

Memorandum

TO: Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee

FROM: Rebecca Kreatschman – MES

DATE: August 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Next meeting – September 18, 2018

The next meeting of the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee (HMI COC) will be held **ON SITE** on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. **The boat pick up time will be 5:00 pm at the Maryland Environmental Service's (MES) land base at 2024A Riverview Rd in Essex, MD. Please arrive a few minutes early, as the boat will leave promptly at 5:00 pm.** The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) will provide dinner. **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 June 19, 2018 meeting.

**HART-MILLER ISLAND
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
5:00 PM
June 19, 2018**

ATTENDEES:

John Bailey	North Point State Park Volunteers
Laura Baker	MES
Dave Bibo	MDOT MPA
Paul Brylske	Seventh District
Nacy Correlli	Baltimore Boating Center
Tony Correlli	Guest of Paul Brylske
Devin Crum	East County Times
Craig Doyle	Pleasure Boaters
Alicia Dreessen	MDE
Joel Dreessen	MDE
Kristen Fidler	MDOT MPA
Dasha Frech	MDE
Lynette Frech	MDE
Max Frech	MDE
Jenn Guthrie	MDOT MPA
Bob Iman	DNR
Rebecca Kreatschman	MES
Larry Lee	Essex-Middle River CC
Holly Miller	MDOT MPA
Aaron Neilsen	North Point State Park Volunteers
Dave Patro	GDCC
Amanda Peñafiel	MES
Charles Schelle	MDOT MPA
Dillion Sullivan	MDE
John Sullivan	MDE
Valerie Sullivan	MDE
Fran Taylor	NPPCCC
Lincoln Tracy	MES
Sam Weaver	BRRC
Karen Wynn	Sixth District

ACTION ITEMS

- MES will notify the HMI COC when MDE posts the public comment period for the tentative determination for the HMI Discharge Permit renewal at the September 2018 meeting.
- MES will update the HMI COC on the Mosquito Control aerial spray and the Vegetation Test Strips at the September 2018 meeting.
- Ms. Fidler will update the HMI COC on Design with Dredge pilot program at the September 2018 meeting.
- MPA will invite the HMI COC members to the Dredged Material Management Program Citizen Advisory Committee (DMMP CAC) summer tour/field trip when a location and date is set.

1. OPENING REMARKS

Paul Brylske-Chairman

- Mr. Brylske thanked MES for the informational tour around the island and also thanked the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for the demonstration and explanation of the meteorological equipment and ongoing ozone study that is being conducted at HMI.
- Mr. Brylske asked the HMI COC members for approval of the meeting minutes from the June 24, 2018 HMI COC meeting. All members approved.
- Mr. Brylske recognized DNR, MPA, and MES for the HMI Five Miler race.
- Mr. Brylske thanked Mr. Weaver for bringing copies of the Waterfront Guide containing an article that showcased HMI.

2. FRIENDS GROUP DISCUSSION

- Mr. Brylske recognized Mr. Bailey, Mr. Neilsen, and the North Point State Park Volunteers for their support.
- Mr. Bailey explained that the North Point State Park Volunteers sponsor and organize events throughout the year at the park. Their next event is the Youth Fishing Derby on July 21, 2018. The North Point State Park Volunteers also host annual events like a Santa's workshop and an Easter egg hunt.
- Mr. Brylske encouraged members to apply to be volunteers and assist with the North Point State Park Volunteers.
- Mr. Taylor motioned for members to vote on the HMI COC pursuing a partnership with the North Point State Park Volunteers for future recreation and access to HMI. All members voted in favor.
- Mr. Taylor invited the HMI COC members to the Dredged Material Management Program Citizen Advisory Committee (DMMP CAC) summer tour/field trip of other dredged material containment facilities.
- Mr. Brylske asked Mr. Taylor to explain his role in the DMMP CAC. Mr. Taylor explained the DMMP CAC is one of the oldest citizen oversight committees and was formed after the Dredge Material Management Act of 2001. The Dredged Material Management Act created the Executive Committee whose responsibility is to ensure there is adequate management of dredged material for the next 20 years. The Executive Committee meets twice a year. The recommendations made by the Executive Committee are sent to the Governor. Individual site citizen committees, like the HMI COC, meet with citizens of the surrounding community and address concerns about HMI. The site's respective citizen committees advise the DMMP CAC which consists of members of citizens groups and individuals from local, state and federal agencies, non-government organizations and businesses like MDOT MPA. The DMMP Management Committee makes recommendations in an annual report to the Executive Committee for approval. Mr. Taylor noted the DMMP CAC takes on a

broader approach than the individual site citizen groups and includes members of various committees. Mr. Taylor also emphasized that each level of citizen committees has citizen input.

3. NORTH CELL UPDATE

Design with Dredge

Kristen Fidler-MDOT MPA

- The Design with Dredge pilot program will take place in the North Cell in an area in the upper northwest corner that has been consistently dry. The location of the project will be about 20 acres which will be large enough to study, but small enough to manage. The location will be accessible by visitors of HMI.
- The program will create micro-landforms that will support a fluctuating hydrologic regime and diverse vegetation structure, resulting in improved soil and water quality conditions.
- The goals of the project include creation of diverse habitat, optimizing project costs, and engaging and educating stakeholders.

North Cell Operations

Lincoln Tracy– MES

- The North Cell pond elevation is currently at 38.9 feet.
- MES Operations is continuing to excavate the deep pool and will be able to complete the entire excavation mechanically. A section of the pool is currently at a depth of 15 feet, which is the projected final depth of the deep pool. The slopes of the deep pool will also be graded.
- The perimeter trenches continue to be treated with quick lime to raise the pH and lower metals and ammonia concentrations.
- Spillways 007 and 008 discharged throughout the month. The pH at both spillways is slightly above 8.
- The pH at Spillway 009 has been in the low 3's in the past and is currently 4.53.
- The South Cell pond elevation is at 18.8 feet.
- A trail was constructed to connect the lower hiking trail to the lower cross dike.
- MES Operations staged material to slightly raise the South Cell berm by a couple of feet, to accommodate more water in South Cell during flooded conditions. MDOT MPA, DNR and MES are working together to determine the preferred habitat type for the North and South Cells. Once this is determined, the South Cell berm work will be reevaluated.
- Mr. Lee asked how much rain HMI received and if HMI was discharging more water due to the rain.
- Mr. Tracy explained that HMI can only discharge 2 million gallons a day, from each spillway, when metals, pH, and ammonia are in compliance with the permit. Ms. Peñafiel explained that with the quick lime, there are less issues with reaching permit limits. Quick lime helps increase pH and lower ammonia and metal concentrations. Ms. Miller added that there has been over 10 inches of rain in the last few months.

HMI Discharge Permit

Amanda Peñafiel-MES

- HMI's current discharge permit expires in April 2019. MES submitted a permit renewal application to MDE in April 2018. MDE posted a "Notice of Application Received in the Baltimore Sun on May 18 and 25, 2018. The public had until June 1, 2018 to submit a written request for an informational meeting about the permit application. MDE has not notified MES of any written requests received by their office. MES will continue working with MDE to receive a new discharge permit.

- The public will have another opportunity to comment when the permit is in draft determination. Ms. Miller explained that there will be more opportunities for public comment during the tentative permit determination public notice period and the final permit determination public notice period. These events will be posted in the newspaper. Ms. Peñafiel added that MES will know if the permit limits have changed at this time, but we are not expecting any major changes. Mr. Brylske asked if pH limits could be changed. Ms. Peñafiel explained that the pH limits are in line with state water quality standards and are unlikely to change. Mr. Taylor asked if the Committee could be notified of the public comment period for the revised permit. Ms. Miller agreed that a notice will be sent out to committee members.
- Ms. Peñafiel explained the increased nuisance of mosquitoes to staff members and the plan to have an aerial spray to help control them. Two mosquito light traps baited with dry ice were set out on June 6, 2018 and left out for 24 hours. Mosquitoes collected from the traps were sent to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Mosquito Control office in Salisbury, MD for identification and count. MDA requires more than 100 female mosquitoes trapped within a 24-hour period to conduct an aerial spray. The threshold for the traps was exceeded and the majority of the mosquitoes caught were the species *Culex pipens*, which is the common house mosquito, an opportunistic feeder species. MES is working with MDA to schedule a spray.

