

**SUMMARY OF THE JOINT DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
MASONVILLE, CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE & HARBOR TEAM MEETING  
September 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM – Hybrid Meeting  
MedStar Harbor Hospital – 3001 S. Hanover Street, Baltimore, 21225**

***Attendees:***

*Angie Ashley Consulting:* Angie Ashley  
*Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability:* David Riter  
*Canton Kayak Club:* Ray Scurr  
*Dundalk Renaissance:* Tasha Gresham-James  
*EcoLogix:* Steve Pattison  
*Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance:* Doug West  
*Kramer and Associates:* Andrew Bing  
*Living Classrooms Foundation:* Christine Truett  
*Baltimore City Department of Planning:* Jazmin Kimble  
*Maryland Environmental Service (MES):* Rachel Miller, Christine Offerman  
*Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA):* Dave Bibo, Bertrand Djiki, Kristen Fidler, Danielle Fisher, Rachael Gilde, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Oge Nwafor, Amanda Peñafiel, Joe Ross  
*Curtis Bay Community Member:* Rodette Jones  
*MedStar Harbor Hospital:* Brian Gray  
*National Aquarium:* Swathi Ayyagari, Laura Bankey, Curtis Bennett  
*North County Land Trust:* Rebecca Kolberg  
*North Point Peninsula Council:* Fran Taylor  
*Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team:* Stuart Stainman  
*Tradepoint Atlantic (TPA):* Pete Haid  
*Turner Station Conservation Teams:* Gloria Nelson  
*University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES):* Elizabeth Price  
*US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):* Trevor Cyran  
*US Department of Housing and Urban Development:* Thea E. Becton  
*US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):* Ela Carpenter  
*Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore:* Adam Lindquist

**Action Items:**

- Ms. Ashley will distribute the May 11 meeting materials and important upcoming dates.

**1.0 Introductory and Welcoming Remarks**

*Adam Lindquist, Chair  
Brian Gray, MedStar Harbor Hospital*

All meeting materials can be found at the following link: [CAC 2022 - Google Drive](#)

Mr. Gray, Director of Clinical Support Operations at MedStar Harbor Hospital, provided a brief introduction and information on his current position including his role as sustainability officer, among other responsibilities. MedStar Harbor Hospital has five rain gardens, nine bioretention ponds, as well as healing gardens, which were toured prior to the commencement of the meeting. Harbor Hospital has ongoing projects including the creation of a living shoreline and an urban forest park that will include 109 trees, educational signage, park benches, trash receptacles, and a new Cherry Hill Community sign.

Ms. Ashley convened the meeting. It was noted that the action items from the May meeting are either completed or in progress; updates will either be sent out or addressed in the next meeting.

Mr. Lindquist informed the attendees that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) attended a tour of Hart Miller Island (HMI) and expressed appreciation to the Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) for their continued efforts at HMI, the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island (Poplar), and soon to be Mid-Chesapeake Bay Islands (Mid-Bay) project. Mr. Lindquist reminded attendees of the Urban Wildlife Conservation Day event at Masonville Cove on September 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Trash Wheel Fan Festival will take place September 24<sup>th</sup> at Peabody Heights Brewery from 7PM-10PM. Mr. Lindquist participated in the Executive Committee meeting of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) in which a \$4 billion partnership agreement between MDOT MPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was signed to restore the Mid-Bay project.

## **2.0 Harbor Team Commemoration**

*Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA*

Ms. Jones presented a commemoration of the work the Harbor Team has conducted over its history. The CAC and the Harbor Team have met jointly over the past 2 years, but the Harbor Team was initially established in 2003 while the CAC started in the 1990s as the Dredging Needs Placement Options Program (DNPOP) with a focus on all dredging projects. However, in the 2000s, there became a need to create a program with a specific focus on harbor dredging efforts.

Ms. Jones presented the original members of the 2003 Harbor Team, stating they were tasked with reviewing studies, taking tours of all current and potential placement sites, and presenting their recommendations for managing dredged material within the community. In 2003, the members recommended several placement options, including Coke Point at Sparrows Point. Each proposed placement site also included community enhancement projects to accompany them. The success of this process earned MDOT MPA the American Association of Port Authorities' Community/Public Involvement Award in 2004 for the implementation of a citizen planning team for the evaluation and selection of dredged material management solutions for the Port of Baltimore.

Recommendations from 2003 which are in progress include the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) and the restoration of Masonville Cove as the community enhancement project, and the expansion project at Cox Creek with the affiliated Swan Creek Nature Trail community enhancement project.

After the opportunity to acquire the Coke Point site passed, the Harbor Team was reconvened in 2011 and recommended that MDOT MPA find other options in handling dredged material given that land and waterside options for dredged material placement are limited. MDOT MPA has since awarded Request for Proposal (RFP) contracts to different companies that have done demonstration projects utilizing dredged material.

