

**SUMMARY OF THE JOINT DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE & HARBOR TEAM MEETING
February 10, 2021 6:00 PM
Video Conference**

Attendees:

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works (DPW): Chris Phipps
Angie Ashley Consulting: Angie Ashley
Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS): David Riter
Blue Water Baltimore: Daniel O'Leary
Council Fire: Andrew Bing
Dundalk Renaissance Corporation: Amy Menzer
EcoLogix Group: Steve Pattison
Hart Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee: Paul Brylske
Interested Citizen: William Feuer
Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance: Doug West
Living Classrooms Foundation: Christine Truett, Lorraine Warnick
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Rachel Gilde
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Dave Bibo,
Kristen Fidler, Margie Hamby, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Amanda Peñafiel
Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee: Anita Kestel
National Aquarium: Laura Bankey
North Point Peninsula Council: Fran Taylor
Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team: Stuart Stainman
Port America Chesapeake: Solomon Egbe
Resource Environmental Solutions: Travis Cook
Terracon: Nancy Straub
Turner Station Conservation Teams: Gloria Nelson
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES): Elizabeth Price
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Trevor Cyran, Ray Tracy
Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore: Adam Lindquist

Action Items

1. *Ms. Fidler stated that Tradepoint Atlantic is a strong partner to the Port of Baltimore and will follow up with more accurate data about their contribution to the cargo statistics noted, including an increase in automobiles.*
 - a. *The cargo statistics referenced in the State of the Port overview were for the public terminals only and did not include private terminal operators, such as TPA.*
 - b. *TPA's [Spring 2021 Newsletter can be downloaded here.](#)*
2. *MDOT MPA will provide more details on the bay crossing study.*
 - a. *More information about the MDTA Bay Crossing Study can be found here: <https://www.baycrossingstudy.com/>*
3. *Ms. Keene will follow up on the possibility to see if the manufactured soil can be used on a test plot at Hart Miller Island.*

Welcome - Angie Ashley, CAC Facilitator

Ms. Ashley convened the meeting at 6:00 pm and welcomed all committee members. All files for the meeting are available in the [file share folder linked here](#).

Adam Lindquist asked for a motion to approve the August meeting summary; the summary was approved without comments.

Mr. Lindquist announced the 4th trash wheel in Gwynns Falls partially funded by Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA). The trash wheel construction is complete. The name and googly eyes will be revealed in the near future. Final installation is awaiting installation for pilings in the stream. It is anticipated the project will be complete in 4-6 weeks upon receiving a quote for installation.

Waterfront Partnership is embarking on the master planning process for the development of a comprehensive system of water trails in Baltimore Harbor. The Baltimore Blueway Master Plan process will engage stakeholder groups and will include evaluating the feasibility of new access sites, making recommendations for rules and regulations related to paddling in the Baltimore Harbor, and ultimately produce a strong Master Plan that will be used to promote the Baltimore Blueway and raise funds for implementation.

Harbor Development Update - Kristen Fidler

This year's theme: Commemorating Dredged Material Management Act of 2001 and the 10th anniversary of the Harbor Team. MDOT MPA appreciates the committee members for volunteering and for continued participation and feedback. Everyone is encouraged to view the reflective video celebrating the 20th year of DMMA at <https://maryland-dmmp.com/>.

State of the Port

The total closeout numbers for 2020 continued to be encouraging, with significant increases in multiple cargo sectors, even with the low points in May and June due to COVID. Front line and essential workers continue to keep this Port infrastructure strong.

Recommendation from the 2020 Annual Report

The 2020 Annual Report released in November 2020 at the Annual Meeting, includes recommendations that will guide 2021 efforts and can be found at maryland-dmmp.com portal. The report highlights the DMMP: Funding & Policy; Planning & Operations; and Outreach & Education. The recommendations underscore the importance of engaging all stakeholders equitably, recruiting DMMP committee members that reflect the diversity adjacent project sites, and coordinating with communities impacted by the Port.

Virtual Outreach

Virtual tours of the dredged material containment sites are available on the [maryland-dmmp](http://maryland-dmmp.com) portal. There will be a spotlight webinar series to share in-depth information with a broader range of stakeholders. The first webinar is scheduled for February 24th on coastal resiliency; the second schedule for May 19th will provide information on the Mid Bay Island Eco-restoration project.

Hart-Miller Island (HMI)

MDOT MPA and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continue to collaborate on the final restoration designs of the HMI North Cell with critical input from the HMI Citizen Oversight Committee (COC). Although 35 years of exterior monitoring at HMI has not shown negative impacts due to operations, the HMI COC requested monitoring continue in some manner. The operations team is working to identify the

water quality, sediment quality, discharge permits to ensure a holistic effort, and MDOT MPA will review existing monitoring tools to avoid duplicating efforts as they make a plan for future documentation.

Masonville Cove/Masonville DMCF

The portal at masonvillecove.org has been updated with virtual environmental education resources and activities and access to the eagle nest cam. MDOT MPA and the Masonville partners are actively working to advance public access to the site through the design of a multimodal trail along Frankfurst Avenue that would connect to the trail being designed by Greater Baltimore Alliance and Harbor Hospital trail network. Funds from the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) will be applied to final design. Andrew Bing will lead in the coordination as the project advances.

Given that Masonville Cove was closed four months due to COVID, there were 1,135 visitors, the second highest annual visitor total with increased neighbor visitation.

Virginia Bay Enhancement Workgroup (BEWG)

Wolf Trap Alternate Placement Site (WTAPS) in Virginia has historically been the placement site for York Spit Channel dredging. MDOT MPA is actively working with Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Corps of Engineers, and other stakeholders to address the Commonwealth's concerns related to overwintering female crabs. A workgroup will convene to explore a variety of potential solutions. Beneficial use of dredged material is at the heart of those discussions.

Virtual Career & Hiring Event

In partnership with the Baltimore Port Alliance, the Port is currently recruiting exhibitors targeting maritime employees for its virtual hiring and career expo on March 10th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Information for job seekers will be issued later this month. Last year's in-person hiring and career expo included 33 exhibitors and 300 job seekers. Katrina Jones is the point of contact for this event.

Additional Updates

Dave Blazer recently retired from his position as Chief of Outreach, Policy, and Permits. The current Harbor Development staff is very capable of working together in to make sure operations continue. An announcement of the new office structure is to follow.

The environmental assessment for the Howard Street Tunnel project will soon be released for public review and comment. The DMMP committees will be notified when the document is made available.

*QUESTION(Fran Taylor) -How much of the increase in activity at the Port is due to Tradepoint Atlantic?
RESPONSE: Ms. Fidler stated that Tradepoint Atlantic is a significant partner for the Port of Baltimore and will follow-up with more accurate data related to TPA's contribution to the cargo statistics referenced. The new MDOT MPA Executive Director continues to foster a strong partnership with Tradepoint Atlantic.*

Mr. Lindquist congratulated MPA on virtual efforts that demonstrated that citizen engagement is at the center of its mission during the pandemic.

Project Planning and Operations - Holly Miller Harbor DMCF Operations

Ms. Miller reviewed the three dredging inflow projects which were completed in 2020. Material from the Federal Channel Maintenance and Baltimore City Fleet Week projects were placed at Masonville, and maintenance dredging from Tradepoint Atlantic was placed at Cox Creek.

Projects scheduled for 2021 include Seagirt Berth 3 deepening & maintenance and ongoing project; Seagirt Berth 3 pocket dredging; Amports; National Gypsum; Tradepoint Atlantic; and Colgate Creek/Dundalk Berth 3.

Seagirt Berth 3 Improvement Project

Once complete, the Seagirt Berth 3 Improvement Project will add a second 50' berth to Seagirt Marine Terminal. The project includes deepening the berth and channel and dredging wideners for the safe navigation of the larger vessels calling on the Port of Baltimore. A total of approximately 481,000 cy of dredging is to be completed by MDOT MPA, and 32,000 cy for the pocket dredging alongside the berth will be completed by Ports America Chesapeake in summer 2021. To date, the project is on schedule to be finished by the end of April 2021.

Cox Creek Expansion

Widening of base dike is nearing completion. The next phase of the project is to raise the dikes to +60 feet and expand onto the adjacent upland area. Construction will begin in March 2021, pending receipt of all necessary permits, and is expected to be completed in February 2024 if everything stays on schedule.

Masonville DMCF

Masonville dike raising activities are currently on hold due to COVID related funding constraints. However, the site continues to actively receive inflow projects. Spillway modifications are also underway to ensure effective water management during inflow activities and crust management. At the adjacent Masonville Cove campus, the nesting bald eagles have returned for the third year in a row and appear to be actively sitting in the nest.

Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD)

The DMMP is continuing to build on the success of the CAD Pilot project that was constructed in the Masonville vessel berth. An effort to collect data gaps from the pilot project was initiated in the fall of 2020, specifically related to geological conditions, hydrodynamic and wave modeling, and environmental conditions. The current evaluation will make it possible to narrow down potential sites to three to five options. Report findings are expected by the end of February 2021.

QUESTION (Mr. Stainman) - Will funding delays in Masonville DMCF expansion cause any problems in the short or long term in finding sites to place dredged material, and how long are the delays expected to last?

RESPONSE: Ms. Miller replied that MDOT MPA does not know when funding will be restored, but MDOT MPA continues to advocate for funding. The assessment indicated that in the short-term, projects can be accommodated. However, for the long-term, construction needs to be back on track by FY 2024.

Ms. Fidler confirmed that the team is continuing to get permits in hand and design efforts for the spillway improvements are underway, so everything will be ready as soon as funding is restored. Conversations are continuing with leadership, and the team is always planning for contingency and back-up solutions.

US Army Corps of Engineers Report – Ray Tracy and Trevor Cyran, Baltimore District

Ray Tracy

Baltimore Harbor & Channels Maintenance Dredging

Dredged Material Management Program
Citizens' Advisory Committee & Harbor Team Meeting
February 10, 2020
Final Meeting Summary

The FY21 Work Plan was announced in January and for Baltimore Harbor, included funds for additional operations and maintenance dredging, repairs to the Debris Vessel REYNOLDS, and Energy Transfer Port (ETP) Funds.

A solicitation has been issued for maintenance dredging of just under 2 mcy from the Craighill Angle and Swan Point channels with material to be placed at the newly constructed cells at Poplar Island. Award is anticipated in March.

This summer, ~2.3 mcy material from Cape Henry maintenance dredging will be placed at the Dam Neck Ocean Disposal Site.

Also planned for this summer 2021 is ~500K cy for the Harbor and ~1M cy from Maryland approach channels. The Maryland approach channel material will be placed at Poplar Island, but the placement site for the Harbor project has not been determined.

Mid-Bay Island (2,072 acre site, 95MCY capacity)

The district has received \$5.4M in Pre-construction Engineering & Design funds, and an additional \$385k was received in FY 21 for Mid-Bay, which will fully fund design completion. Topographic surveys and soil sampling work are being performed by MPA as work-in-kind, and have been substantially completed.

Barren Island is progressing toward 35% design, due in April 2021. The design of the Barren Island component is expected to take 27 months and is expected to be complete March 2022. Construction of the Barren Island component is scheduled to begin in 2022.

Kick-off of James Island master planning will also begin in April 2021. The design component is expected to be complete April 2024, and construction of the perimeter dike is scheduled to begin in 2024.

The postponed 2020 outreach event will be rescheduled in 2021 as travel/meeting restrictions allow. In the meantime, outreach material is available to the public via the website. Congressional, Senatorial, and Dorchester County delegation tours of Poplar Island can hopefully be scheduled for this spring.

Seagirt Loop Deepening Study

NAB received \$1.5M for the Seagirt Loop Deepening Study in the FY20 Work Plan. The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) was executed on September 22, 2020. The Project Management Plan (PMP) will be completed in March 2021. The next major milestone, completion of the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) is scheduled for September 20, 2021.

Trevor Cyran

Poplar Island

The lateral expansion of Poplar Island, the expansion structures are now all complete, and the new expansion cells are ready to receive material during the 2020-2021 inflow cycle. With the completed expansion, Poplar Island is now a 1,715 acre site, with a total capacity of 68 mcy. The expanded site will allow placement through the 2032/2033 dredging cycle.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Stainman regarding the expected inflow on Poplar, Mr. Tracy indicated that inflow could happen as early as March or April 2021 once a notice to proceed is issued.

Ms. Jones provided an update on the Poplar Island Terrapin headstart program. Because students are not meeting in the classroom due to COVID, terrapins were not assigned to classes, but were placed with program partners at MES, National Aquarium, Chespax in Cecil County, and Schmidt Center in PG County for virtually terrapin activities.

Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use Update (IRBU) (Kristen Keene)

Ms. Keene acknowledged that the DMMA of 2001 has led to the development of state regulatory guidance and made it possible to advocate for demonstration projects using dredged sediment. The Act prohibited open water placement of dredged material, with exception of beneficial use and prioritized dredged material placement options in the following hierarchy:

1. Innovative Reuse and Beneficial Use
2. Upland Sites & Other Environmentally Sound Confined Capacity
3. Expansion of Existing Facilities
4. Other Options to Meet Long-Term Placement Needs

Ms. Keene provided a brief timeline highlighting the development of the Innovative Reuse Committee, the first demonstration project, and the Harbor Team report recommendation to investigate IR further to determine if this tool could become a viable component of the DMMP.

In 2020 the refined and refreshed IRBU strategy focuses on four pillars:

Policy/Regulatory - Interagency coordination to continue updating guidelines and specifications

Technical - Advancing Beneficial Use of dredged material to address coastal resiliency needs

Education & Stakeholder Engagement - Focus on dredged material end user

Program Implementation - Improve operational efficiencies & pursue new partnerships

The IR program is helping to support the revitalization of the recreational area at Ridgely's Cove Remedial Capping Project in the Middle Branch with 22,000 cy of blended material from Cox Creek.

Fleming Park restoration project is on track. MDOT MPA was able to provide community based co-benefits project. The Secretary's grant allowed MPA to participate in phase I Pre-design investigation is complete and the final report has been drafted.

Ms. Keene provided an overview of the IRBU Requests for Proposals. The proposals will support applied research and development projects to explore feasible reuse applications for Harbor dredged material and allow MDOT MPA an opportunity to better understand the potential for cost-effective capacity recovery of significant volumes from within the DMCF. MDOT MPA will document lessons learned, adaptive management approaches, and scalability with an eye on future opportunities to recover capacity in DMCFs. To date, 11 proposals have been received, with five contracts awarded, four under review, and two were rejected.

QUESTION (Paul Brylske) - At HMI North Cell has developed test plots to see what can grow. Would it be possible to see if the manufactured soil can be used on a test plot?

RESPONSE: Ms. Keene will follow up on the possibility.

The IRC will host a series of workshops this year to focus on implementing the 2021 strategy. The workshops will be engaging, fun and interactive, variety of topics, soliciting feedback from committee members to help advance the strategy items. The meetings can be accessed through the maryland-dmmp portal.

QUESTION (Stuart Stainman) - Besides the Ridgley Cove and Turner Station projects, there are many other shoreline areas in other Baltimore County locations, Dorchester County, etc. Is there communication with counties about more projects?

RESPONSE: Kristen Keene - Counties are partnering with us and are making progress using their own dredged material in shoreline projects. For example, they used dredged material in Jack Creek Park to restore a shoreline in Anne Arundel County. MDOT MPA will continue to partner with counties to provide dredged material when requested.

Round Table – Adam Lindquist

In an effort to improve communications and coordination, Mr. Lindquist met with the chairs of the other DMMP committees,

Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee - Anita Kestel

Ms. Kestel has been a member of the Masonville CAC since its inception 12 years ago. The current main focus is public access, and the committee is happy to the effort move forward. The MCAC is currently meeting twice a year but would like to add one more meeting plus the annual meeting to get members more engaged.

Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee – Gary Gakenheimer

Mr. Gakenheimer was not able to attend.

Hart Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee - Paul Brylske

Mr. Brylske applauded MDOT MPA has been very thoughtful with concerns about monitoring; as HMI is transitioning from dredged material containment site to state park, the purpose of the oversight committee is shifting from oversight to supporting recreation and programming. As of January 11, 2011, Friends of Hart Miller Island is now a 501 C3 Nonprofit to support efforts of DNR. They are collaborating with DNR for a clean-up event on May 1st and 2nd. Shout out to Fran Taylor for his involvement in the executive committee for the Friends group.

Mr. Lindquist expressed that speaking with the chairs of the DMCF's provides an opportunity to reflect on the life cycle of each of the project sites, from being a workgroup to transitioning to a Friends Group.

QUESTION (Stuart Stainman) - What is the timing for the next stages and whether Turner Station has looked to other Chesapeake Bay funding sources for building up the park at Turner Station.

RESPONSE: Gloria Nelson - The team has looked at other funding sources, such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other grants, but also expects some assistance from Baltimore County in Phase II. The community was very pleased to learn from the testing that the water is not as contaminated as everyone thought it would be.

Mr. Stainman encouraged pursuing funding from the Chesapeake Bay Program because it aligns with overall goals to increase access to the water. Ms. Nelson stated that they will continue to pursue all funding options and confirmed a private donation was received from Chesapeake Bay Foundation early on.

QUESTION IN CHAT BOX (Doug West) - Are there any updates on the Bay Crossing Study/New Bay bridge span?

RESPONSE: MDOT MPA will provide more details to the CAC.

Next Meeting The next scheduled joint Harbor Team/Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is May 12. A meeting agenda will be forwarded in advance of the meeting.