

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MASONVILLE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 15, 2021, 5:30PM
Virtual Meeting**

Attendees:

Angie Ashley Consulting: Angie L. Ashley

Baltimore Bird Club: Nancy O'Hare

Canton Kayak Club: Ray Scurr

Greater Baybrook Alliance: Meredith Chaiken

Harbor Hospital: Brian Gray

Hispanic Access Foundation Intern: Pamela Pina

Kramer & Associates: Andrew Bing

Living Classrooms Foundation: Lorraine Warnick

Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Bertrand Djiki, Kristen Fidler, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Amanda Peñafiel

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Rachael Glide

MCAC Chair: Anita Kestel

National Aquarium: Andrea Van Wyk

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Ela-Sita Carpenter

Vulcan Materials: Rob Flanagan

Action Items:

1. MDOT MPA will provide an update about the booms at the recently installed Gwynnda, the Good Wheel of the West trash wheel. *(Complete)*
2. MDOT MPA will provide Ray Scurr of Canton Kayak Club contact information for the Maryland Geocaching Society to talk about introducing geocaching at some of their sites. *(Complete)*
3. Distribute the Masonville Cove Multi-Modal Trail Fact Sheet presented during the FLAP presentation and have it translated into Spanish. *(in progress)*
4. Include contact information for Ela-Sita Carpenter and Andrew Bing:
 - a. Ela-Sita Carpenter: Cell: (757) 619-2686 Email: Ela_Carpenter@fws.gov
 - b. Andrew Bing: (410) 271-1783 Email: abing@kramerassociates.net

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 April 6, 2021, MCAC meeting summary. The summary was approved unanimously.

2.0 Harbor Development and Cove Updates

Kristen Fidler, MDOT MPA

- Ms. Fidler explained that the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Restoration project is in the final design phase. It is anticipated that Barren Island will begin construction in the spring of 2022. The Corps of Engineers is in the process of securing federal construction funds. A project newsletter was recently mailed to stakeholders largely in the Dorchester County area but is available online at Maryland-dmmp.com. As part of the Spotlight Series, a webinar focused on Mid-Bay was held and is available on the Port of Baltimore YouTube Channel and at Maryland-dmmp.com under the Connect button.

- The Cox Creek expansion project continues to move forward and is fully funded for the construction of the +60 dike raising. The base dike has been widened to 200' and a uniformed elevation of +36'; it was built with reclaimed material on site. Construction of the elevated dike should begin in late summer. Inflow of dredged material will continue to take place during construction and will net at capacity of 7.6 mcy.
- Innovative Reuse (IR) remains a priority for the MDOT MPA for long-term capacity. The Ridgley Cove project, a partnership with Baltimore Development Corporation and Baltimore City, has provided an opportunity to supply 22,000 cy of blended dredged material to be used as a remedial cap for the park restoration.
- The IR Research and Development RFP remains open and five proposals are underway, with four additional proposals under review. Once the results of those studies are available, they will be shared with DMMP committees.
- Approximately 4,000 cy of material will be reused at Cox Creek. August 24th is the next Innovative Reuse workshop to advance the Innovative Reuse Strategy.
- Negotiations continue with property owners of the parcel adjacent to Cox Creek DMCF, which is intended for large-scale, long-term innovative reuse.
- MDE recently released a user-friendly demonstration video on YouTube explaining how to use the [Confirmation of Suitability Forms](#) for the innovative reuse and beneficial use of dredged material for anyone interested in using dredged material.
- The Turner Station Conservation Team continues to work with Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others on the Fleming Park shoreline restoration project which is being designed to use Harbor channel dredged material to help stabilize the shoreline and improve the park. MDOT MPA has been working with the project team through an MDOT Secretary's Grant as they move forward to secure permits and funding for the project. Once the design plan is complete, we can have a presentation presented to this committee.
- The POB now has two 50' berths operated by Ports America Chesapeake that can accommodate two ultra-large vessels at the same time and will have four new post-Panamax mega cranes delivered later this summer.
- There is a Seagirt Loop Study underway by the Corps of Engineers to look at deepening and widening the remainder of the Seagirt Loop Channel to support safe vessel traffic using the channel. The draft report will be released in November for public review.
- The Hart Miller Island Citizens Oversight Committee, which has been active for 40 years, has created the Friends of Hart Miller Island to help promote and enhance public activities that happen at the island.
- Gwynnda, the Good Wheel of the West, was recently unveiled at the mouth of the Gwynns Falls and is the final installation supported by the mitigation of Masonville DMCF construction.

Mr. Gray mentioned that he noticed that one of the arms of the boom was not attached and inquired if it was the result of a recent storm. Ms. Fidler replied that MDOT MPA will connect with Waterfront Partnership to get further details.

Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA

- Ms. Jones provided an overview of the level of public participation even during COVID. 2020 boasted the second highest visitation in the history of Masonville Cove, despite the COVID 19 crisis. There were 1,135 visitors in 2020 compared to over 1,400 visitors in 2019, which had more planned special events celebrating the 10th anniversary of the site.
- 23% of those visitors were from the neighboring communities of Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Cherry Hill, and of those, 34% were first-time visitors. There were only six planned outdoor events in 2020, including the annual Urban Wildlife Refuge Day event, which marked the highest one-time event attendance. Visitors were encouraged to complete a feedback form asking how they learned about Masonville Cove if they wanted to support the site in some way, and how they would rate their experience. Overall, there was 100% satisfaction rated best or good.
- There were several self-led activities organized throughout the year including on-site scavenger hunts, geocaching, and book walks. Masonville Cove was selected as one of ten sites as part of the Maryland Geocaching Society's annual Cache Across Maryland (CAM) 2020 where geocachers have approximately three months to visit designated sites in different areas of the state to find hidden treasure boxes.
- When it was not possible for the community to come to Masonville Cove, Living Classrooms Foundation and the partners created 1,496 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and Environmental Education (EE) take-home activity kits which were distributed locally at neighborhood meal distribution sites, and during the Brooklyn Branch library winter coat drive.
- During virtual programs, 401 participants participated in 17 programs targeting local school and after-school programs, community recreation centers, and the public.
- The partnership received over 10,000 engagements on multiple innovative online platforms including the Masonvillecove.org website, social media for both [Friends of Masonville Cove](#) and [Captain Trash Wheel](#), educational videos, and the Masonville Cove virtual tour.

Anita Kestel asked if there was a lot of increased interest in the site because of geocaching. Ms. Jones explained that there were 212 logged finds as part of the challenge and some of the comments indicated that many were unaware of Masonville Cove but thought it was a great place to visit, especially since it is on the water with a great view of the city.

Ray Scurr of Canton Kayak Club requested information about the Maryland Geocaching Society to talk about introducing geocaching at some of their sites.

3.0 Access & Frankfurst FLAP Trail Kick-Off

Andrew Bing, Kramer & Associates

Ms. Fidler introduced Mr. Bing who is contracted by MDOT MPA to assist and advance increased and improved access to Masonville Cove. Mr. Bing has worked with many of the other MDOT units and will be able to help to design a multi-use trail to the facility.

Mr. Bing stated that he will be overseeing the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant that was awarded to MDOT MPA. The grant will allow for 100% design of the multi-use trail to Masonville Cove and perhaps could include the start of construction. The trail will be along Frankfurst Avenue and will

connect to the trail being designed by Greater Baybrook Alliance that will end at MedStar Harbor Hospital. This trail will be a link to the larger trail network that will bring our closest community members to Masonville, as well as those outside of the immediate area.

Public outreach and stakeholder engagement with the communities will be at the core of the effort. A Masonville Cove Multi-Modal Trail factsheet has been created and was distributed to this committee. Consideration will be given to stakeholders that may be impacted by the trail, including surrounding businesses and users of Frankfurst Avenue.

Meredith Chaiken of Greater Baybrook Alliance explained that they are also in the process of receiving funds for their trail and would like to coordinate so that the messages about the two trails are in sync as outreach begins with the communities.

Ms. Kestel expressed that Masonville Cove is a great project and would like to see this effort culminate into a media event once there's a kick-off to show how we're bringing the city and communities together. Ms. Fidler mentioned that the federal agencies are very supportive of the project, want to see photos of the progress, and will feature it as a national model.

4.0 DMCF Construction & Operations

Bertrand Djiki, MDOT MPA

Mr. Djiki explained that Masonville construction and dike raising activities have resumed, which had been suspended due to funding issues. During this year, dredged sediment was received from the Seagirt Berth 3 deepening and widening, and improvements to South Locust Point Berths 10-12. Material is also being received from the Colgate Creek widening project with four upcoming projects planned for the dredging season. They include Seagirt Berth 3 pocket dredging, maintenance dredging for Amports and National Gypsum (private terminals), and Dundalk Berth 3.

Mr. Djiki explained the spillway alternative method that will be used to effectively manage the water in the DMCF. Currently, a 12" pipe is being used to pump out the water once it reaches permit levels, however, an innovative alternative will be used in the near future. The traditional spillway will be converted to a floating weir/pumping system and a floating platform with a walkway and safety railing on the perimeter will be used for access to and staging of discharge monitoring equipment. This will be a significant cost-saving measure once implemented.

Design is completed for the base dike widening to +18' to provide the foundation to raise the dikes to +30'. This construction phase is planned to start this fall pending Dam Safety Modification Permit approval and coordination with planned inflow. Incremental dike raising is planned to an ultimate elevation of +42' and will provide a cumulative capacity of approximately 10.3 mcy.

The construction of the final trash wheel, Gwynnda, the Good Wheel of the West has been completed and installed. Waterfront Partnership unveiled the trash wheel on March 11th. A total of six in-water piles were installed to support the wheel and were completed in May 2021. The virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 3rd.

