

SUMMARY OF HART-MILLER ISLAND
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

July 20, 2021 – 5:30PM

On-site Meeting

Attendees:

Baltimore County Seventh District: Paul Brylske (Chairman)

Baltimore County Sixth District: Karen Wynn

Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Sara Riter

*Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration: David Bibo,
Katrina Jones, Amanda Peñafiel*

*Maryland Environmental Service: Lincoln Tracy, Lien Vu, Rebecca Kreatschman, Tim
Carney, James Cooper*

North Point Peninsula Community Council: Fran Taylor

Sports Fishermen: Sam Waver

Essex Middle River Civic Council: Absent

Maryland Waterways Foundation: Desirae Williams, Angel Sarabia

Friends of Hart-Miller Island: Tony Correlli

*Others Present: Senator Salling and Mrs. Salling, Devin Crum, Dr. Frederick Strieder,
Thomas Evans, Joe Corcoran*

Action item: The HMI COC will review the draft annual report that was submitted and provide feedback on content or format. Once a consensus is reached, this will be used as the Annual report template for future reports

1.0 Facility Tour

An onsite facility tour was conducted with Tim Carney who identified various waterfowl around the North and South Cells.

2.0 Welcome & Opening Remarks

Paul Brylske, Chair

After introductions, the April 20, 2021 meeting summary was approved. Members from the HMI Friends Group and interns from Maryland Waterways Foundation were present.

3.0 HMI Monitoring Program

Amanda Peñafiel

At the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Year 35 Exterior Monitoring report was presented. 35 Years of monitoring showed that there have been no adverse effects to the surrounding environment related to HMI operations. As a result, the principal investigators deemed it reasonable to discontinue exterior monitoring.

In response to some HMI COC concerns about concluding exterior monitoring, MPA gave a presentation at the April 2021 meeting. The goals and objectives of the presentation were to:

1. Ensure maintained environmental and public health in/around Hart Miller Island

2. Provide transparent and effective communications tools to continue to build trust with the public
3. Reach consensus with HMI Citizens Oversight Committee on path forward

A matrix was developed to capture the various sampling, reporting and monitoring efforts currently underway and those that have taken place and/or are completed to identify any potential data gaps between the Exterior Monitoring program and those various other monitoring efforts. The results of the matrix showed that all Exterior Monitoring parameters are monitored with the existing onsite HMI monitoring with the exception of Benthic ID through the B-IBI index. The principal investigators found no trend of increasing or decreasing B-IBI scores associated with proximity to HMI.

Various monitoring efforts are conducted at HMI including groundwater and discharge monitoring.

- Groundwater monitoring is conducted at 6 wells (3 in the North Cell and 3 in the South Cells) located on the exterior dike around HMI. Sampling is completed on a biannual basis in June and December. Samples are collected and analyzed for dissolved metals, dissolved nutrients, along with field parameters. Data entered into a well database and examined for trends. All results have been below SWQS and in most circumstances below EPA drinking water standards.
- All water leaving the facility is required to meet requirements set forth by HMI's Discharge Permit issued by MDE. Discharge monitoring has been conducted since 1986. Through years of monitoring, MDE has recognized improved water quality at HMI. The most current permit (issued April 2020) has reduced monitoring requirements for metals (monthly to quarterly for Nickel, Copper and Zinc, removal of Selenium) for the North Cell. Testing of the South Cell Spillway 003 resulted in continued non-detect results for metals and other contaminants. MDE recognized that the South Cell is fully restored and functioning as wildlife habitat, and therefore removed all monitoring requirements from the discharge permit.

With onsite monitoring, samples are taken directly from the interior of HMI and represent a direct measure/indicator of HMI Environmental Quality. Results are not impacted by outside factors/variables in comparison to exterior monitoring. These results help guide site operations.

Moving forward, the next steps are:

- To ensure maintained environmental and public health in/around HMI through continuation of groundwater sampling, discharge monitoring and other onsite monitoring.
- To provide transparent and effective communications tools to continue to build trust with the public. This will include an annual monitoring report with results and findings from all monitoring events that are currently being conducted at HMI including discharge monitoring, groundwater monitoring, SAV, spillway reference sampling, nutrient sampling, algae sampling, NC transect sampling and it will also include Park usage data from DNR. In addition, the results will be presented to the HMI COC and/or HMI Friends Group annually.

PowerPoint slides from the April 2021 presentation can be sent out to anyone who would like them or upon request the presentation can also be given.

4.0 DNR Update

Sara Riter

DNR provided updates about the HMI State Park and South Cell Public Access regarding the campsites along the beach, snowball concessions, and bike rentals. DNR is working on maintenance to the state park bathroom and removing the compost from the clivus restroom system. HMI was featured in a Find Your Chesapeake article. There will be no 5-miler HMI Foot Race for the 2021 season due to the COVID pandemic and timing for planning. DNR will re-evaluate the race for next year.

5.0 Open Discussion

Senator Salling mentioned the educational value of HMI to Baltimore County students. It would be desirable to have school students study the environmental and habitat aspects of the facility.

6.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on September 21, 2021 and will be onsite at HMI (*meeting was cancelled*). The last meeting of 2021 is set for October 19, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.