

# Memorandum

TO: Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee

FROM: Rebecca Kreatschman – MES

DATE: November 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Next meeting – November 19, 2019

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The next meeting of the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee (HMI COC) will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 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 September 17, 2019 meeting.

**HART-MILLER ISLAND  
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING  
5:00 PM  
September 17, 2019**

**ATTENDEES:**

Francis Taylor	NPPCCC
Larry Lee	Essex-Middle River CC
Paul Brylske	Seventh District
Karen Wynn	Sixth District
Sam Weaver	Sports Fishermen
Holly Miller	MDOT MPA
Amanda Peñafiel	MDOT MPA
Dave Bibo	MDOT MPA
Jeremy Hulse	DNR
Bruce Michael	DNR
Lien Vu	MES
Lincoln Tracy	MES
Rebecca Kreatschman	MES
James Cooper	MES
Tim Carney	MES
Devin Crum	The Peake
David Riter	Baltimore County EPS
Joseph Walters	North Point-Edgemere VFD
Larry Kimmel	Guest of Paul Brylske
Patrick McGough	BSA, Sea Scouts, BCSC, BRRC

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- MDOT MPA will provide an update on the North Cell Habitat Design at the November meeting.
- DNR and North Point-Edgemere Volunteer Fire Department will discuss options for implementing an emergency preparedness plan for HMI.
- Mr. Brylske will invite a member of the Master Gardeners to the next HMI COC meeting.

### **1. OPENING REMARKS**

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

- Mr. Brylske asked the HMI COC members for approval of the meeting minutes from the July 16, 2019 HMI COC meeting. All members approved.

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

- Mr. Brylske explained the time and financial constraints of forming the HMI Friends group. He suggested using the group Maryland Nonprofits, which would handle all aspects of completing the 501(c)(3) process, including completing and filing forms, for a cost of about \$1000. He asked the Committee for ideas on how to raise the funds needed to move forward with achieving 501(c)(3) with the help from Maryland Nonprofits. Mr. Walters explained his recent experience with creating a nonprofit and offered his assistance to Mr. Brylske.
- Mr. Joseph Walters from the North Point-Edgemere Volunteer Fire Department (NPEVFD) introduced himself to the group. Mr. Walters expressed concerns with the challenges an island presents in the event of an emergency. He suggested having a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV), or all-terrain vehicle capable of fire suppression and patient transport, on-site at HMI to help increase response time to incidents. Mr. Walters also suggested additional training for the NPEVFD and DNR staff to become familiar with the site and how to respond in an emergency. Mr. Michael told Mr. Walters to contact the DNR Park Service to explore options for purchasing vehicles and other emergency response plans. Mr. Tracy added that emergency response was an issue in the past, particularly with fire departments and emergency crews not knowing where HMI is. The address sent to dispatchers is an address on Cuckold Point Road. Mr. Hulse suggested DNR and NPEVFD coordinate to develop strategies to increase on-site preparedness, like having keys on-site with access given to first responders.

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

#### **Operations-Lincoln Tracy-MES**

- MES Operations is continuing maintenance on the dikes, trails and roads.
- MES Operations is continuing efforts to lime the perimeter trenches in the North Cell for discharge.
- The current surface water elevation is 37.6 feet, which is equivalent to 88.9 million gallons (MG) in the North Cell. Water elevation within the cell has decreased by 1.0 foot, or approximately 113 MG since July 2019. All three spillways were opened for discharge intermittently in August and September. Evaporation also aided in decreasing water elevation.

#### **North Cell Habitat Development- Amanda Peñafiel-MDOT MPA**

- MDOT MPA, MES, and DNR continue to work together to develop the North Cell Habitat Design. DNR requested a design that included equal parts upland, transitional, and wetland habitat. Priorities of the design are to target migratory bird species, minimal pumping and long term

operational and maintenance costs, and an engaging park experience. Century Engineering created revised design concepts using the 2015 hydrodynamic model. MDOT MPA, MES, and DNR are meeting on September 19, 2019 to discuss the revised concepts. An update will be provided at the November HMI COC meeting.

#### **Environmental-Lien Vu–MES**

- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) sampling was conducted in June and September and monitored SAV growth from the MES pier to the DNR beach. SAV continued to be present outside HMI with densities higher around some locations, including the southwestern corner of Hart Island (Drum Point) to the DNR park break waters. Common species found include Wild Celery and Curly Pondweed. Redhead grass has been present in samples, which is indicative of higher quality habitat.
- Groundwater monitoring conducted in association with Exterior Monitoring concluded in December 2018. MES and MDOT MPA agreed to continue sampling two times a year. The first biannual monitoring event occurred on June 18, 2019. A second monitoring event will occur in December. Groundwater results from June are consistent with previous years.
- Algae monitoring continues monthly through October. Samples are submitted to DNR for assessment.
- North Cell pond pH transect sampling was conducted in July. Results showed higher pH's around Spillway 009 and additional monitoring was recommended. Along with pH, samples were taken and analyzed for copper, zinc, nickel, and ammonia. Results were compared to the discharge permit limits. Results showed metals, pH, and ammonia to be mostly within permit limits. As a result of water quality improvements, discharge from Spillway 009 occurred in August.
- Invasive control through ground spraying continues through October to control for *Phragmites*, Mile-a-minute, Princess Tree, Tree-of-heaven, and other invasive species. An aerial spray will be conducted in October. MES is working with DNR Forest Service to also conduct a fall burn for *Phragmites* in the North Cell and DNR marshes.
- Monthly monitoring of the North Cell Vegetation Test Strips continues through October. To date, monitoring of the vegetation test strips has shown success with woody vegetation including Groundsel, Bayberry and Red Cedar, however, herbaceous vegetation is still showing minimal success, except for Coastal Panicgrass, Foxtail Barley, and Prairie Cordgrass. Fall panicum, a native volunteer species, also is growing throughout the test strips.

#### **4. DNR UPDATE**

##### **Jeremy Hulse–DNR**

- Visitation for July and August include:
  - Total visitation: 36,600
  - Campers: 52
  - Picnicking: 1,500
  - Boaters: 25,000
  - Swimmers: 6,800
  - Biking: 482
  - Hiking: 30
  - Fishing: 1,000
  - Interpretive programs: 356
- Seasonal staff completed maintenance projects, nature center upgrades, and park facilities management. Staff also performed a beach cleanup, bicycle repairs, and trail maintenance. Snowball concessions are now available for visitors.
- DNR staff will perform beach erosion maintenance at Hawk Cove in the winter.

- Additional water transportation options for upcoming seasons are also being explored.
- DNR hosted a group of students from Conservation Job Corps (CJC) from July 2, 2019 through July 28, 2019. Projects included building and repairing picnic tables and campsite renovations.
- Family Fun Days occurred on July 6, 2019 and August 3, 2019. DNR staff will be working on increasing interpretive programs for the 2020 season. Monarch butterfly releases and tagging are underway.
- DNR is preparing for the upcoming waterfowl season. Wildlife blinds are in place and are open to the public. Mr. Brylske asked if blinds are available through a lottery system. Mr. Hulse explained that some blinds are reserved through a lottery system, while others are open on a first come, first serve basis.
- DNR is partnering with MDOT MPA, MES, Maryland Park Service (MPS), Friends of Maryland State Parks, and Charm City Run to host the second annual HMI 5-Mile run on October 12, 2019. HMI COC members may register for the race free of charge. The number of runners has increased to 100, along with 25 spectators. MDOT MPA will provide transportation again this year. Registration is now open.
- Mr. Lee asked if vandalism was an issue at the park. Mr. Hulse explained that vandalism incidents are not common.
- Mr. Hulse expressed interest in working with Mr. Walters and the NPEVFD to implement emergency preparedness and training for staff.

## 5. FINAL REMARKS

### **Dave Bibo – MDOT MPA**

- Mr. Bibo thanked Mr. Walters for attending the meeting and sharing the importance of having a plan in case of an emergency at HMI.
- Mr. Bibo suggested inviting groups like the Master Gardeners to HMI and creating projects onsite as an outreach opportunity.

Meeting adjourned-7:15pm