North Cell Vegetation Test Strips

Amanda Peñafiel – MES

- In spring of 2017, 16 test strips were established in two different areas of the North Cell (limed and unlimed sediments) and seeded with 16 different perennial and annual grass species. Each strip is 300 feet long by 5 feet wide. The test strips were monitored monthly to assess for germination and growth. Adjacent to the test strips, 7 different species of woody vegetation were also planted and monitored monthly to assess for survivability.
- The Vegetation Working Group met on April 18, 2018 to discuss upcoming monitoring for the test strips. Due to continuous flooding, the unlimed side will not be replanted.
- On the limed side, 4 cool season species were replanted at the end of March; Rye, Oats, Barley, and Creeping Red Fescue. The strips were monitored weekly for germination. Some signs of growth were observed, but species cannot yet be confirmed. The remaining test strips will be reseeded with warm season grass species once the limed test strips dry out enough to till and seed.
- Monitoring of the test strips earlier this month showed that Creeping Red Fescue, Foxtail Barley, and Prairie Cordgrass were successful from last year's planting and are still present in the test strips.
- Invasive control to try and limit the growth and spread of *Phragmites* was conducted in May and will continue through the growing season.
- Ms. Peñafiel explained that there is a vegetation study occurring at the Cox Creek DMCF. The vegetation studies at HMI and Cox Creek are not comparable. The Cox Creek study is located in a controlled environment (nursery boxes) and watered regularly. The material used at Cox Creek has been turned over, stockpiled and aerated. The goal of the study was just to show that grass can grow in dredged material as a showcase. This could be done at HMI as well, and we would expect very similar results; however, the goals of the HMI vegetation study are to test specific vegetation in the North Cell that is tolerant to acidic and salty conditions and is able to grow on a large scale to create habitat. This is much more challenging than growing vegetation in a controlled environment.

4. DNR UPDATES

Bob Iman – DNR

- DNR participated in a radio talk show "It's a Water Life" interview on station 105.7 hosted by John Boesche on Saturdays at 10am. DNR has been invited to be a guest on the show twice a month.

- HMI Ranger Brett Prochazka moved to a permanent ranger position with the Maryland Park Service (MPS). Paul Sheppard, who was a seasonal ranger, will replace him at HMI.
- MPS Planning staff met with Ducks Unlimited at HMI to get feedback on North Cell plans.
- DNR staff planted SAV grass species at Pleasure Island in May.
- Ranger 1 boat is down, due to the loss of the gas tank.
- DNR staff is assisting the MDE/NASA ozone group with transportation to and from the island.
- New DNR employees received a tour from MES staff.
- DNR expanded concessions to include items like snowballs.
- DNR has added two stand up paddle boards and four kayaks to the fleet.
- DNR had one returning staff member from the seasonal program.
- DNR is participating in a program called Park Quest. HMI will be included as a bonus quest since transportation to the HMI State Park is not provided to participants. The bonus quest is called Treasure Island.
- DNR has an event on July 25, 2018 with the DNR Secretary and Assistant Secretary, who will be visiting HMI and then attending a conference at North Point State Park.
- Visitation to the park has been down due to the rainy weather.
- DNR conducted maintenance around the DNR building and is planning to replace the tile flooring.
- Mr. Taylor asked if DNR's relationship will continue in the future. Mr. Bibo explained that MES and MPA are assisting DNR to establish programs that will allow DNR to operate independently at HMI.

5. FINAL REMARKS

Dave Bibo – MDOT MPA

- Mr. Bibo recapped that Mr. Brylske and the group decided to cancel the July COC meeting and the next meeting would be held onsite on September 18, 2018.
- Mr. Bibo reviewed action items for the September 2018 meeting.
- Mr. Bibo reiterated the differences between Cox Creek and HMI vegetation studies. Cox Creek is observing grass growing within conditioned boxes. HMI is working to grow native grass species in the natural environment over a larger area while combatting invasive species. Ms. Miller explained the main difference between the sites is Cox Creek is growing a common grass seed while HMI is trying to grow native grass species that are known to be tolerant to acidic and high salinity conditions.

Meeting adjourned-8:00pm