

Memorandum

TO: Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee

FROM: Lien Vu – MES

DATE: 6/16/17

SUBJECT: Next meeting – Tuesday, 7/18/17

The next meeting of the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee (HMI COC) will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm at 2200 Broening Highway. Please use the door on the side of the building and the conference room will be on the left. Parking is available adjacent to the building and also across the highway. The Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration (MPA) will provide dinner at 6:00 pm. The agenda for the next meeting will be provided the week prior to the meeting date. **Please call Ms. Margie Hamby at (410) 385-4419 if you cannot make this meeting.**

Attached for your review is a copy of the minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting.

HART-MILLER ISLAND CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
5:00 PM
May 16, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Paul Brylske	Seventh District
Fran Taylor	NPPCCC
Larry Lee	Essex-Middle River CC
Karen Wynn	Sixth District
Craig Doyle	Pleasure Boaters
David Patro	Greater Dundalk Community Council
Dave Bibo	MPA
Holly Miller	MPA
Roger Williams	MES
Amanda Peñafiel	MES
Lien Vu	MES
Bob Iman	DNR
Bruce Michael	DNR
George Harman	Phoenix Engineering
Sam Weaver	Back River Restoration Committee
Devin Crum	East County Times
Sandy Adams-Doyle	Guest
Mary Ann Hart	Guest
Ananda McCulloch	Our Lady of Mount Carmel

ACTION ITEMS

- DNR will send out the dates for the next meeting of the North Point State Park friends group.

1. OPENING REMARKS

Paul Brylske –Chairman

- Introductions were made.
- Mr. Brylske asked the HMI COC members for approval of the meeting minutes from the March 21, 2017 HMI COC meeting. All members approved.
- Mr. Brylske reviewed the action items from the last meeting.
 - The link for the TR 6.2 Survey will be distributed with all future HMI COC meeting minutes- *Ongoing*.
 - The website for Friends of Maryland State Parks will be provided in the March HMI COC meeting minutes- *Completed*.
 - The HMI COC will let MPA know how many guests will be attending the next HMI COC meeting onsite- *Completed*.
 - Mr. Iman and Mr. Hecker will provide a list of state parks and any associated friends groups to the HMI COC- The closest state park to HMI is North Point State Park, who has a friends group called North Point State Park Volunteers, Inc. The next closest state parks are Sandy Point State Park, which does not have a volunteer group and Gunpowder State Parks Hammerman Area, who has several volunteer groups. There is a complete listing of affiliated groups and their contact information on the Maryland Park Service Volunteer page under friends' groups tab- <https://ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1528/>.
 - A friends group discussion will be added to the agenda for the next HMI COC meeting in May- *Completed*.

2. HMI FRIENDS GROUP DISCUSSION

- Mr. Brylske reviewed the presentation given by Mr. Chuck Hecker from the Friends of Maryland State Parks at the March meeting. The Friends of Maryland State Parks acts as an advocate for various friends groups and could help support HMI friends group activities. The HMI COC discussed how they envision a future HMI friends group and what the goals of the group would be.
- Mr. Brylske asked Mr. Iman what some of the friends groups at other state parks currently do. Mr. Iman answered it varies by park. Mr. Iman stated that for HMI, DNR would be interested in volunteers helping with operating the park during opening hours, signing in and out visitors, maintenance, and possibly programming.
- Mr. Brylske asked Mr. Iman about the North State Park Friends Group and some of the activities they help with. Mr. Iman answered that there is a volunteer who has helped open and close the park on Sundays for 20 years. Others volunteer with programming such as a Jr. Fishing Day, Easter Egg Hunt and maintenance work. In addition, they also help fundraise, which assists with the costs associated with operating the park. Mr. Iman added that sometimes, DNR can be under budget restrictions with things that they can purchase for the park. However, with the money that the friends group raises, they are able to make purchases more quickly. The North State Park Friends group has been in operation for approximately 20 years. Mr. Iman added that some volunteers have come and gone; however, there are some that have been volunteering for many years, consistently. Mr. Taylor stated that a next step in forming an HMI friends group would be to maybe go to a meeting of the North State Park Friends Group and display volunteer opportunities at HMI and get advice about how they were able to

operate a friends group for 20 years. Mr. Iman will send the dates of upcoming North Point Friends Group meetings.

- Mr. Brylske stated the importance of establishing a clear vision and goals for the HMI friends group. Mr. Iman and Mr. Brylske emphasized the importance of recruiting a core group of volunteers to keep the friends group operating.
- Mr. Taylor asked if the HMI COC has decided that they wanted to officially form a friends group. Mr. Brylske asked the members for their thoughts on a friends group. Mr. Iman stated that DNR was planning on gathering information from park visitors on volunteering and what their interests are. DNR has posted volunteer flyers around HMI and other close by state parks. Mr. Iman stated that if a visitor responds to a volunteer flyer, then they are most likely very interested in volunteering at HMI. Mr. Iman emphasized that if people are interested in volunteering at HMI, it would be best for them to work through DNR and not independently. Therefore, if a HMI friends group forms, they would work closely with both the HMI COC and DNR.
- Mr. Taylor stated a friends group will not happen overnight. Mr. Brylske stated that the HMI COC will reach out to other friends group to continue learning about forming a friends group and continue discussing the potential for a HMI friends group.
- Ms. Doyle asked if transportation would be provided to volunteers of HMI. Mr. Iman answered no. If there is a bigger group, then maybe arrangements could be made; however, DNR currently does not have the man power to transport volunteers to HMI. Ms. Doyle asked if there was any kind of boater safety courses offered by DNR. Mr. Iman stated that DNR was focused on opening the South Cell last year; however, now that DNR has learned from the previous year, they could expand on programming, potentially including boater safety programs.

3. SOUTH CELL UPDATES

Amanda Peñafiel – MES

- MES drafted an article and coordinated with DNR to submit their photos to the Waterfront Guide and Bay Journeys for articles on the HMI South Cell.
- MES, MPA, and DNR coordinated for a Baltimore County police and fire training exercise held May 11, 2017 on HMI.
- The plaque and stone for the monument were procured. After receiving the plaque, MES transferred it to the stone vendor for mounting. As soon as the monument is ready, it will be delivered to Cox Creek Dredge Material Containment Facility (DMCF) to be shipped via HMI's crew boat. HMI Operations will place the monument in its already-prepared location. This is likely to occur in June.
- DNR is in the process of hiring a 12-month contractual Ranger to oversee HMI park staff and operations.
- A pre-2017 season kickoff meeting was held between DNR, MES, and MPA on April 28, 2017. Lessons learned, new planned activities, and expectations for 2017 visitor use were discussed. Monthly Saturday Family Fun Days will occur in June, July, August, and September with a naturalist on-site and other planned activities. Bike rentals will continue to be free to encourage South Cell exploration. It was suggested to add to the sign in sheet for visitors to note if they would be interested in participating in a "Friends of HMI" group. Some of the lessons learned from last year's South Cell Public Access include hiring another staff member to extend hours, because one of the main comments was that open hours from 11am-4pm was difficult for people who wanted to visit the park earlier or later. MPA approved another staff member to be hired. In addition, there were a lot of ranger contacts made. As a result, more programming was added to the schedule for this year's South Cell Public Access. The bathroom facilities were also moved to a more visible location with a

sign to notify visitors it is for public use. Finally, the opening date for South Cell Public Access was adjusted from the beginning of the month to the middle of the month.

- South Cell public access opened on May 13, 2017 with the schedule of Thursday-Monday, 11am-4pm operation. However, the park will be closed on May 20, 2017 for staff training. Days/hours of operation will be reevaluated once a full-time Ranger is hired.
- MES Engineering is still working on the new section of trail, which will likely be constructed for next season.
- Toilet units will be on-site soon (in the month of May).
- Beach clean-up will be conducted by MES Operations before Memorial Day.
- It is anticipated that DNR, MES, and MPA will meet again soon (on-site) to discuss the future of the South Cell holding pond.
- The Friends of Maryland State Parks is proposing to have a 5K Run/Walk on HMI. The event is anticipated to be held fall of 2018.
- Mr. Brylske asked about the numbers for visitors from the first season of the South Cell Public Access versus previous years with no South Cell Public Access. Mr. Iman answered that compare to previous years, boating numbers are down, which can be attributed to many factors such as weather. However, other visitor numbers for other activities have increased. Mr. Iman answered that last year, hiker and biker numbers were very accurate. DNR is working on getting more accurate numbers for other activities.
- Mr. Taylor stated the North Point Community Council had a tour of HMI and asked if kayaking or boating would ever be offered at HMI. Ms. Peñafiel stated that it was discussed, and DNR mentioned how at Gunpowder State Park an independent contractor rents out kayaks, stand up paddleboards, and canoes. Mr. Michael stated that an independent contractor would also have to evaluate if it would be profitable to rent out boats at HMI based off of visitor numbers. Mr. Brylske added Baltimore County Sailing Center also rents out kayaks. Mr. Iman stated another consideration would have to be boating safety with kayaking. Kayaking or boating in the South Cell is not permitted because of how shallow the cell is.

4. HMI NORTH CELL UPDATE

Roger Williams– MES

- MES Operations are continuing to lime the sediments at a rate of 20 tons per acre and currently have finished 183 acres of the 700 acres of North Cell, and applied 3,660 tons of agriculture lime to date. One of the current issues is that conditions are wet. As a result, the lime becomes clumpy and crews are unable to apply the lime to the sediment. Liming of the sediments is at a stand-still until more of the sediments in the North Cell dry. A map of the North Cell showing areas where the sediments have been limed to date was distributed. Ms. Peñafiel added that a pilot trail for applying agricultural lime to the sediments using helicopter was discussed and is being investigated.
- Operation crews are working on the deep pool in the North Cell. The process is going well; however, it is slow-moving because the low-pressure ground crawlers are not able to carry heavy loads compared to a bigger dump truck. Mr. Michael asked what the final depth of the deep pool will be. Mr. Williams answered it will be 20 feet at its deepest. Mr. Bibo asked how much material will be moved from excavating the deep pool. Mr. Williams stated that MES is currently not tracking the amount of material excavated; however, it can be calculated. Mr. Lee asked where the material being excavated is placed. Mr. Williams answered that currently it is being tracked out to the edge of the West Pit. Ms. Miller stated that the West Pit will be filled in. Mr. Williams said the berm around the East Pit will eventually be taken out, and will be part of the North Cell Deep Pool.

- MES is continuing to use a hydro-seeder to apply quick lime to water in the trench in order to bring up pH and decrease concentrations of ammonia and nickel. Using quick lime requires a crew of 5 people to operate the hydro-seeder, bobcat and water truck. Mr. Brylske asked if discharge is still continuing. Mr. Williams answered yes.
- Mr. Bibo stated that there are a lot of moving parts with North Cell Development. While trying to discharge water, MES and MPA are also phasing in other development such as vegetation plans.
- The South Cell berm raising has been put on hold to continue working on the North Cell. It is anticipated that the South Cell berm raising will occur fall 2017, after the South Cell Public Access season is over. Mr. Lee asked what the current height is and what the berm will be raised to. Mr. Williams answered it is currently at 22 feet and will be raised an additional 1.5 or 2 feet, with slopes on each side. The berm will be seeded with a native seed mix.

5. DNR UPDATES

Bob Iman – DNR

- DNR received three estimates from electrical contractors to install electric, lights, outlets, and a panel in the new DNR shed. Insulation and bead board were installed in the new shed.
- A quarterly test for the drinking water was conducted, and came back good. As a result, the water has been turned on at the DNR facilities.
- The DNR facilities were cleaned and the floors were waxed.
- Maintenance was performed on the DNR truck.
- The grass area was reseeded at the DNR facilities.
- DNR's tractor and mower were serviced.
- The trail markers around the South Cell were installed. The markers around the interior trails of the South Cell will be installed after the South Cell berm raising.
- MES and DNR worked on preparing the base for the HMI monument.
- MES graded and placed the footers for benches around the South Cell. DNR will be installing the benches soon.
- New signs were ordered for the DNR facilities.
- The observation deck was opened.
- The shingles on the bulletin board were replaced.
- A shower control valve in the DNR building was ordered and replaced.
- DNR assisted with MPA's "Take your child to work" day. DNR is going to participate in a tour with Holly Neck Conservation Association.
- A Boy Scout group came out April 29, 2017 and picked up driftwood and trash from the beach.
- Mr. Michael asked how many bikes are available to rent at HMI. Mr. Iman answered 20-30 bikes. DNR will be tracking bike usage, and will purchase more bikes if there are certain bikes that are being utilized more.

6. FINAL REMARKS

Dave Bibo – MPA

- Mr. Bibo stated that Mr. Tom Kroen wanted MES, MPA and DNR to work cooperatively. Mr. Bibo stated based off of observations, it is evident that MES, MPA and DNR have a successful partnership. Mr. Michael added that DNR is pleased with the South Cell Park and that it has exceeded DNR's

expectations. Mr. Brylske stated that he is also impressed about the feedback that is being received from the community and how it is being utilized to continue public access in the South Cell.

- Mr. Bibo acknowledged meeting guests and thanked them for coming. Mr. Bibo stated that it is good that there is representation from the East County Times that can promote HMI and South Cell Public Access.
- Mr. Bibo stated that if anyone is interested in receiving minutes from the HMI COC meetings to add their email address to the sign in sheet.
- The next meeting of the HMI COC will be July 18, 2017.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.