of ideas were attractive and asked for feedback. Mr. Straughan believes they are great ideas and his volunteers have made similar products successfully. Ms. Katrina Jones thought that a partnership with the National Aquarium in Baltimore during their planting events would be successful. Ms. Fidler agreed that the Light City event would be an excellent format for connecting the community with dredged material, as well as being able to participate in informative panel discussions.

Ms. Laura Jones expressed some concern about using impervious pavers in Anne Arundel County, and encouraged Mr. Hametz to look into designing pervious pavers instead. In addition, Ms. Jones thought creating a bulkhead for waterfront residents would be interesting. Mr. Hametz agreed with the general idea of shoreline restoration work. Mr. Phipps asked what the source of compost was being used in the seed balls. Mr. Hametz replied that it was LeafGro from MES. Mr. Phipps described the Cox Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant run by Anne Arundel County, and presented the idea of using bio-solids in the seed balls as a nutrient source. Mr. Straughan added that when using seed balls, to be cautious of the location. The compost or bio-solids may not be beneficial to waterways, or other ecologically sensitive areas.

6.0 Committee Administration & Open Discussion **Ms. Angie Ashley**

Ms. Ashley reviewed committee administrative matters, including the next quarterly meeting date, scheduled for October 11 at the Riviera Beach Public Library. The Dredged Material Management Program annual meeting will be held on November 3 at Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center. Ms. Ashley will work with Ms. Katrina Jones to facilitate a Poplar Island tour in September for those who have not yet had the opportunity. Ms. Ashley invited Committee members to take some time to view the posters that were on display at the Public Information Meeting in April.

7.0 Adjournment **Ms. Angie Ashley**

Ms. Ashley thanked the committee for their time and reminded them to contact her or MPA staff with any questions.