Ms. Jones announced the official merge of the Harbor Team and the CAC. Thanks was given on behalf of Mr. William Doyle, Executive Director of MDOT MPA, in the form of a letter to the current Harbor Team members who have dedicated their time to help MDOT MPA and better their communities. Ms. Jones invited Ms. Nelson and Mr. Taylor, original Harbor Team members, to share remarks.

Ms. Nelson emphasized that the proposed Coke Point DMCF was met with great opposition from the community who did not want such a facility in their area. MDOT MPA listened to what the community

expressed regarding the potential project. This set an example of how to engage communities in environmental matters and how to educate others in order to make decisions moving forward. Mr. Taylor shared that MDOT MPA brought in experts to explain complex environmental topics so that the communities would truly understand the nature of containment sites. He reiterated how important community involvement is and how MDOT MPA serves as an example to other companies entering and impacting communities.

Mr. Haid stated that Tradepoint Atlantic (TPA), much like MDOT MPA, values Ms. Nelson, Mr. Taylor and others for their valuable input on behalf of the communities involved in projects.

### **3.0 Harbor Development Update**

*Kristen Fidler, MDOT MPA*

Ms. Fidler expressed her thanks for the participation MDOT MPA has received from the community and the valuable time people have committed to the betterment of communities and the environment.

Ms. Fidler shared that there is continued progress with the Masonville DMCF base dike widening and critical dike raising as a part of the comprehensive expansion at the facility. The base dike widening is occurring to raise the elevation up to +18' and the wider, more stable dike will support the ability to vertically increase the DMCFs capacity. Increasing the capacity allows the Masonville DMCF to follow a 20-year plan for placement capacity in conjunction with the Cox Creek DMCF.

Base dike widening at the Masonville DMCF began in January 2022 and will be completed in March 2023. Approximately 7,000 linear feet, 185,000 cubic yards (cy) of the estimated 270,000 cy, have been placed associated with the project. This has increased the elevation to +12.5' and brings the project to 65% completed in terms of material placed. The high strength geotextile first layer placement occurred in July 2022 and about 2,000 linear feet of the first layer placed has been covered. In terms of the dike raising to +30', the team is working to advance this effort simultaneously with the base dike widening so that the project can be completed as efficiently as possible. The conceptual design of the stormwater conveyance to support the ultimate elevation of +42' and 99% design for the +30' dike raising is completed. The erosion and sediment control plans were submitted to MDE for approval on June 1, 2022, and the Joint Permit Application package for the Dam Safety Permit was submitted to MDE on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Detailed specifications are being prepared to start procurement by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and construction is anticipated to begin during the summer of 2023.

Ms. Fidler presented updates on the Masonville Cove Connector, which will connect the existing Gwynns Falls Trail head located near MedStar Harbor Hospital up to Masonville Cove. Mr. Ross and Mr. Bing are leading the effort to roll out community outreach, stakeholder input, and ultimately design, permitting, and construction of a shared use path along Frankfurst Avenue. There is a dual priority goal of increasing equitable and safe access to Masonville Cove while staying true to MDOT MPA's original commitment to the communities surrounding the DMCF. The memorandum of agreement between MDOT MPA, the Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was signed in July 2022 and allows MDOT MPA to start utilizing the federal grant funding that MDOT MPA and USFWS received to work towards the design and partial construction of the Masonville Cove Connector. Outreach efforts will begin in September 2022 to ensure that the path's design is informed by all stakeholders in the area. The expectation is 30% design completion by summer of 2023, 100% design completed by summer of 2024, and construction completed by the summer of 2025.

Ms. Fidler stated that in the 2021 DMMP Annual Report, MDOT MPA was charged with creating equitable access to DMMP sites, and to intentionally engage urban youth in targeted environmental programs as a pathway to careers in STEM and the maritime industry. Inspired by Ms. Jones, MDOT MPA hosted the first Youth Birding Week this summer supported by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The program included 10 students from the age of 7 to 11. Masonville Cove was the home base for the program and the students visited the different DMCF sites (HMI, Poplar Island, Cox Creek and Swan Creek Wetlands) to learn about the diverse habitats that attracted the different species of birds along with dredging and the Port of Baltimore.

Ms. Fidler announced other project updates. The Cox Creek Open House is October 15<sup>th</sup> and the construction to +60' elevation is ongoing at the site. The anticipated acquisition of the property next to Cox Creek is set for October 26<sup>th</sup>. The Mid-Bay project is underway, and the Barren Island Phase I construction contract will be awarded at the end of September (update – contract awarded on September 26, 2022). Construction is anticipated to begin in late fall of 2022. An Open House will be held in Dorchester County on November 19<sup>th</sup> related to the Mid-Bay project. Projects under the Innovative Reuse Research and Development RFP are continuing. These projects include creating bricks out of 100% dredged material removed from the Cox Creek DMCF, as well as light weight aggregate. Moreover, the brick operation is looking to be based out of Baltimore and create 100 jobs while recovering 250,000 cy of dredged material each year. Additionally, the Fleming Park Shoreline Restoration project is looking to use Harbor channel dredged material to prevent flooding and restore habitats.

Ms. Fidler announced the Annual Meeting is December 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4.0 Masonville Cove Partnership Update**

*Rachael Gilde, MDOT MPA*

Ms. Gilde presented an update on the summer accomplishments on behalf of the Masonville Cove Partnership. Members of the Masonville Cove Partnership include the National Aquarium, MDOT MPA, the USFWS, and the Living Classrooms Foundation.

Ms. Gilde stated that the partners worked toward goals outlined in the 2020 Masonville Cove strategic plan, which are aligned with the DMMP Annual recommendations. The Masonville Cove partner achievements in community enhancement efforts embodied the innovation, implementation, and investment that was characteristic of DMMP goals.

*Innovating* - In addition to the first Youth Birding Week discussed by Ms. Fidler, USFWS collaborated with Nature WoRx to host the first hybrid mindfulness and environmental education program exploring the lives of pollinators. Mindfulness and healing activities enhanced a discussion about pollinator biology and an authentic connection to nature by participants. There were 15 participants in this program, nine of which were from neighboring zip codes and 11 of which were first time visitors. Living Classrooms Foundation ran the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Baltimore Environmental Education Science Math and Reading Trailblazers (BEESMART) summer program aimed at preventing summer learning loss. The program used environmental science technology engineering and math (E-STEM) literature to support literacy growth while bringing the information to life with hands-on activities. In addition to the academic gains, students also benefitted from practicing social and emotional skills in a safe and supportive environment. There were 104 participants over the five weeks of the summer. Each week features a different environmental science theme or career path. The program included weekly visits to Masonville Cove and six family nights allowing families to engage in their child's learning. After the program, 83% of students

increased an entire reading level, 100% of students increased or maintained their reading level, and 97% increased their math fact fluency.

*Implementing* – Masonville partnership community engagement provided education opportunities about Masonville Cove and the Port of Baltimore. Engagements included a Maryland Department of Natural Resources tour of Masonville and attending back to school events. In August, Ms. Carpenter (USFWS) implemented the Community Science Program aligned with the Masonville Cove wildlife management plan, which engaged interested community members in conducting summer wildlife surveys. Participants experience a day in the life of a wildlife scientist and contributed to real world data collection. Implementation of another Community Science Program survey will occur in early/mid-December.

*Investing* – Masonville partners invested in an increase of fishing programs at Masonville Cove as well as internship and workforce development. Masonville partners hosted a summer Urban Conservation and Education Internship Program and a Hispanic Access Foundation Internship. The spring Baltimore Port Alliance Hiring and Career Expo at the Community College of Baltimore County took place May 26, 2022, and the next event is planned for October 24, 2022.

## **5.0 US Army Corps of Engineers Report**

*Trevor Cyran, USACE*

Mr. Cyran gave a project update on Harbor and Maryland Approach Channels. Dredging from these projects was completed in July 2022, and material placement occurred at Cox Creek DMCF and Poplar Island. The solicitation for additional dredging was planned to be advertised in September 2022, however, this is behind schedule. About 400,000 cy of dredged material from Brewerton Angle and 100,000 cy of dredged material from Curtis Bay and Curtis Creek are expected to be placed at Cox Creek DMCF. In addition, about 2 million cubic yards of dredged material from Brewerton Extension and Tolchester Channel are being placed at Poplar. Mr. Haid asked if the main channel goes down to 50' to which Mr. Cyran verified in the affirmative.

Mr. Cyran presented a status on the Seagirt Loop study. The official recommended plan for the Seagirt Loop deepening is now 50'.

Mr. Cyran presented an update on the Mid-Bay project. The Project Partnership Agreement (Construction Agreement) between the State and the USACE was executed on August 23, 2022. The bid opening for Phase 1 of Barren Island restoration occurred on September 7, 2022. The apparent low bidder is Coastal Design & Construction from Virginia who is projected to be awarded the bid on Monday, September 26, 2022. The construction of Barren Island is slated to being in the fall of 2022. A public meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2022, from 10 AM-12 PM.

## **6.0 Round Table Remarks & Open Discussion**

*Committee Members, MDOT MPA*

Ms. Ashely reminded attendees of the Urban Wildlife Conservation Day event being held on September 24, 2022 at Masonville Cove. Activities will include a BioBlitz as well as kayaking, bird banding, monarch butterfly tagging, Captain Trash Wheel activity station, riding tours of the DMCF, and more.

*Meeting adjourned*