

Memorandum

TO: Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee

FROM: Rebecca Kreatschman – MES

DATE: July 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Next meeting – July 20, 2021

The next meeting of the Hart-Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee (HMI COC) will be held **ON SITE** on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. **The boat pick up time will be 5:30 pm at the Maryland Environmental Service's (MES) land base at 2024A Riverview Rd in Essex, MD. Please arrive a few minutes early, as the boat will leave promptly at 5:30 pm.** The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) will provide dinner. All attendees must confirm their attendance as well as number of guests and mode of transportation to Margie Hamby at (410) 385-4419 or mhamby@marylandports.com by July 19, 2021.

Attached for your review is a copy of the minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting.

SUMMARY OF HART-MILLER ISLAND
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 20, 2021 – 6:30PM
Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Baltimore County Seventh District: Paul Brylske (Chairman)

Baltimore County Sixth District: Absent

Citizens: George Banville

Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Bruce Michael, Brett Prochazka

Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration: David Bibo,
Kristen Fidler, Margie Hamby, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Amanda Peñafiel

Maryland Environmental Service: Kenna Oseroff, Lincoln Tracy, Lien Vu

North Point Peninsula Community Council: Fran Taylor

Sports Fishermen: Absent

Action Items:

- MDOT MPA will develop and distribute an annual 2020 HMI comprehensive monitoring report (draft) for COC review and comment.
- Paul Brylske will discuss with the Friends Group and absent COC members if they would like to have the comprehensive monitor presentation presented.

1.0 Welcome & Opening Remarks

Paul Brylske, Chair

All members approved the January 2021 meeting summary with no changes.

2.0 North Cell/South Cell Updates

Lincoln Tracy

North Cell

Mr. Tracy informed the Committee that MES Operations is maintaining the pond elevation at 37.5 ft. Spillways 007 and 009 are opened periodically to release ponded water as a result of precipitation. The perimeter trench is being advanced toward the interior to manage slopes.

South Cell

Spillway 003 is operated to maintain the cell elevation at 18.5 ft.

3.0 HMI Exterior Monitoring Discussion

Kristen Fidler

A presentation on concluding HMI Exterior Monitoring was presented to Mr. Brylske and Mr. Taylor on April 19, 2021, in advance of the COC meeting. Since no other members were present at the April 20, 2021 it was not presented at this meeting, but can be found [linked here](#). If requested, the presentation will be available for a future COC and/or a Friends Group meeting. A consensus was reached with the COC that in order to ensure maintained environmental and public health in and around HMI, MDOT MPA and MES will continue groundwater sampling and data analysis on a bi-annual basis, and all other ongoing on-site and discharge monitoring.

A new comprehensive monitoring summary report will also be developed annually and will include visitation and other HMI State park / South Cell public access data from DNR. A draft will be provided to the COC for review and comment, and the final results will be presented to the HMI COC and/or HMI Friends Group. The 2020 report will be used as a template for future reports.

4.0 Friends of HMI

Paul Brylske

The Spring “clean-up” event is scheduled for May 1, 2021, pending weather conditions (*Update – event cancelled due to high winds*). The Friends want to expand current programs, emphasize education and recreation opportunities at HMI, grow membership and fundraise to support programs. A fund-raising event is scheduled on May 8, 2021 at Bill’s Boats across from Pleasure Island.

A Strategy session will be held in the Fall to plan for the activities for 2022.

5.0 DNR Report

Brett Prochazka

DNR has discussed the development of an emergency plan for HMI in the event of an incident. Equipment currently being serviced includes boats. DNR will be prioritizing a list to prepare the Park and South Cell for visitors this season. DNR hired the same four seasonal personnel as last year. The South Cell access will be opened on May 1, 2021 and the Park will operate on the same schedule as last year, 10am-6pm from Wednesday through Sunday (closed on Monday and Tuesday).

Activities for Eagle Scout projects may include establishing new camp sites, installing lantern posts, picnic tables and fire rings.

Bruce Michael announced his retirement. Richard Ortt, Director of DNR’s MD Geological Survey, will be the new DNR representative to the HMI COC Committee. Committee members thanked Mr. Michael for his participation over the years.

6.0 South Cell IGA

The HMI IGA summary was submitted to the COC after it was finalized in February 2020. There was discussion concerning the last bullet on the document which addressed the infrastructure. Both MPA and DNR are open to receiving recommendations from the COC for future uses. It was noted that that previously DNR Waterway had developed concepts for providing improved waterside access for recreational boaters including additional piers. These concepts should be revisited with the COC/Friends Group.

7.0 Tours

Mr. Taylor expressed an interest in future HMI tours as vaccinations are now available. Currently due to COVID restrictions, tours remain on hold. Ms. Fidler advised Mr. Taylor to send in a tour request and MDOT MPA will we determine if it is possible as guidelines for public access are currently being review and updated.

Mr. Bibo announced 2021 meetings schedule as follows:

- July 20, 2021
- September 21, 2021: Site Tour (Tentative) **
- October 19, 2021

**If the site tours are cancelled due to continuing COVID safety protocols, no meeting will be held.

Meeting was adjourned.