5.0 Partner Updates

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Ela-Sita Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter confirmed that there were three eaglets in the nest at Masonville Cove and are showing efforts of fledging by early July. There will be an eagle fledging event on July 1st as part of the First Thursday activities.

300 *Baptisia* (false blue indigo) have been planted in the campus greenhouse. It is one of only two plants used to lay eggs by the frosted elfin, an at-risk native butterfly. The plants will eventually be transplanted at a nature reserve on the Eastern Shore. Deer are also attracted to the plant so it's important to grow them inside until they are sturdy.

Bi-annual mammal surveys will soon be underway at Masonville and Cox Creek. Eight cameras will be set up at Masonville and six at Cox Creek. Deer infrared cameras will be set up to count the number of deer at each site. This will lead to the development of a community citizen scientist program being planned to take place at Masonville Cove.

National Aquarium

Andrea Van Wyk

Ms. Van Wyk explained that the National Aquarium has been partnering with the Enoch Pratt Library Brooklyn Branch for its monthly virtual programming with students from Marie G. Farring and Boys & Girls Club. Each month, they read a nature themed book to the students. There were also activities connecting with the community based on the theme of each month. For bird month, they were introduced virtually to one of the birds from Patuxent Research Refuge and there was also a virtual field trip to Filbert Street Garden for the community green space month. There were also activity kits that were supplied to the students.

In April, there were about 45 volunteers who participated in the Project Clean Stream event. 1,500 pounds of trash and over 11,000 pieces of debris were removed. The National Aquarium also coordinated activities as part of the City Nature Challenge. There were 13,623 observations, identifying 1,923 species by 884 observers. The most common listed species were the common blue violet, garlic mustard, mayapple, Northern cardinal, and ground ivy.

Looking ahead to this summer, Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition is hosting the Nature City Forum on June 16th and 17th. The theme is A 2030 Vision: Supporting Vibrant Communities Through Nature. A registration link was provided. Ms. Van Wyk also announced Cities Connecting Children to Nature's workshop series June 18 – July 8, virtually and limited in-person session.

Pamela Pina, the Hispanic Access Intern, was introduced. Ms. Pina will be working on community engagement and education with both National Aquarium and Patuxent Research Refuge. Activities will include planning for Latino Conservation Day, weekly programs for community summer camps, and bilingual outreach and programming. Latino Conservation Day will be combined with the annual Bioblitz on July 17th at Masonville Cove and will host three kayaking tours and fishing.

Living Classroom Foundation

Lorraine Warnick (Presented by Angie Ashley)

Living Classroom Foundation (LCF) recently completed their signature meaningful watershed education program (SLURRP) thanks to funding from Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability. The program was delivered virtually to 300 students at four area schools. In lieu of the traditional field trip to Masonville Cove, there were mini festivals on-site at the schools with activities such as trash clean-ups, planting gardens on-site, and planting make and take flower pots. The participating schools were Marie G. Ferring, Lakeland, Federal Hill Prep Academy, and Westport Academy.

Thanks to funding from the Maryland Association of Environmental Outdoor Education (MAEOE), LCF was able to host a series of professional development for 30 teachers to guide them through several environmental topics. This summer, they will again host the BEE SMART (Baltimore Environmental Education Summer Math and Reading Trailblazing to help reduce summer reading loss. There will be two hybrid sessions with field trips at Masonville Cove in the morning, and a virtual program in the afternoon.

Recent activities have included the First Thursday programming, virtual nature-based programming for children and families, shoreline clean-ups, water monitoring programs, and a new partnership with Nature Worx, which leads contemplative, mindful nature walks. All up-to-date activities are on the website site and Facebook page.

Memorial Day was the first holiday weekend the site was open and there were 46 visitors, and many of them were first-time visitors.

6.0 Announcements and Open Discussion

Mr. Scurr announced that the Canton Kayak Club has opened a new location at Downs Park in Pasadena, MD, and is now available for people with a membership. There is a \$6 fee to enter the park.

Ms. Kestel expressed appreciation for a visit to the Cox Creek DMCF with other DMMP committee leaders for a tour. It was interesting and good to see how the projects are different but are connected to the program. The conservation area adjacent to the DMCF is going to be great with the hiking trails. Ms. Ashley explained that the conservation area is at 60% design.

Mr. Brian Gray announced that MedStar Harbor Hospital was recently honored by the Arbor Day Foundation for their new tree policy implemented in the winter, the 126 trees that have been planted on the campus, and recreating a tree forest along the Patapsco River. They recently expanded the native garden plantings near one of the employee entrances, and also expanded the canopied back patio with pervious surface pavers and beyond the canopy into the healing garden. Anyone is welcome to "Dine in the Sunshine" in that area. MedStar Harbor Hospital has entered into a partnership with Baltimore Tree Trust to create a new urban park setting on the West campus across the street from the main campus. It is currently in the design phase and will be built this fall.

7.0 Adjournment

Ms. Ashley thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned.