

**SUMMARY OF THE MASONVILLE  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 1, 2019 5:30PM  
1000 Frankfurst Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21226**

***Attendees:***

*Angie Ashley Consulting:* Angie Ashley  
*Baltimore Bird Club:* Nancy O'Hara  
*Baltimore City Department of Planning:* Brent Flickinger  
*Baltimore City Department of Public Works:* Aaron Little  
*Ben Franklin High School:* Kelly Oglesbee  
*Brooklyn; 46<sup>th</sup> District:* Diane Ingram  
*Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF):* Lorraine Warnick  
*Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA):* Bertrand Djiki, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Kristen Fidler  
*Maryland Environmental Service (MES):* Rachael Gilde, Danielle Wilson  
*Masonville Citizens' Advisory Committee (MCAC) Chair:* Mike Sakowski  
*Maryland State Real Estate:* Anita Kestel  
*MedStar Harbor Hospital:* Brian Gray  
*National Aquarium:* Curtis Bennett, Andrea van Wyk  
*US Fish and Wildlife Service:* Robbie Callahan

**Action Items:**

- Ms. Gilde will inquire about the potential to add a Google Map link to the map feature to include in the remodeled website.
- Ms. Gilde will investigate adding a volunteer signup to the remodeled website.

**Statements for the Record:**

There were no statements for the record.

**1.0 Welcome & Introductions**

Ms. Ashley called the meeting to order and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

**2.0 Approval of Summary**

**Mike Sakowski, Chair**

Mr. Sakowski stated that both the October 2, 2018 summary and the April 2 summary needed to be approved. Mr. Sakowski asked for a motion to approve the summaries. Both summaries were approved unanimously.

**3.0 Masonville Construction Update**

**Bertrand Djiki, MDOT MPA**

Mr. Djiki stated that the current elevation of the existing Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) dikes varies between +10' mean lower low water (MLLW) and +18' MLLW and the cross dike is at +10' MLLW. The raised dike height of +18' MLLW is the first phase of incremental dike raising. Designs for the second phase of dike raising, which will raise the dikes to +30' MLLW are underway. The design currently includes specifications for a material that is stronger than the typical

material used and is also more cost effective. The +30' MLLW designs are expected to be complete by early 2020 with construction commencing in December 2021. The final phase will include a dike elevation of +42' MLLW. The current cumulative capacity for the Masonville DMCF is 5.3 million cubic yards (mcy) and the current available capacity is approximately 2.7 mcy.

Construction to raise the dike to +18' MLLW has commenced along the north dike and is expected to be completed by the winter of 2020. The cost of the dike construction to +18' MLLW is approximately \$11 million.

The cofferdam berm and the Kurt Iron Slip (KIS) cross dike were raised to +10' MLLW to create a complete loop around the perimeter of the DMCF. The swale construction is underway. The cofferdam berm cross dike elevation cannot be raised past +10' MLLW until the swale construction is complete.

The KIS section of the DMCF is currently being filled, which will add approximately 13 acres of additional terminal space for the Port of Baltimore. The project is approximately 95% complete. The KIS section is currently being graded to match the adjacent parking lot.

Mr. Sakowski asked what Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) is doing to prevent erosion along the steep slope. Mr. Djiki replied that there is a retaining wall that will prevent erosion. Mr. Little asked what the general goal of the dike raising project is. Mr. Djiki replied that the purpose is to raise the dikes to increase the dredged material capacity of the DMCF.

Ms. Ashley stated that one of the mitigation projects associated with the DMCF construction project was to fund a portion of the solar compacting trash cans around Baltimore City. She stated that Mr. Little is available to answer any questions regarding the project. Ms. Van Wyk stated that many residences in Brooklyn and Curtis Bay have been inquiring about the process to add solar compacting trash cans in their neighborhood. Mr. Little responded that there is a process to acquiring solar compacting trash cans in other locations, specifically neighborhoods. All the current trash can locations were placed on an existing trash removal route. If a new trash can request is on an existing trash removal route, it is feasible, and the community member should contact the Department of Public Works (DPW) to go through the normal procurement process. Ms. Jones asked if the community would have to pay for the trash cans if requested. Mr. Little replied that communities would have to fund their additional trash can. Ms. Van Wyk stated that community members requested a trash can at the new stadium and the Brooklyn Church of God staff have requested one on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Little stated that he saw a request from the stadium last week and the DPW currently services the existing wire trash can at the location. DPW will remove the wire trash can and replace it with a solar compacting can.

Ms. Ingram asked who should be contacted if a solar compacting trash can is laying on its side. Mr. Little responded that 311 should be contacted to report a discrepancy with a trash can. Mr. Little stated that the main goal of the solar compacting trash can project is to increase operational efficiency. Trash pickups went from twice a day at many locations to once every three and a half weeks, reducing the trash pickup frequency by 96%.

Ms. Van Wyk requested an estimated procurement cost of the solar compacting trash cans. Mr. Little replied that a single unit, which collects only trash, costs approximately \$4,900. A double unit, which includes both recycling and trash, costs approximately \$5,500.

#### **4.0 Decade of Dedication at Masonville**

**Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA**

Ms. Jones stated that MDOT MPA released the Masonville Impact Report in the beginning of 2019 that demonstrated the quantifiable impact of the efforts surrounding the establishment of the Masonville DMCF and related community benefit spanning the past decade.

MDOT MPA and Masonville stakeholders organized a series of events to celebrate the “Decade of Dedication” and to renew efforts to encourage and enable the general public in the neighboring areas to enjoy access to the campus. Based on community feedback, extended hours were offered on the first Thursdays of every month and selected weekend events. The first Decade of Dedication event was the 3/7 Movie Night, where the movie “The Lorax” was shown. A few families from the community attended the event. Each month, except for July, included a planned event. There was no event in July because the first Thursday fell on a holiday. In May, Masonville hosted a “Yoga at the Cove” night, which took place inside due to weather restrictions.

The 5/11 Feathered Friends Day was the first Decade of Dedication weekend event. The event partnered with the Middle Branch Park festival where Masonville offered shuttles to and from the festival.

In early spring, the only known pair of nesting Bald Eagles in Baltimore City were observed at Masonville Cove. While it was exciting to report new wildlife at the Cove, the eagles’ presence prevented activity on the site until the eaglets fledged in June. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requires a 650-foot uninterrupted radius around the nest. Two eaglets hatched and fledged from the nest.

Ms. Jones explained how the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership between MDOT MPA, MES, Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF), National Aquarium (NA), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has been successful, specifically at the 6/8 BioBlitz where all partners were represented. The BioBlitz doubled as Captain Trash Wheel’s first birthday party. It was celebrated with cupcakes, decorative buttons, and a painting that will be hung in the Education Center.

On 9/5, FWS hosted the Fishing at the Cove event. For many participants it was their first-time fishing. All participants were able to catch at least one fish. In total, approximately 40 fish were caught in roughly two hours. For this particular event, the children who participated had already been to Masonville Cove as a school trip for an LCF program and brought their families to the event.

On 9/ 29, MDOT MPA hosted the National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day celebration featuring a kayak event as part of the Decade of Dedication. All partners were represented at the event and the nominee for Director of the US FWS, Aurelia Skipwith, attended. This was the first planned kayak event at Masonville Cove. Ultimate Watersports was contracted to lead three beginner tours. All three tours were filled and were well received. Ms. Jones played the following video of Ms. Fidler describing and recapping the

National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day celebration at Masonville Cove:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFb4\\_95i7TY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFb4_95i7TY&feature=youtu.be).

Ms. Jones stated that flyers for all events are distributed to community members in both Spanish and English because there is a large Hispanic and Latino population in the area surrounding Masonville Cove. There are four events left in the series; the October 3 Autumn night Hike, the November 7 STEM Night and Nature Bingo, the December 5 Owl Prowl, and the December 14 Winter Celebration Day. The total amount of participants in Decade of Dedication events to date is 141.

Mr. Sakowski asked about the origin of the kayaking event. Ms. Jones replied that LCF had a previous relationship with the outfitter, Ultimate Watersports, which hosts regular summer kayaking events at Fort McHenry. Mr. Sakowski suggested that because the kayaking event was so successful, the partnership should consider planning it as a recurring event on campus and investigate the possibility of the education center renting out kayaks or canoes. Ms. Jones replied that Canton Kayak Club is currently working with the Masonville stakeholders to investigate ways to provide a consistent kayaking program on campus. There are kayak racks currently by the pier that could be utilized. Ms. Fidler added that the September 29 kayak event was to teach citizens who may have never kayaked before how to kayak and how to maneuver safely through the water. The event was safety focused but was also available for all kayak skill levels. Ms. Fidler added that MES provided a site tour by water by accompanying the kayak group and provided information about Masonville at different spots on the water including restoration of the Cove, the DMCF, and why dredging is important.

Mr. Sakowski asked if it is possible to kayak from Masonville Cove to Canton. Ms. Ashley replied that it is possible, however, it is challenging to launch a personal kayak from Masonville Cove because the pier is a long walk from the parking lot.

#### **4.0 Masonville Access Update**

**Ms. Rachael Gilde, MES**

Ms. Gilde stated that the update given at the April 2 meeting on Masonville Access ended with short-term, midterm, and long-term goals for improving public access at Masonville Cove. Ms. Gilde would report on the status of the short-term goals at length and give brief updates on any progress made on the mid-term and long-term goals.

#### Promoting events and opportunities to visit

##### *Website*

The first short-term improvement includes redesigning the Masonville Cove website. Content was taken from the existing website and used to prioritize messages that will encourage people to visit and enjoy the site. The website is in the final stages of editing by Masonville stakeholders prior to going live. There will be a section to access old newsletters and sign up to receive new newsletters and digital event flyers. The sections from the existing website such as the history, the partnership, education programs, and events are all still featured in the remodeled website.

There is a “plan a visit” page within the website that highlights the basic information such as hours, location, parking, and explicit descriptions of what the visitors can experience on site.

Mr. Sakowski asked if there is a map button on the website to provide directions for those unfamiliar with the site. Ms. Gilde replied that the address is in various locations and there is a map featured on the website, however it does not have a link to Google Maps. Ms. Gilde will inquire about the potential to add a Google Map link to the map feature to include in the remodeled website.

### *Social Media*

Social media posts related to Masonville and Captain Trash Wheel (CTW) have increased. CTW has profiles on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and posts frequently. The Friends of Masonville Cove Facebook page has also been engaging and sharing content with CTW.

CTW averages approximately 30 posts per month across all social media platforms, which draw an average of 684 'likes' and an average of 49 shares per month. Posts regarding the bald eagle's nest and CTW's birthday are among the most active posts throughout all platforms with the highest numbers of likes and shares relative to other posts.

### *Extended Hours*

The Masonville stakeholders provided extended hours for the general public to access the property on the first Thursday of every month until 8PM and several weekend events spanning times where the campus is not typically accessible. To date, Masonville has not received after-hours visitors without a planned event. Shuttles have been offered for most events. Initially stops included both the Curtis Bay Recreation Center and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Due to the lack of passengers, the Curtis Bay Recreation Center was later removed as a stop. Approximately 30% of all visitors who attended Decade of Dedication events to date have used the shuttle service.

### *Little Free Library*

With the help of all the partners, a Little Free Library (LFL) was purchased, built, and put in place on campus. The LFL is registered in the national database and can be found on the world map on the LFL website or app. Visitors can take a book and/or leave a book to enjoy during or after their visit. Because the LFL is included on the world map, it is another way for citizens to recognize the existence of Masonville Cove and guide more visitors to the site.

### *Signage*

The first phase of campus signage includes wayfinding signs which were installed on September 26. The signs indicate suggested activities for visitors to take part in around the site, such as hiking, fishing and birding.

