

# Memorandum

TO: Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee

FROM: Rebecca Kreatschman – MES

DATE: July 16, 2019

SUBJECT: Next meeting – July 16, 2019

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The next meeting of the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee (HMI COC) will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 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 across the highway. The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT 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 21, 2019 meeting.

**HART-MILLER ISLAND  
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING  
5:00 PM  
May 21, 2019**

**ATTENDEES:**

Francis Taylor	NPPCCC
Paul Brylske	Seventh District
Larry Lee	Essex-Middle River CC
Karen Wynn	Sixth District
Sam Weaver	BRRC
Dave Bibo	MDOT MPA
Dave Blazer	MDOT MPA
Amanda Peñafiel	MDOT MPA
Charles Schelle	MDOT MPA
Sara Rinta	DNR
Kenna Oseroff	MES
Lincoln Tracy	MES
Rebecca Kreatschman	MES
Tim Carney	MES
James Cooper	MES
John Bailey	NPSP Volunteer
Theresa Hope-Goddard	Senate Republican Caucus
Sarah McDermott	Senator Salling's Office
Kevin Lawrence	Senator Salling's Office

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- HMI COC members will work to create a resource kit to be used at outreach events.
- Ms. Rinta will provide Mr. Taylor a flyer for Family Fun Days and a list of other scheduled events to be held at the HMI State Park this summer.
- MES will arrange a brief birding tour for members with Mr. Carney during the facility ride around at the next onsite HMI COC meeting in September.
- MDOT MPA will provide an update on the North Cell revised design concepts at the September meeting.

### **1. OPENING REMARKS**

#### **Paul Brylske-Chairman**

- Mr. Weaver passed out copies of the Waterfront Guide that includes an article that features HMI (attached).
- Mr. Brylske asked the HMI COC members for approval of the meeting summary from the March 19, 2019 HMI COC meeting. All members approved.

### **2. FRIENDS GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Mr. Brylske thanked Mr. Bailey for the support of the North Point State Park Volunteers.
- Mr. Brylske thanked Mr. Taylor for creating the HMI Friends Group Facebook page.
- Mr. Brylske thanked Mr. Carney for the birding activity during the facility ride around and asked for information to share on the HMI Friends Group Facebook page.
- Mr. Brylske explained the next step for the HMI Friends Group would be to achieve 501(c) status and look for fundraising and grant opportunities. He also suggested the group should work on gathering names and coordinating with people interested in the HMI Friends Group.
- Mr. Brylske suggested compiling a list of upcoming outreach events available for members. He also suggested creating a kit of resources ready to use at outreach events. Mr. Taylor suggested creating a general presentation to show at outreach events.

### **3. NORTH CELL UPDATES**

#### **Lincoln Tracy– MES**

- MES Operations is continuing dike, facility and road maintenance. HMI received 7.5 inches of rain since March 19, 2019. Mr. Lee asked if rainwater is monitored at HMI. Mr. Tracy explained rainwater is monitored by a rain gauge onsite.
- MES Operations is continuing efforts to lime the perimeter trenches for discharge. Mr. Brylske asked if rain has a negative impact on liming. Mr. Tracy explained there is no significant impact and liming has been successful despite rainfall.
- The current North Cell elevation is 39.7 feet. Elevation has decreased by 0.2 feet since May 19, 2019.

#### **Amanda Peñafiel–MDOT MPA**

- MES, MDOT MPA, and DNR continue to work together to develop the North Cell Habitat Design. A new hydraulic study conducted by Century Engineering will be conducted to determine pond size and depth needed to determine the feasibility to achieve an equal parts upland, open water, and transitional habitat structure. The priorities of the North Cell Habitat Design are to minimize maintenance and operational costs, eliminate or plan for minimal pumping, provide an engaging visitor experience, and

to target migratory bird species. New design concepts will be available in September. MDOT MPA will update the COC at the September Meeting.

- A Design with Dredge project handout was distributed (attached). The proposed plan is to create micro-landforms in a 23-acre area in the southwest corner of the North Cell. The goals of the project are to create a diverse habitat, optimize project costs, and engage and educate stakeholders. Construction will begin in fall 2019 followed by three years of monitoring. Mr. Brylske asked how the landforms would be monitored. Ms. Peñafiel explained the landforms would be monitored for soil ripening, diversity of vegetation and animal species, and mound stability. Soil ripening includes physical changes such as cracks in the surface, chemical changes such as color and pH, and biological changes such as presence of microbes. Monitoring results will determine the success of the project. If successful, the landforms could be included as part of the upland design in areas within North Cell, to increase diversity in the upland areas of the site. Visitors will have access to the Design with Dredge area through guided tours until the North Cell is completed and is open to the public.
- Mr. Taylor asked when HMI would be completed and turned over to DNR. Mr. Bibo explained that HMI's completion is dependent on weather and water quality compliance, and there is no set date. Mr. Blazer added all options are being explored. Ms. Peñafiel added with new design plans for the North Cell, a new timeline could also be expected.

#### 4. DNR UPDATE

##### **Sara Rinta – DNR**

- DNR is working with the Health Department to approve snowball sales for concession. The process is expected to be completed by mid-June.
- DNR is working with MES, Charm City Run, Maryland State Parks, and MDOT MPA to plan the 5-mile run at HMI on October 12, 2019.
- DNR seasonal staff performed beach and campsite cleanups.
- DNR staff is planning on expanding nature center and naturalist programs including live animal exhibits, such as tadpoles and environmental education activities.
- DNR received approval to upgrade the ranger station and restrooms.
- DNR staff will continue to monitor visitation numbers.
- DNR will continue to work with MES and MDOT MPA on North Cell Design and Development.
- DNR staff assisted in Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) planting around Pleasure Island.
- Three Family Fun Days are scheduled for June 1, July 6, and August 3, 2019. These events will include naturalist programs, volleyball, treasure hunts, and other activities such as Monarch tagging and seining.
- Mr. Brylske asked Ms. Rinta to send a flyer for Family Fun Days and a list of other scheduled events to be held at HMI State Park this summer to Mr. Taylor to post on the Facebook page.

#### 5. FINAL REMARKS

##### **Dave Bibo – MDOT MPA**

- Mr. Bibo requested another bird tour by Mr. Carney at the next onsite meeting on September 17, 2019.
- Mr. Bailey shared updates for North Point State Park. They will host the Youth Fish Derby on July 20, 2019. They are planning fundraising activities such as tie-dyeing and paint nights. Three new volunteers have shown interest in trail maintenance and conducting nature walks.
- The next HMI COC meeting will be July 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned-7:15pm

## » HART-MILLER ISLAND



## GOOD NEWS FROM OUR ANNUAL STATE OF THE ISLAND ADDRESS

BY MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

**IN MAY 2016**, the South Cell of Hart-Miller Island (HMI) Dredged Material Containment Facility opened for the first time to the public, thanks to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA).

Last year, more than 63,000 people came to enjoy the recreational and educational opportunities at HMI, with great interest in biking the South Cell and attending ranger-led impromptu and interpretive programs.

In 2019, public access to the HMI South Cell will continue from Memorial Day weekend through September. In response to visitor feedback, hours of operation were expanded from the 2018 season and will operate Thursday to Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in 2019.

When visiting the island, patrons can participate in ranger-led programs, which are

engaging and informative for every age group, as well as family-friendly and recreational activities such as beach volleyball. Ranger programs include fish seining, guided natural and historic interpretation, treasure hunts, and Monarch butterfly tagging. New for 2019, DNR will provide stand-up paddleboard and kayak rentals.

At the HMI Ranger Station, you find displays of live monarch butterflies, plants and bird habitats that are found on the island, as well as items that visitors can touch and feel such as animal bones. Ranger Station exhibits are open when staff is present and provide another way for us to educate visitors about insects, flora, fauna and avian species native to the island.

Family Fun Days are held in June, July and August 2019, and are great experiences for families to enjoy a unique and special island together, learn how HMI was constructed, see breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay, and

appreciate an abundance of wildlife and habitats. Past Family Fun Day activities included fish seining, guided hiking or biking tours, wildlife viewing opportunities, drop-in volleyball, island history, milkweed patch exploration, insect identification, and arts and crafts for kids. Family Fun Days are sunshine-only.

Bicycles and binoculars are available to South Cell visitors to observe birds and other wildlife while traveling along eight miles of trails that circle a large pond and include covered benches with stunning Chesapeake Bay views. The 1.8-mile long Trail Loop around the South Cell is marked with signage about the island's ecosystem and history.

A monument to the HMI Citizen's Oversight Committee (COC) stands where several trails converge to honor the committee for its service as a voice for citizens monitoring the formation and impact of the island since 1981. COC now oversees the island and monitors future development, use, and maintenance of the Hart-Miller-Pleasure Island chain, as well as the water quality in the area immediately surrounding the islands.

A unique opportunity for visitors to explore HMI and its views was offered by DNR in conjunction with Charm City Run in June 2018 when the first foot race — a 5-miler around the perimeter of the entire island — was run by more than 50 participants. Another HMI 5-miler race is planned for October 2019.

The HMI North Cell design is currently under development, with efforts to dewater and vegetate the cell. When the North Cell habitat development is complete, DNR will also manage and operate it as part of the state park, like the South Cell.

Note that the island is accessible only by personal boats and no public shuttles are available at this time. You can purchase concessions near the Ranger Station. For up-to-date information on HMI State Park, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/hartmiller.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/hartmiller.aspx) and follow the Maryland State Park Twitter account (@MDStateParks) for closure announcements during inclement weather. Come and enjoy everything HMI has to offer in the 2019 season! **WG**

# HART-MILLER ISLAND

NORTH CELL HABITAT DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROJECT

SEDIMENT TO SOLUTIONS  
CHANNELING INNOVATION

## Proposed Plan:

Create micro-landforms that will support a fluctuating hydrologic regime and diverse vegetation structure to improve soil and water quality conditions.



## Pilot Project Goals:

1) Create a diverse habitat, 2) Optimize project costs, and 3) Engage and educate stakeholders.

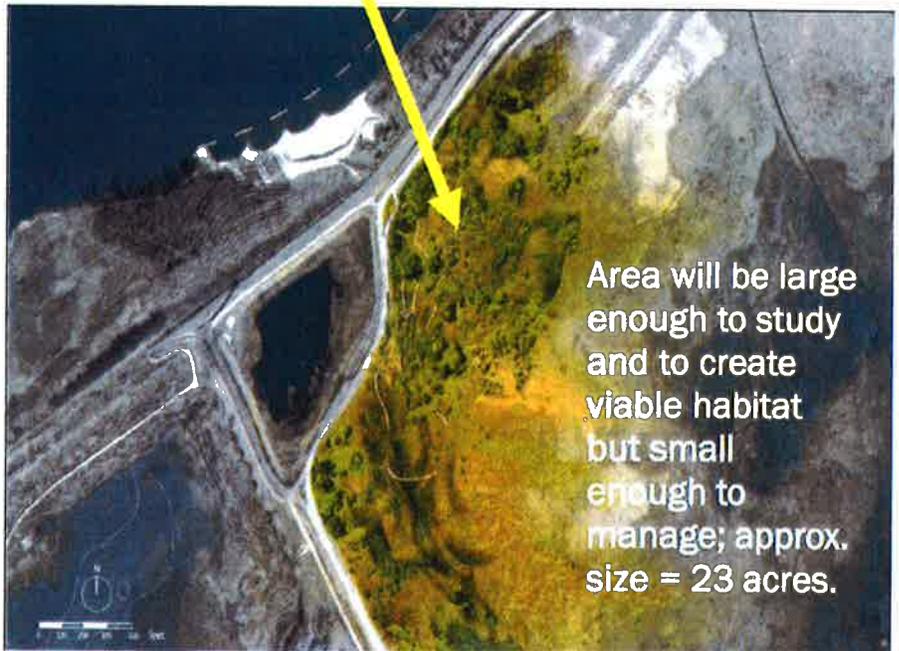


## Project Schedule:

Construction will begin in fall 2019, followed by three (3) years of monitoring and adaptive management.



Location will be readily accessible by people who already visit HMI - near the beach on the northern edge of the outer dike.



Area will be large enough to study and to create viable habitat but small enough to manage; approx. size = 23 acres.

Pilot project will be located in a part of the North Cell that has been consistently dry; in this case the upper northwest corner.