

GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

January/February 2020



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PORT

Former Executive Director Jim White Resigns from the Port of Baltimore

After 18 years with the Port of Baltimore, former Executive Director Jim White resigned in December. He led the Port during years of significant growth and change, improving its national rankings, upgrading security procedures, and completing infrastructure projects that made it one of the few ports in America capable of receiving the largest ships in the world.

Among his accomplishments on the environmental side, former Executive Director White hosted the first GreenPort Congress held in North America and oversaw a nationally renowned and award-winning dredging program that uses innovative strategies to be the largest creator of wetlands in Maryland, including the [Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island](#). Under his leadership, and since the beginning of the Port's Diesel Equipment Upgrade Program in 2008, the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) has been awarded over \$11M in federal Clean Diesel grants that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in the Baltimore region. This funding has been used to assist replacement of more than 200 dray trucks and 110 pieces of cargo-hauling equipment, repowered 10 marine engines and retrofitted 16 locomotive engines.

"Jim White is widely regarded as one of the finest port directors in America," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Maryland has been fortunate to have him at the helm of the Port of Baltimore

for so long. I congratulate him on an outstanding career and thank him for leaving the Port of Baltimore in fantastic shape for his successor.”



A national search is underway for former Executive Director Jim White’s successor to lead the Port of Baltimore. Photo by MDOT MPA

Civic and Environmental Organizations Tour Port, Learn about Air Quality Initiatives

The [Baltimore Port Alliance](#) (BPA) Environmental Committee recently hosted 13 representatives from civic and environmental groups for a Port tour and discussion about emissions and air quality. The organizations in attendance included the [Baltimore Museum of Industry](#), [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), [Greenmount Community West Association](#), [Blue Water Baltimore](#), [Canton Community Association](#), [Environmental Defense Fund](#), [Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore](#), and the St. Helena Community Association.

Attendees learned about Port programs to upgrade aging port-related rail, truck, and vessel fleets to newer equipment with diesel engines that meet the latest EPA emission standards and contribute to improved regional air quality, programs to improve terminal operations, and how the Port is working and volunteering in neighboring communities. The BPA is supported by more than 275 member companies representing a cross section of the maritime community, including MDOT MPA.



MDOT MPA Environmental Manager Shawn Kiernan presents to an audience made up of civic and environmental groups during the Baltimore Port Alliance session and tour focusing on air quality. Photo by Dan Spack/[EcoLogix Group, Inc.](#)

MDOT MPA on the Speaker Circuit

Members of the Harbor Development team were popular on the speaker circuit this past fall. MDOT MPA Harbor Development Outreach Coordinator Katrina Jones and [National Aquarium](#) Director of Conservation Community Engagement Curtis Bennett made a presentation about Masonville Cove's Decade of Dedication at the 48th Annual [North American Association for Environmental Education](#) Conference in Lexington, Ky.

A few weeks later, Jones joined Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler for another presentation about Masonville Cove at the 14th Annual [Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#) in Shepherdstown, W.Va. MDOT MPA Environmental Manager Shawn Kiernan also made a separate presentation regarding the MDOT MPA's environmental programs.

MDOT MPA Office of Harbor Development Environmental Analyst Kristen Keene served as a panelist at the [Western Dredging Association \(WEDA\)](#) Eastern Chapter Conference in Wilmington, Del. The panel focused on the beneficial use of dredged material from various lenses including capacity recovery in upland containment facilities, landscape architecture, Chesapeake Bay water quality goals, and environmental restoration.



Top: Western Dredging Association (WEDA) Eastern Chapter Conference panelists Walter Dinicola, [Anchor QEA](#); Isaac Hametz, [Mahan Rykiel Associates](#); Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA; Jackie Specht, [The Nature Conservancy](#); and Doug Myers, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (photo by MDOT MPA). **Left:** MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler and Harbor Development Outreach Coordinator Katrina Jones at the 14th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum (Photo by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay). **Right:** MDOT MPA Harbor Development Outreach Coordinator Katrina Jones and National Aquarium Director of Conservation Community Engagement Curtis Bennett teamed up for a presentation 48th Annual North American Association for Environmental Education Conference (Photo by MDOT MPA).

ENVIRONMENT

Enhancing Neighborhood Park and Adapting for Climate Change

MDOT MPA provided a \$500,000 grant to support initial design and engineering components of the Fleming Park Restoration Project, located in the neighboring community of [Turner Station](#). The project proposes to create a hybrid landscape that combines the innovative reuse and beneficial use of navigation channel/maintenance dredged material with waterfront recreational amenities and resilient infrastructure. Studies are underway to see how the shoreline could be reinforced and strengthened to accommodate rising water levels due to climate change.

"The MDOT MPA is a national leader in using dredged sediment from shipping channels in ways that benefit the environment. We look forward to transforming this park into something that can be thoroughly enjoyed by local residents and others for years to come," said MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler.



"This project would not be possible without the MDOT MPA funding, which itself is a testament to the dedication, collaborative spirit, and innovative design strategies our partners have worked with us to develop over the past two years," said President Gloria Nelson of Turner Station Conservation Teams.

Improvements at Fleming Park include public recreation areas with open fields, walking trails that will allow visitors to observe birds and other wildlife, and a boardwalk that will provide access to the Patapsco River. Photo by MDOT MPA

More EPA Funding to Green the Fleet

In October, the EPA announced an award of \$1.8M to MDOT MPA which will support the replacement of older diesel-powered equipment serving the Port of Baltimore. The grant will provide funding to replace 44 dray trucks and four pieces of cargo-handling equipment. Since 2008, MDOT MPA has been awarded over \$11M in federal Clean Diesel grants that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in the Baltimore region.

"[Ports America Chesapeake](#) is an enthusiastic participant in the [Diesel Equipment Upgrade Program](#). Over the years the process has gone smoothly, and we appreciate the support provided by MDOT MPA," said David Simpson, manager of equipment services at Ports America Chesapeake. "We encourage companies doing business at the Port of Baltimore to participate in the program and enjoy the many benefits of upgraded diesel equipment." Potential applicants should contact Dan Spack at dspack@ecologixgroup.com or call (443) 895-1228 as soon as possible.



The team at MDOT MPA's Safety, Environment and Risk Management (SERM) office is currently evaluating projects to be included in its application for the 2020 EPA grant. Watch the latest GreenPort EcoMinute to learn more about the program. Video by MDOT MPA

COMMUNITY

Masonville Cove Launches New & Improved Website

Masonville Cove recently launched a new and improved, mobile-friendly website complete with beautiful imagery and a more modern look. As part of the Masonville Cove Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) project, MDOT MPA restored public access to this portion of the Patapsco River and constructed the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center. Once a brownfield, now Masonville Cove is the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge run by a partnership that includes [Living Classrooms Foundation](#), National Aquarium, the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS), MDOT MPA, and is supported by [Maryland Environmental Service](#) (MES).

The new website is a one stop shop for learning about upcoming events and encourages the public to visit. It also promotes field trip requests and volunteer opportunities, as well as informal visits. Check it out at www.masonvillecove.org.



Masonville Cove Decade of Dedication Impacts

In 2019, community members and partners including MDOT MPA, Living Classrooms Foundation, National Aquarium, MES, and USFWS celebrated a Decade of Dedication at Masonville Cove. During the year, the partners hosted 14 themed events, including eight special events during the extended hours on the 1st Thursday each month. The collective impact was impressive with a total of 561 visitors participating in the special events. Shuttle transportation provided by the partners was utilized by 45 people attending the special events.

The eagles must have enjoyed the festivities as well because they have returned to the area for the second year. Some site restrictions are in place to protect the eagles as they are building their nest. Please help look out for the eagles by respecting trail closures.



Masonville Decade of Dedication special events included a first birthday party for Captain Trash Wheel. Photo by MES

UPCOMING EVENTS

DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting - February 12th at 6:15PM

(Snow Date: February 19)

Point Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Innovative Reuse Committee Meeting -February 25th at 5:30PM

(Snow Date: March 3rd)

Pt. Breeze Maritime Center I

2200 Broening Highway

Baltimore, MD 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

Harbor Safety Meeting - March 13th at 10:00 AM

(Snow Date: March 20th)

Association of Maryland Pilots

3720 Dillon Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21224

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

DMMP Management Committee Meeting - March 25th at 10:00AM

(Snow Date: April 1st)

World Trade Center

401 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

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 [Port of Baltimore Magazine](#)

MDOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION[™]
MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION

GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.



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