### Data Analysis

Visitor ship increased in 2019 compared to 2018. In March, there was a large peak due to the March 7 Movie Night. Visitor ship decreased slightly from April through June due to the eagle nest restrictions. Partners are hopeful that the Decade of Dedication event series will increase awareness of Masonville Cove and will bring more people to the site in the future. Other than Decade of Dedication events, the most prominent reason for visiting Masonville Cove has been birding and nature walks, as reported on the

LCF visitor log. Community events for 2020 will be developed using lessons learned and community feedback from the 2019 Decade of Dedication events series.

### Participating in Large Community Efforts

Masonville Cove Partners have continued to work on long-term goals to increase access to Masonville for the neighboring community, including assisting in the efforts of Greater Baybrook Alliance and MedStar Harbor Hospital to investigate pedestrian access into and out of communities surrounding the hospital. Masonville has also been a stakeholder participant in the Middle Branch redesign project. MDOT MPA applied for the Federal Land Access Program grant on August 30, which would provide funding to further investigate the creation of a pedestrian and bicycle trail to Masonville.

### Mid-term Next Steps

#### *Rideshare Service*

One mid-term goal was for the partnership to increase visitor ship by participating in an Uber rideshare pilot to provide small groups another transportation option to travel to and from Masonville Cove from the surrounding communities. The program is still in development and a pilot will be scheduled soon.

#### *Enhancing Visitor Experience*

An additional mid-term goal includes a refreshed exhibit experience inside the Environmental Education center. FWS at the Patuxent Research Refuge has monthly content that can be relocated to Masonville Cove and stakeholders are working to establish an exchange of exhibits to enhance visitor experience at Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center.

#### *Directional Signage*

The next phase of campus signage will include trail markers with trail names and directional indicators that will accompany the wayfinding sign posts. In addition, Masonville enrolled in the Sponsor-A-Highway program, which will include installation of five signs in the surrounding community with a combination of the Masonville Cove partner logo and the Captain Trash Wheel logo that will help promote awareness of Masonville Cove. There is a monthly cleanup of a one mile stretch associated with each sign for a two to three-year duration. All requested sign locations are in areas with high vehicle or foot traffic to maximize community awareness of the site.

### Long-term steps

#### *Maryland Transportation Authority Bus Stop*

Masonville stakeholders continue to take part in community conversations to establish a potential bus stop nearby for additional citizen access.

#### *Informational Campus Signage*

The third phase of onsite signage will include informational signage that will tell the story of Masonville Cove and its legacy, history, and partners.

#### *Integrated access with greenway development*

MDOT MPA will continue to coordinate with external efforts connecting Baltimore greenway with bike and pedestrian access.

Mr. Sakowski asked if Uber has an existing program for small groups. Ms. Wilson replied that Uber does have an existing program for small groups, however, as a public entity, a voucher system must be created, so an event with specific parameters must be open for citizens to use the voucher. MES has been working with Uber directly to discuss the best way to manage an event. Mr. Sakowski stated that having a link to set up an Uber ride through the website would be a great way to increase the number of visitors to the site.

Mr. Sakowski asked if the number of 'likes' that were mentioned are strictly associated with the Facebook page. Ms. Gilde replied that the number of 'likes' stated earlier is the total of all 'likes' from all social media platforms; Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Mr. Sakowski suggested that a pop-up be included to recruit email address for the monthly newsletter, which in turn, should increase awareness of events. Ms. Wilson replied that there is a page incorporated within the website where citizens can sign up for the Masonville Cove newsletter as well as a link to email Masonville Cove directly.

Ms. Kestel asked if there is a page within the remodeled website where citizens can signup to volunteer. Ms. Gilde replied that she will investigate adding a volunteer signup to the remodeled website.

Ms. Kestel suggested attaching a large magnet to shuttle vans for Masonville events that feature CTW or the title, 'Shuttle to Masonville Cove' to draw more attention from citizens.

Mr. Flickinger suggested creating a pamphlet or a fact sheet regarding CTW so more people can understand fully what it does and how it helps the Baltimore Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. Ms. Kestel asked if CTW merchandise can be sold through the website or at Masonville Cove. Ms. Wilson replied that the partners are working to see if selling merchandise is possible.

## **5.0 Education & Campus Operations**

**Lorraine Warnick, LCF**

Ms. Warnick stated that LCF offers many hands-on environmental science, technology, engineering, and math programs that enhance the skills and knowledge of young people while getting to explore and appreciate nature in their urban landscape. LCF has now run their Baltimore Environmental Education Summer Math and Reading Trailblazer (BEESMART) program for five years. The main goal of the

BEESMART program is to eliminate the summer learning loss. Of the students who completed this year's program, 100% of reading levels were either maintained or increased.

To date, LCF staff at Masonville Cove has served 1,871 students and 1,547 community visitors. Many classes have shown gains based on pre- and post-tests. Teacher feedback showed that programs enhance classroom curriculum, motivate student learning, and that LCF staff interactions are positive with students.

Approximately 2,000 pounds of trash has been removed from Masonville Cove's shoreline and school yards and six community storm drains have been stenciled.

**6.0 Citizen Science and Community Projects** **Andrea Van Wyk, National Aquarium**  
In April, the NA hosted Project Clean Stream, which is a regional effort sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Approximately 55 citizens participated and collected approximately 8,821 pieces of debris and removed a total of 444 pounds of trash from the Middle Branch.

On April 26 through April 29, NA participated in the City Nature Challenge, which is an international effort to get a snapshot of biodiversity in urban environments. Approximately 159 cities participated throughout the world. Approximately 963,773 observations were made, more than 31,000 species were documented, and 35,126 people participated. Locally, there were approximately 8,499 observations, which placed Baltimore as the 35<sup>th</sup> city out of the 159 who participated in the challenge. In Baltimore, approximately 1,268 species were documented, and 458 people participated. Baltimore placed fifth for the number of species, and fourth for the number of people who participated. There were 110 species that were not previously recorded that were recorded this year, 2,700 more observations, and 274 more participants compared to last year. NA plans to participate in the City Nature Challenge again next year, which will be April 24 through April 27.

NA has a partnership with the South Baltimore Gateway Local Development Council as well as Baltimore Office of Sustainability to work with the 12 schools in the south Baltimore area to provide technical assistance to teachers who want to engage their students in conservation projects. Projects can span from energy efficiency within classrooms, to food gardens, school orchards, and recycling clubs.

NA hosted a BioBlitz at Masonville Cove on June 8. This was the highest attended BioBlitz to date at 135 participants, 214 species documented, and a total of 496 observations. The partnership worked together to provide a shuttle to and from the Curtis Bay Festival, which allowed several families to explore Masonville.

NA has a grant through the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental justice program, where NA has been working with a church called Templo de Alabanza y Restauración (TAYR) Church of God. TAYR expressed interest in having a community visioning workshop with a fellow English-speaking church partner, Pathway Church of God, to talk about ways to collaborate to increase their capacity.

Patuxent Research Refuge hosts a Hispanic Access Foundation intern every summer. This past summer, the intern spent half of their time in Baltimore helping to expand NA's Hispanic programming.

NA hosted their third Latino Conservation Day at Masonville Cove on Sunday, July 21 which was a part of the National Latino Conservation week. Participants were able to take part in fishing, safe archery, and a creature feature. Approximately 56 participants attended the event.

NA will be working on an alley art project in the spring of 2020. In the past, NA has done an alley art project in Curtis Bay, and this fall's project will be a replicate with TAYR and Pathway Church of God.

The Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition has a project called the Biodiversity tool kit, which can provide residents with a kit that will help them explore green spaces on their own. The kits are available at the following locations: Masonville Cove, Garrett Park, and the Brooklyn Branch Library. Ms. Van Wyk stated that the backpacks are self-explanatory but do include English and Spanish versions of an easy-to-use local species guide and a small explanation packet. Ms. Bennett added that the kits are modeled after similar programs in the state.

NA is looking to do leadership trainings for community residents who are interested in leading nature walks or other activities, such as participating as a student partner in Benjamin Franklin High School's pilot program, Remediation, Intervention, Mindfulness, and Enrichment, every day for 45 minutes.

With the continuation of NA's partnership with South Baltimore Gateway and Baltimore Office of Sustainability, NA is helping to advertise the Green Healthy Smart Challenge grant which is open to all Baltimore City public schools and aids in students leading conservation projects.

NA is a part of Cities Connecting Children to Nature which is a national effort under the National League of Cities. Baltimore has three main goals: to create an outdoor bill of rights for all of Baltimore City youths, which was written and put into place by the Baltimore Mayor; to focus on green career exposure; and to look at nature as a basis to deal with trauma. NA is putting together a training for environmental practitioners and childcare providers for March 7, 2020.

## **7.0 Masonville Cove Wildlife**

**Robbie Callahan, FWS**

Mr. Callahan stated that in 2013, the Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership was the first to be established in the country. The partnership was established because of its unique natural habitat and urban setting after the MDOT MPA restoration.

Approximately 251 bird species have been documented at Masonville Cove, along with nine mammals and 22 butterfly species. At the June 8 Masonville BioBlitz, 214 species of plants, animals, insects, etc. were identified.

FWS worked with MDOT MPA, MES, and stakeholders to develop a wildlife management plan that includes three main tasks: deer surveys using forward looking infrared (FLIR), small mammal surveys using cameras, and osprey surveys using an osprey platform camera. Deer surveys are done twice a year, once in the winter and once in the spring, both of which include three consecutive nights of surveys to determine population trends. In 2018, a total of 86 deer were documented during the survey, averaging

14.3 deer per night surveyed. The surveyed area is approximately 75 acres, giving a deer to acre ratio of one deer per five acres.

The small mammal surveys are done twice a year, once in the winter and once in the spring, both of which include three consecutive nights of surveys to determine population trends. The surveys are conducted using cameras and baited scent stations. Usual small mammals that are observed include coyote, racoons, fox, and opossums. Total observation numbers are used to determine trends in the populations of different species. Early population trends for fox show a decrease, while racoon and opossum show an increase. The opportunity of occurrence is determined because it is a better predictor of population than total observations per survey; the higher the occurrence number, the higher the population. There are eight cameras per night. The number of observations is divided by the total number of cameras to determine the opportunity of occurrence. Any occurrence number over one suggests at least one occurrence every night.

Three osprey platforms were installed at Masonville Cove, one of which also had a live streaming camera, which is operational during the nesting season from 7am to 5pm. The last few years geese have been observed trying to take over the osprey platforms. The most recent successful osprey nest was observed in 2017, with two chicks. The adult female was captured, and a GPS transmitter was attached. Both chicks were banded. The GPS transmitter tracked the osprey's migration to Puerto Rico, but the connection was later lost on November 3, 2017. There has not been another successful nest on the platforms since due to geese and other favorable locations on site.

Mr. Callahan stated that he placed a few scent stations around the Masonville Cove campus to hopefully bring more wildlife for the October 3 Autumn Night Hike. FWS will also bring the FLIR to detect the wildlife in the dark.

The wildlife management plan was initially set for a five-year duration, ending in 2018. FWS is currently working with MDOT MPA and MES to extend the plan for another five years. The next five-year plan will include monarch tagging. The tagging program is through Kansas State University's program called Monarch Watch, who provide the tags. Monarch butterflies are posted as a threatened/endangered species because their populations have decreased 90% since the 1990's. Masonville Cove is designated as a monarch waystation due to its focus on pollinator habitat. Monarch butterflies were tagged in September at two different events and hope to continue in the future.

In 2019, a pair of bald eagles nested at Masonville Cove and had two male chicks. Both chicks were banded with a purple band to signify that they hatched in the Chesapeake Bay area, along with the standard US Geological Survey metal band. Although bald eagles are no longer threatened or endangered, they are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act which requires that there be a buffer around the nest until the chicks hatch. FWS is working to obtain a Take Permit to allow Masonville Cove to use best management practices to shrink the buffer allowing them to continue participating in activities on the campus during nesting season. FWS is expecting to install an eagle nest camera.

## **8.0 Harbor Development Update** Cox Creek:

**Kristen Fidler, MDOT MPA**

Ms. Fidler stated that expansions and other projects are going well at many of the MDOT MPA sites. The first lift of the base dike widening at Cox Creek has been completed. The designs to raise the dikes to +60' MLLW are almost complete.

Building 201 demolition is almost complete. Elements of the foundation of the building are currently being monitored closely while being removed.

The new Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building construction is complete. The building is awaiting furniture and wi-fi. The trailers in which MES staff used to work will be removed once they have fully moved into the O&M building.

#### Masonville:

Ms. Fidler stated that the Masonville DMCF is open for dredged material inflow while under construction. The dikes are being raised to +18' MLLW which is expected to be complete by winter of 2020. The designs for dike raising to +30' MLLW are ongoing. The third and final stage of the vertical expansion of the Masonville DMCF will include dike heights of +42' MLLW. The cross dike is being installed to remove the KIS portion of the DMCF. The area will become cargo storage for the Port of Baltimore's roll on-roll off cargo.

The Access Zone 3 environmental covenant will be signed by MDE and MDOT MPA imminently. Once the covenant is in place, the consent order closure report can be finalized, which symbolizes the completion of the remediation of Masonville Cove and the property can be moved into a conservation easement under Maryland Environmental Trust and Baltimore Green Space land trust. This is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

#### Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Pilot Project:

Given the success of the CAD pilot project, including the construction and post monitoring, MDOT MPA is continuing to evaluate and investigate new locations for additional CAD cell projects in and around the Baltimore Harbor. Once the locations are narrowed down, an update will be given to the citizens for feedback.

#### Seagirt Marine Terminal:

Currently, Berth 4 is the only 50-foot berth at Seagirt Marine Terminal. MDOT MPA is working with partner Ports America Chesapeake, who operates the Seagirt Marine Terminal, to deepen Berth 3 to -50 feet through a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant. This work is expected to be completed by fall 2020. This deepening will allow large container cargo vessels to turn around safely and efficiently. MDOT MPA is working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to perform a feasibility study for deepening the remainder of the terminal loop. Improvements to Seagirt Marine Terminal will allow Baltimore to be competitive with other ports in the nation. Approximately 400,000 cy of material will be dredged for these projects and all material will be placed at the Masonville DMCF.

#### Innovative Reuse:

Approximately 10,500 cy of dewatered sediment has been removed from the Cox Creek DMCF for demonstration projects, including 4,500 cy for engineered fill at Hawkins Point and 6,000 cy for alternative daily cover at the Quarantine Road Landfill. Ms. Fidler stated that if attendees are interested

in learning more regarding the Innovative Reuse program that they should attend the November 26 Innovative Reuse Committee meeting.

Poplar Island:

Approximately 243 bird species have been documented at Poplar Island. Once Poplar Island reaches capacity and can no longer accept new dredged material in approximately 2032, dredged material will be placed at the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island (Mid-Bay) ecosystem restoration projects.

Mid-Bay Project:

The project management plan and design agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers and MDOT MPA have been executed. This means that preconstruction, engineering, and design of the Mid-Bay project can commence.

The main challenge for this project will be securing adequate and timely federal construction funding and MDOT MPA's goal is to get the funds included in the President's budget for federal fiscal year 2022. MDOT MPA will need support from all partners and stakeholders to secure the funding.

**9.0 Upcoming Events and Open Discussion**

Ms. Fidler stated that all attendees received a flyer for the October 26 Cox Creek Open House. The open house is a great opportunity to see the new O&M complex and the Swan Creek wetlands.

Ms. Fidler stated that Masonville Cove won the American Association of Port Authorities Environmental Improvement Award of Distinction for the Decade of Dedication event series.

The Dredged Material Management Program Annual Meeting will be held at Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center November 8.

**10.0 Adjournment**

The next Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 2020.