

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**SUMMARY OF THE DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 28, 2020, 10:00 AM**  
**Virtual Meeting**

***Attendees:***

*Angie Ashley Consulting:* Angie Ashley  
*Association of Maryland Pilots (AMP):* Eric Nielsen  
*Audubon Maryland-DC:* David Curson  
*Chesapeake Bay Foundation:* Doug Myers  
*Citizens Advisory Committee:* Adam Lindquist (Chair)  
*Council Fire:* George Chmael II  
*EcoLogix Group:* Steve Pattison  
*Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR):* Bruce Michael, Richard Ortt  
*Maryland Environmental Service (MES):* Tammy Banta, Jeff Halka, Jay Sullivan  
*Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE):* Matt Rowe  
*Maryland Department of Transportation:* John Denniston  
*Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA):* Sergio Adantor, Dave Blazer, Kristen Fidler, Jennifer Guthrie, Tom Hall, Margie Hamby, Katrina Jones, Kristen Keene, Dominic Scurti  
*University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES):* Dr. Peter Goodwin, Dave Nemazie  
*US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (CENAB):* Kevin Brennan, Graham McAllister, Jeremiah Spiga, Ray Tracy  
*US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP):* Michael Hart, Tim Kelly  
*US Fish and Wildlife Service:* Chris Guy

**Action Items:**

1. DMMP Management Committee members will brief their respective agency executives on the 2020 DMMP Annual Report and the upcoming November 13 and December 15 Executive Committee meetings' agendas.

**1.0 Introductions and Approval of Meeting Summary** **Ms. Kristen Fidler, MDOT MPA**  
Ms. Fidler welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. She stated that the meeting's primary purpose was to provide feedback and comments on the 2020 Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Report.

Ms. Fidler requested comments or changes for the September 23, 2020 DMMP Management Committee meeting summary. With no changes, a motion to accept the meeting summary passed unanimously.

**2.0 Discussion and Approval of DMMP Annual Report** **Dr. Peter Goodwin, UMCES**  
Dr. Goodwin stated that the DMMP Management Committee received a draft copy of the 2020 DMMP Annual Report in early October for review, and the Committee's feedback has since been incorporated. The annual report highlights the many successes of the DMMP despite an extremely challenging year, provides details related to funding and policy, planning and operations, outreach and education, and lists the 2021 DMMP recommendations.

Dr. Goodwin briefly reviewed the annual report highlights, including the shift to virtual meetings, which has allowed Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) to continue to engage with stakeholders and increase meeting attendance. The report also outlines priority projects and the DMMP's future focus including the Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use (IRBU) of dredged material applications, the Seagirt Loop Deepening study, and an assessment of external risks to the DMMP that could arise in the future. He emphasized how the DMMP is not only contributing to Maryland's prioritization of environmental justice but also has a legacy of doing so.

Dr. Goodwin stated that the updated annual report was shared with Committee members via email on October 27, and feedback will be accepted on this version of the report until November 12. The final draft report will be presented and approved by the DMMP Executive Committee on November 13. Dr. Goodwin stated the DMMP Management Committee members should contact MDOT MPA if there are specific aspects of the report they would like to be highlighted for the Executive Committee. The annual report is available for [download](#) and the 2020 highlights and 2021 recommendations will be presented by Dr. Goodwin at the Annual Meeting on November 6.

On November 6, the virtual Annual Meeting attendees will be welcomed by Ms. Fidler in a short video and then have the opportunity to tour the virtual exhibit hall, which will include aerial tours of the dredged material containment facilities (DMCFs), along with other videos available on [the microsite](#). Attendees will be prompted to join the virtual meeting at 9:15 am. Along with the Annual Meeting agenda items, MDOT MPA will commemorate the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Dredged Material Management Act and hear from stakeholders offering perspectives on the accomplishments of the DMMP. Ms. Fidler will close out the meeting with an interactive discussion on the future of the DMMP.

Mr. Lindquist stated that he believes the 2020 Annual Report is one of the most readable and relatable reports that has been produced by the DMMP and he agrees that the transition to virtual meetings has been very successful. In addition, it was also particularly remarkable that comments regarding climate change, environmental justice, and ensuring equitable stakeholder engagement were included within the report. Ms. Fidler thanked Mr. Lindquist for his consistent support and engagement in the DMMP.

Mr. Rowe stated that he would like to thank MDOT MPA and their team for communicating and engaging with the Committee and that he is grateful for having had ample opportunities to provide input in the report.

Ms. Fidler asked for a motion to approve the draft 2020 Annual Report as is with the understanding that there could be comments and changes up until November 12. A motion to approve the report passed unanimously.

### **3.0 Round Table Discussions: Activities and Issues of Significance Committee Members**

Dr. Goodwin congratulated Ms. Jones and Ms. Fidler for receiving the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay 2020 Maryland Watershed Champion awards for their community engagement and outreach efforts.

Mr. Lindquist stated that the Gwynns Falls Trash Wheel's tentative installation date is December 8, 2020. The installation of the Trash Wheel would not be possible without the assistance of MDOT MPA.

Mr. Myers stated that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is undergoing a transition as Alison Prost was named the Vice President of Environmental Protection Restoration, which may limit her serving as

an Executive Committee member. CBF is currently searching for a new executive director for their Maryland office.

Mr. Michael stated that he would like to express his gratitude to MDOT MPA and Maryland Environmental Service (MES) as they work on the development of the Hart-Miller Island (HMI) North Cell. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appreciates the support and efforts as they move forward with HMI's development into a state park to benefit Maryland residents, particularly those in the surrounding community. Though funding has been limited, DNR, MDOT MPA, and the Executive Committee continue to establish the long-term HMI memorandum of understanding agreement between MDOT MPA and DNR. Ms. Fidler stated that there would be a meeting on November 2 at MDOT MPA with the MDOT MPA attorney general to draft the HMI agreement. MDOT MPA hopes to have the agreement signed at the December 15 Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Blazer stated that there are two upcoming Executive Committee meetings, scheduled on November 13 and December 15. MDOT MPA requests that DMMP Management Committee members brief their respective agency executives on the 2020 DMMP Annual Report and the two upcoming Executive Committee meetings' agendas. The November 13 meeting will be similar to past meetings' typical format, including a report from the various DMMP committees and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Baltimore and Philadelphia districts. There will also be an approval of the 2020 Annual Report and the IRBU Strategy discussed at the April 24 Management Committee meeting. The IRBU Strategy includes recommendations to advance coastal resiliency activities in Maryland and was originally intended to be approved at the June 4 Executive Committee meeting, which was canceled.

The December 15 Executive Committee meeting will include a panel discussion regarding coastal resiliency and the DMMP. It will include presentations from Executive Committee agencies highlighting their coastal resiliency activities in Maryland and linkages to the DMMP. The discussion will focus on the technical, policy, and funding perspective of IRBU in coastal resiliency projects. Mr. Blazer encouraged committee members to contact him if they have thoughts regarding the discussion at the December 15 meeting.

Mr. Michael stated that coastal resiliency is a high priority for DNR and he will be briefing DNR Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio to explain the goals and objectives of the Executive Committee meetings and on the 2020 Annual Report. Mr. Rowe has discussed the panel within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and determined that MDE will be giving a presentation.

Dr. Goodwin provided an update of the academic community's progress with coastal resiliency as well as blue carbon. Professor Ming Lee (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science) received a planning grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a part of the Coastal Peoples (CoPe) program. The grant supports work to identify coastal resiliency research questions that should be considered for support by the NSF.

The academic community's plans for blue carbon have been delayed due to COVID-19, and the community was awaiting a report by the United Nations and other groups to quantify the amount of carbon that can be sequestered in coastal wetland restoration activities. The carbon quantification report was finally approved for release in September 2020. Developing an algorithm to more accurately quantify the amount of carbon sequestered in coastal wetland restorations allows new sources of funding, potentially from green investment funds for projects such as the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Restoration project (Mid-Bay) and other coastal wetland restoration projects.

The Blue Carbon Scientific and Technical Working Group (BCSTWG) has been working with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (Compass), which is a science organization that advocates for scientific issues to the US Congress. Blue carbon is one of the primary issues for Compass in 2020. Now that the United Nations report has been released, there is a sequence of upcoming webinars looking at different aspects of blue carbon. The webinars could determine the activities that Maryland agencies, such as MDE and DNR, are undertaking. He encouraged the USACE Baltimore and Philadelphia district representatives to participate and attend the webinars as well. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) has asked the BCSTWG to investigate whether the algorithm that the state of Maryland currently uses for carbon inventory can be modified, as there have been concerns by MDE that the current algorithm is too abstract and inaccessible. BCSTWG will be examining the improved methodology and algorithm with the first pilot project occurring in the Virginia Coastal Preserve in late November 2020. More information on the activities that BCSTWG is participating in can be found on their [webpage](#). Dr. Goodwin stated that RAE is also interested in living shorelines as a method for coastal protection.

Mr. Rowe stated that an additional opportunity for coordination by BCSTWG with MCCC is in the Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group (ARWG). ARWG is a subgroup of MCCC that determines Maryland's priorities for coastal resiliency and adaptation. ARWG's strategic plan is currently being updated and the group could coordinate with BCSTWG to see where alignment occurs with the Port of Baltimore's strategies and AWRG work. Mr. Rowe stated that Sandy Hertz (Assistant Director at the Office of Environment at MDOT) is very active in blue carbon work and encourages collaboration within MDOT to promote the work and leverage existing discussions. Mr. Rowe stated that MDE and the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) have discussed how to bring carbon accounting into the Chesapeake Bay restoration program. Mr. Rowe stated that there are many opportunities for the CBP to track carbon sequestration benefits on projects, such as living shorelines, as a way for entities interested in reducing their carbon footprint to provide new sources of funding.

Mr. Myers stated that he was involved in developing the first blue carbon tidal wetlands methodology for restoration, which has recently been updated by the RAE conservation methodology to allow for crediting preservation of existing tidal marshes, not just restoration. This will include the marshes protected from erosion by projects, like the east side of the Mid-Bay project, not just the new acreage of the islands themselves. Mr. Myers stated that it is important to quantify the carbon benefit, potentially as a part of the USACE's cost-benefit methodology, as an ecosystem service beyond the fish and wildlife value. The online [COMET-Farm](#) tool allows for side-by-side carbon accounting for many Chesapeake Bay best management practices, especially for agriculture.

#### **4.0 Closing Comments and Adjournment** **MPA**

**Mr. Dave Blazer, MDOT**

Ms. Ashley reminded Committee members to register for the November 6 DMMP Annual Meeting if they have not already. Registration is not required, but it is encouraged. Mr. Blazer stated that the next DMMP Executive Committee meeting will occur on November 13, with a second meeting on December 15. Mr. Blazer thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned.