

**SUMMARY OF THE MASONVILLE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 6, 2020 5:30PM
Virtual Meeting**

Attendees:

Angie Ashley Consulting: Angie Ashley
Baltimore Bird Club: Nancy O'Hare
Baltimore City Department of Planning: Brent Flickinger
Ben Franklin High School: Kelly Oglesbee
Brooklyn; 46th District: Janet Eveland
City of Refuge Baltimore: Billy Humphrey
Community Association of Curtis Bay/Greater Baybrook Alliance/Filbert Street Garden: Rodette Jones
Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn: Dianne Ingram
Council Fire: Katie Smith
Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF): Lorraine Warnick
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Sergio Adantor, Dave Blazer, Bertrand Djiki, Kristen Fidler, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Amanda Peñafiel
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Jay Sullivan, Danielle Wilson
National Aquarium: Andrea Van Wyk
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR): Genevieve LaRouche
Vulcan Construction Materials: Robert Flanagan

Action Items:

1. Ms. Keene will provide an IRBU update either via email or at a future MCAC meeting.

Statements for the Record:

Ms. Ashley stated that Mike Sakowski has resigned as chair of the Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting. If any committee members are interested in receiving more information regarding volunteering for the position, please contact Ms. Ashley or Ms. Jones. The chair is responsible for facilitating the biannual MCAC meetings and engaging with other Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) committees with support from Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA).

1.0 Introductions, Approval of Summary

Angie Ashley, Angie Ashley Consulting

Ms. Ashley called the meeting to order and read aloud the list of attendees and their affiliations. Ms. Ashley asked for a motion to approve the August 6, 2020 MCAC meeting summary. The summary was approved unanimously.

2.0 Harbor Development Update

Kristen Fidler, MDOT MPA

Ms. Fidler stated that despite the current funding constraints due to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), the DMMP continues to deliver on their mission to maintain the 50' channel in the Baltimore Harbor Approach Channels, to have a 20-year capacity plan for dredged material placement, and to ensure their commitments to environmental stewardship and strong, transparent stakeholder engagement.

There are over 130 miles of channels that need to be dredged, with four different planning segments; Harbor channels, Chesapeake Bay channels, the Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal, and the Virginia portions of the Bay. With the vertical expansion of the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) and the vertical and lateral expansion of the Cox Creek DMCF, the Port of Baltimore (POB) will be able to meet the demand of the anticipated volume of dredged material from the shipping channels.

Masonville DMCF Update

The Masonville DMCF dike construction to +18' mean lower low water (MLLW) was completed in early April. The base dike widening and vertical expansion of the dike to +30' MLLW that was anticipated to begin winter 2021 has been postponed. MDOT MPA acknowledges that the expansion of the Masonville DMCF remains critical for DMMP operations and will seek out ways to restore funding for the project. The DMMP will still be able to accept all previously planned dredging operations through fiscal year (FY) 2027.

Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration (Mid-Bay)

The pre-construction engineering and design phase of James and Barren Islands are nearing completion. The construction of Barren Island is anticipated to begin in 2022. It is critical to work with the federal congressional delegation to secure funding in the federal FY22 President's budget for the Mid-Bay project. Funding for progression of the project remains preserved amidst budgetary constraints. It is anticipated that there will be both federal and state budget constraints in federal FY26 when construction of James Island begins. If MCAC members are interested in supporting and advocating for the Mid-Bay project, they can reach out to MDOT MPA to receive additional information, including specific data points and impacts of the project.

Future Dredged Material Management Solutions

Ms. Fidler stated that the future of dredged material management solutions beyond the 20-year capacity plan remains centered around confined aquatic disposal (CAD) and Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use (IRBU). MDOT MPA successfully completed the final monitoring for the CAD pilot project, which is located near the Masonville DMCF, in February 2019 and has been working to evaluate the lessons learned and to determine the next steps for the program. MDOT MPA hopes to have the next CAD cell locations identified by the end of 2020.

Ms. Fidler stated that MDOT MPA has an ambitious yet attainable goal of creating a robust and sustainable IRBU program to recover up to 500,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material capacity from the Cox Creek DMCF. The IRBU program now seems more likely to succeed due to the high interest from the private sector as well as the success of the several demonstration projects. The Quarantine Road Landfill managed by Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) used approximately 6,000 CY for capping a section of the landfill, in collaboration with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Approximately 22,000 CY of blended dredged material will be placed at Ridgely's Cove for the remedial cap and to support vegetative cover. MDOT MPA is working with the Baltimore Development Corporation as well as Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks on the Ridgely's Cove project, which will be mitigation for the new TopGolf facility in Baltimore City.

MDOT MPA released a Request for Proposals in November 2019 for new IRBU project ideas. Nine proposals have been received, eight of which are moving through the review process. MDOT MPA hopes

to create private sector relationships by the acquisition of the Tronox property adjacent to the Cox Creek DMCF. The additional property acquisition will advance long-term, large-scale IRBU processing and distribution operations.

Hart-Miller Island (HMI)

MDOT MPA remains committed to their relationship with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at HMI and the plan to ultimately transfer the long-term operations and maintenance of HMI to DNR. In 2020, the south cell of HMI was a very popular destination for boaters. The design of the north cell is currently being refined and finalized. The HMI Citizens Oversight Committee continues to meet regularly and may be transitioning to a Friends of HMI group given the utility and function of the site as a public park.

Environmental Stewardship

Ms. Fidler stated that considering the economic downturn and cost-containment measures, MDOT MPA remains committed to environmental stewardship and protecting and preserving natural resources.

Stakeholder Engagement & Community Outreach

Ms. Fidler stated that the DMMP committee members continues to persevere through COVID-19 with virtual programming and meetings. The GreenPort newsletter ([subscribe here](#)) continues to be a great way to stay informed about the POB's activities and upcoming stakeholder engagement opportunities. Ms. Fidler encouraged members to follow and tag Captain Trash Wheel and Masonville Cove on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) so that the partnership can continue to grow the community virtually.

This year's virtual DMMP Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 6. The interactive engagement features involved in this year's meeting will continue through 2021.

Ms. Ingram asked if Captain Trash Wheel was still operational during COVID-19. Ms. Fidler replied that Captain Trash Wheel and the other trash wheels continue operations.

Mr. Flickinger asked about the status of the berm project at Baltimore Gas and Electric as a part of the Middle Branch redesign process. Ms. Fidler replied that MDOT MPA remains actively involved in the Middle Branch planning team. Ms. Fidler was not aware of the berm project but will ensure it is mentioned at a future planning meeting. Mr. Flickinger stated that there would be new wetlands along the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River and there are negotiations to use IRBU material. Mr. Flickinger added that there is a new team involved in the project and Baltimore City hopes they will be onboard by January 2021. Promoting and educating the public regarding the IRBU of dredged material will be a part of the outreach strategy for the Middle Branch redesign process. Ms. Fidler stated that Ms. Keene (MDOT MPA) is the IRBU project manager and is involved in the Middle Branch IRBU efforts. Ms. Keene will provide an IRBU update either via email or as a presentation at a future meeting. Ridgely's Cove will receive 22,000 CY of blended dredged material that consists of 18,000 CY of dredged material and 4,000 CY of fill dirt. This project includes the largest volume of material removed from an MDOT MPA DMCF site. Mr. Flickinger stated that Baltimore City is very excited to be involved in placing dredged material in IRBU applications, especially in locations where the public can engage with and learn about it.

3.0 Masonville DMCF Report

Holly Miller, MDOT MPA

Masonville DMCF Operations

The Masonville DMCF dikes are currently at +18' MLLW which provides a cumulative capacity of 6.9 million cubic yards (MCY). Even though construction activities have been paused, MDOT MPA continues with inflow operations at the site.

Ms. Miller stated that the Masonville DMCF has received two dredged material inflow projects so far in 2020. The first inflow occurred in June and July from the Brewerton Angle and Brewerton channels maintenance dredging which included 668,099 CY of material. The Masonville DMCF also received 13,878 CY of material in June and July from Baltimore Inner Harbor, which was dredged to allow ships to enter the harbor during the Baltimore City Fleet Week event. Unfortunately, Baltimore City Fleet Week was postponed this year, but the channel depths will be ready when the event resumes, potentially next year.

MDOT MPA anticipates receiving dredged material inflow at Masonville DMCF from the Seagirt Marine Terminal Berth 3 (SMT B3) Deepening and Maintenance Project later this year. The project will deepen the berth to 50' by dredging approximately 650,000 CY. MDOT MPA received bids for the project on September 4, 2020 and expects to issue an award and notice to proceed (NTP) for the project in late October 2020. The project is expected to be completed by April 2021 when new cranes are expected to arrive at the Seagirt Marine Terminal.

Spillway Modifications at Masonville DMCF

Ms. Miller stated that since operations and inflow activities will be continuing while construction is on hold, there will be an ongoing need to manage water at the site. The current, traditional spillway structure is likely to be inundated with water during the upcoming SMT B3 inflow project. Rather than undertake the costly construction expenses of raising the existing steel spillway structures, MDOT MPA plans to modify the current passive discharge operations into a pumping operation. In the interim, water will be pumped from the spillway box for discharge. Moving forward, MDOT MPA will transition to utilizing a floating weir and platform structure to continue with a pumping operation for water management at the DMCF.

Masonville Mitigation

Ms. Miller stated that the Gwynns Falls Trash Wheel (GFTW) is the last mitigation project for the Masonville DMCF that is still under construction. All major components have been fabricated and the structure is currently being assembled with completion anticipated for the end of November. Installation of the GFTW at the mouth of Gwynns Falls as it enters the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River is

contingent upon receipt of the required permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers for the placement of the piles which are needed to keep the GFTW in place.

Ms. Miller stated that at the August 6 meeting there was a question about the team of funding contributors for the GFTW.

- For the planning, design, construction, and installation the funders are:
 - MDOT MPA
 - South Baltimore Gateway Partnership
 - Weller Development
 - Continental Realty
 - T. Rowe Price
- For the operations and maintenance expenses after installation the funders are:
 - MDOT MPA
 - Baltimore City DPW
 - Baltimore County
 - Port Covington

Ms. Miller stated that MDOT MPA is currently operating five ongoing trash clean-up projects. The solar compacting trashcans continue to be operated and serviced by Baltimore City DPW. Since installation in 2018, 41,394 gallons of trash have been collected. As of August 2020, 1,378 tons of trash have been removed from Mr. Trash Wheel at the mouth of the Jones Falls. The Dundalk Marine Terminal trash interceptor is a different type of trash interceptor that uses hydrocyclone technology. It was first cleaned in July 2020 where 22,940 lbs. of trash were removed.

Since October 2019, MDOT MPA has participated in the Sponsor-a-Highway program, where MDOT MPA is funding the cleanup of five 1-mile stretches of road in the vicinity of the Masonville DMCF site. As of September 2020, 406 bags of trash have been collected. Captain Trash Wheel continues to operate in Masonville Cove and as of September 2020 has collected 20.14 tons of trash.

Mr. Flickinger asked if the GFTW would be the largest trash wheel in Baltimore City. Ms. Miller replied that it will be the largest trash wheel.

Mr. Flickinger asked what the time frame was for the trash data reported by Ms. Miller. Ms. Miller stated that the trash amounts provided are since the inception of each program.

4.0 Partnership Updates

Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA
Andrea Van Wyk, National Aquarium
Lorraine Warnick, Living Classrooms Foundation
Genevieve LaRouche, USFWS

MDOT MPA

Ms. Jones stated that the next event at Masonville Cove will be Walk Maryland Day (10/7) as a part of Walktober, a Maryland State walking initiative. The site will be open from 8:00AM to 6:00PM. There will be guided walks at 12:00PM and at 5:00PM. Anyone interested in taking part in the walks will need to sign up at this [link](#) to be a “sole-mate” for the walk led by Captain Trash Wheel.

On October 13, a virtual event in support of Masonville Cove will take place called “[Doors Open Baltimore](#).” A virtual tour of Masonville Cove will be featured as one of the Baltimore City sites at a 12:00PM and 1:00PM session. Doors Open Baltimore is an annual event where the general public can take tours at various featured sites around the city. All of the partners will participate in a live panel to talk about the history of the area. As part of the presentation, the National Aquarium (NA) will provide a recording from Mr. Horton McCormick, who was one of the citizens living in the area. US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) will discuss the benefits of habitat restoration at Masonville Cove. Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF) will discuss education programs hosted at Masonville Cove and NA will discuss the community engagement they host in the neighboring communities. Greater Baybrook Alliance was also invited to participate as a part of the panel. Viewers of the Doors Open Baltimore event will be encouraged to visit Masonville Cove.

Ms. Jones stated that on September 26 the Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day event took place in conjunction with NA’s BioBlitz. The three kayaking tours had full participation in addition to a 15-person waiting list. On the day of the event there were 28 participants with only two no-shows. VIPs attended the event as well, including Baltimore City Council President, Brandon Scott and USFWS Deputy Assistant Regional Director and Deputy Chief of the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership Program, Shaun Sanchez.

National Aquarium

Ms. Van Wyk stated that NA led programs with Camp Baltimore this summer, a program under Baltimore City Recreation and Parks. NA engaged with 14 students at the Farring Baybrook and Lakeland Recreation Centers through the Camp Baltimore program. All activities were nature exploration based.

The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) programming that was scheduled for this summer was cancelled, though NA hopes to collaborate with the BGC in the Spring 2021.

Ms. Van Wyk stated that due to COVID-19, NA has been producing more nature videos in place of in-person nature hikes. Ms. Rodette Jones recently requested for NA to produce a video showcasing the many amenities at Garrett Park. The [video](#) discusses the importance of green spaces in Baltimore City, the habitats that can be found at Garrett Park, the medicinal benefits of plants found in Garrett Park, and the connections between the conservation, stewardship, and community engagement that happens at Garrett Park and Masonville Cove. A [second video](#) from NA provided a tour of the Filbert Street Garden.

Though NA typically celebrates the BioBlitz during the month of June, it was postponed until September 26 due to Baltimore City restrictions due to COVID-19 precautions. During the BioBlitz, 35 participants made 230 observations and catalogued 134 species. The most frequent species found were the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and the Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*).

On October 10, NA is hosting the annual International Coastal Cleanup event at Masonville Cove. The event will engage a small group from 9:30-11:00AM and from 11:30AM-1:00PM.

Living Classrooms Foundation

Ms. Warnick stated that the Masonville Cove campus and trails remain open Monday through Friday from 9:00AM – 4:00PM and Saturdays 9:00AM – 1:00PM. As visitors arrive, they are asked to sign in on the clipboard at the virtual reception desk using sanitized pens provided, which they then deposit in a used

pen container. Visitors are required to wear masks and practice social distancing to stay safe while they enjoy their visit on campus. Visitors are also invited to the First Thursday events where the campus remains open until 8:00PM and activities are available for all ages. The October 1 First Thursday event was a program with the theme "Pollinator's Paradise." There will be two additional First Thursday events in 2020 including the November 5 Owl-Prowl night hike and the December 3 Majestic Mammals night hike. Participants will have the rare opportunity to walk the campus after hours as part of a guided walk. Participants may access flyers and register for these events at the masonvillecove.org website.

Ms. Warnick stated that LCF education staff intends to continue to engage the local communities surrounding Masonville Cove and schools with fun, creative, and safe hands-on distanced learning experiences. LCF is working to create virtual field trip experiences in addition to live classroom sessions. LCF is applying for many grants to fund different activities and educational experiences for the community. This year they have received a grant from the Baltimore Office of Sustainability Critical Area Management Program (CAMP) Offset Monies. The CAMP grant will allow LCF to engage with fourth and fifth grade students from four local schools in the Masonville Cove area with the Student Leadership and Urban Runoff Reduction Project (SLURRP) for Baltimore City students. The SLURRP program will include a combination of virtual programs and student led action projects throughout the school year.

LCF is always looking for ways to reach out and provide programming to the Masonville Community. People can help LCF education efforts this fall by purchasing an item from their [Amazon Wishlist](#) (click "shop charity lists" to view Masonville Cove's specific needs for the 2020-2021 school year). For students that LCF cannot provide programming, they are putting together education science toolkits that can be used at home and can be picked up during food pickup at the schools. More information is available at the [Masonville Cove website](#) or by checking the [Friends of Masonville Cove Facebook page](#).

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Ms. LaRouche stated that two of the eaglets at Masonville Cove have fledged. The Ospreys did not nest this year, potentially due to the eagles. There will be an eagle camera installed by the end of October 2020. USFWS hopes to conduct some small mammal surveys in November 2020. USFWS will be hiring a new Urban National Wildlife Refuge Biologist to start in the beginning of 2021. There has been a tentative offer made to a Baltimore native PhD who specializes in birds and bats currently doing community outreach. Ms. LaRouche hopes that this new position will allow USFWS to be more involved in the Masonville Cove Urban National Wildlife Refuge Partnership and engage with the community through science education.

5.0 Announcements and Open Discussion

There were no announcements.

6.0 Adjournment

The DMMP Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2020. Members can register to attend [here](#). Ms. Ashley thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned.