

**SUMMARY OF THE MASONVILLE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 14, 2022 6:30PM
Hybrid Meeting**

Attendees:

Angie Ashley Consulting: Angie Ashley
Baltimore Bird Club: Nancy O'Hare
Baltimore Green Space: Patrick Filbert, Eric Fishel, Katie Lautar
Ben Franklin High School: Kelly Oglesbee
Community College of Baltimore County: Cristina Cardona
Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF): Lorraine Warnick
MCAC Chair: Anita Kestel
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Bertrand Djiki, Kristen Fidler, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Joseph Ross
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Danielle Wilson
MedStar Harbor Hospital: Brian Gray
National Aquarium: Curtis Bennett
Nature WoRx: Jasmine Wilborne
US Department of Housing and Urban Development: Thea Becton
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Ela-Sita Carpenter
Vulcan Construction Materials: Robert Flanagan

Action Items:

- *Ms. Warnick expressed that she would send details to Mr. Gray on storm drain stencil manufactures.*
- *MPA will coordinate with Baltimore Green Space on a press release on the conservation easement following final land recordation.*

1.0 Introductions, Approval of Summary

Angie Ashley, Angie Ashley Consulting

The April 5, 2022 Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting summary was unanimously approved by the Committee.

2.0 Masonville DMCF Report

Bertrand Djiki, MDOT MPA

Mr. Djiki stated that the Masonville dike raising has resumed and that the site continues to actively receive inflow projects. In 2022, Masonville has received inflow from the Dundalk Marine Terminal Berth 3 reconstruction – 22,939 cubic yards (cy), Seagirt Berth 3 Pocket Project Phase 1 – 20,000 cy and Seagirt Berth 3 Pocket Project Phase 2 – 17,000 cy. Masonville is scheduled to receive approximately 100,000 cy from a Trade Point Atlantic dredging project; the anticipated date of inflow is not yet known.

MDOT MPA continues to conduct spillway modifications. Spillway 1 was decommissioned in May. A temporary discharge system is being used at Spillway 2 until a long-term spillway solution is fully developed. As a long-term solution, a floating weir and pumping system will replace the existing spillways and will provide more efficient, cost-effective, and flexible dewatering operations. In January 2022, a weir

was successfully tested using the 12" pump set up, and with minor modifications, two more devices will be ordered. There will be two floating weir systems at Masonville DMCF and two at Cox Creek DMCF.

Base dike construction to raise the dike to +18' began in January 2022 and is projected to last up to 15 months, with 25% of overall progress made by late March 2022. Geotextile material will be placed in May 2022 to reinforce dike strength and improve the slope stability when the dike is eventually raised to +42'. Ms. Eveland asked about the sediment used in the dike construction. Mr. Djiki stated that the material is a high percentage of fine sediment to function as a stable dike. The permit package for the +30' dike raising will be submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) at the end of April 2022. MDOT MPA anticipates receiving approval by December 2022 to initiate construction in 2023. Future dike raising to +42' will provide a cumulative capacity of 10.8 million cy for Masonville DMCF.

The non-tidal wetland improvement mitigation project is still moving forward. The hydrologic study of the wetland was done in 2018 and the wetland redesign was completed in 2021. Construction is projected to be underway in summer of 2022.

Mr. Djiki stated that 46.865 acres of Masonville Cove will be placed into a conservation easement with Maryland Environmental Trust and Baltimore Green Space (BGS). The final easement was presented and approved by the Board of Public Works on April 27, 2022. Final signatures were executed on May 3, 2022; the easement is now going through a recording process with Baltimore City Land Records.

3.0 Cove Conservation Easement

Katie Lautar, Baltimore Green Space

Ms. Lautar introduced herself as the Executive Director of BGS. Ms. Lautar explained that back in the 1950s Baltimore had a very high population and since then the population has decreased, in some cases due to the historic disinvestment by red lining. Ms. Lautar mentions that BGS was founded to protect the community green spaces that neighbors create and care for. Ms. Lautar stated that people create green spaces all over Baltimore to push out dumping, to grow food for the community, and to create gathering spaces. BGS protects eight community food gardens, five pocket parks, two forests, and a horseshoe pit, while also conducting advocacy work.

Ms. Lautar stated BGS is one of the co-holders of the Masonville Cove Easement, which means that the site will be part of the protected network of BGS. Experts from BGS can be provided to help with any scientific research and to co-lead events if needed. Also, BGS will provide any special technical assistance if needed. Once a year, BGS and Maryland Environmental Trust will come out to Masonville to assess the use of the land and confirm that it is being used in the intended manner. A site survey will be conducted outlining how the easement requirements are being upheld. Lastly, the property cannot be sold for any other use. Mr. Fishel elaborated more on the BGS network of experts and suggested that Masonville become involved in the BGS stewardship network; it is a great opportunity for community members to learn and for organizations like Masonville Cove to share their experiences.

Mr. Lautar asked if there had been a press release from MDOT MPA about the signing of the conservation easement. Ms. Fidler expressed that MDOT MPA was not prepared to provide a press release following the Maryland State Board of Public Works approval of the easement. However, MDOT MPA will work more closely with BGS to celebrate the collaboration and efforts of enacting the conservation easement once the land recordation process is complete. Ms. Lautar expressed that BGS wants to follow MDOT

MPA's lead and will wait until they hear from MDOT MPA on next steps to list them in the network to cross promote.

Ms. Ashley expressed that there may be some synergy in the efforts of BGS and Nature Worx; she encouraged the two entities to meet and coordinate. Jasmine Wilborne expressed that Nature Worx is very encouraged to hear about the work of BGS. Nature Worx's goal is to sustain and encourage mental health by helping people tap into the healing power of nature. Ms. Wilborne expressed that Nature Worx can come out to provide a demo to any community that is interested.

4.0 Partnership Updates

Lorraine Warnick, Living Classrooms Foundation
Ela-Sita Carpenter, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Curtis Bennett, National Aquarium
Katrina Jones, MDOT MPA

Living Classrooms Foundation

Living Classrooms Foundation (LCF) continues to provide environmental, science, technology, engineering, and math (E-STEM) programming to the community for all grades to inspire environmental stewardship and enhance skills to be successful in school and in society. LCF received grants from multiple funders to support this work, including the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability Critical Area Management Program, South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, South Baltimore -7 Coalition, and Keep Maryland Beautiful grant. The funding supports LCF Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) programming that reaches 600 students in area schools (Lakeland Elementary School, Westport Academy, Maree G. Farring Elementary Middle School, Ben Franklin High School, Curtis Bay Elementary School, and BayBrook Elementary and Middle School). The programming includes a series of in-person classroom, schoolyard, and fieldtrip programming throughout the school year to connect students with their local watershed to promote a sense of stewardship. LCF recently partnered with Baltimore City Public Schools through the Outdoor Learning Network Initiative to be one of several sites for 9th grade MWEE, as part of the effort to provide MWEEs to all Baltimore City 9th graders. Information for upcoming programs is available through the newsletter and at masonvillecove.org.

The Masonville Cove Partnership will be hosting the Urban Wildlife Conservation Education internship. The interns will be learning more about the Partnership, learning about conservation careers and assisting with the summer BEESMART program.

Mr. Gray asked where LCF purchases its storm water drain stenciling. Ms. Warnick expressed that she would send details to Mr. Gray on storm drain stencil manufacturers. Mr. Bennett expressed that it has also been helpful to canvas the community before purchasing stencils to find what design would best resonate with them.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Dr. Carpenter stated that there has been substantially more community engagement going on in the past couple of months. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) hosted two of the 2021 First Thursday events; the events featured pollinators and mammals at Masonville Cove. In 2022, USFWS hosted a pollinator program in May, and intends to host fishing programs in July and migratory banding in the fall. In January, Dr. Carpenter discussed that she hosted a Community Science Program allowing participants to assist with the winter mammal surveys at Masonville Cove. Participants were from Baltimore and Bowie State

University and assisted setting up trail cameras and identifying mammals. They found an increase in presence of foxes and a decrease in coyote activity. Ms. Jones asked whether Dr. Carpenter would conduct bat surveys as a public program. Dr. Carpenter stated that she will assess the bat population at Masonville Cove first then consider whether it would be a good fit for a public program. In response to this, Dr. Carpenter recently went to Kentucky to learn more about acoustic surveys about bats, specifically endangered species that may or may not be present in Baltimore or Masonville Cove. Additionally, USFWS continues to grow *Baptisia* (false indigo) seedlings in the Masonville Cove greenhouse and plans to plant offsite next year.

On March 11, USFWS and MV Cove Partners hosted a visit from Secretary Deb Haaland of the Department of the Interior (DOI) at Masonville Cove to learn about partner efforts.

Dr. Carpenter attended the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for an annual conference and talked about community conservation representing USFWS. Dr. Carpenter and others from Patuxent Refuge visited the Heinz Refuge in Philadelphia to learn more about Heinz's community engagement work.

National Aquarium

Mr. Bennett will be filling in for Ms. Andrea van Wyk, who accepted a new position with the Nature Conservancy. National Aquarium (NA) is in the process of hiring a new project manager that will be starting in July.

In October 2021, NA conducted biweekly programs with the library and recreation centers in Brooklyn. The International Coastal Cleanup occurred on October 30, 2021 and 34 volunteers removed shoreline debris. NA collaborated with Ben Franklin High School as part of the Ravens Call to Action program to support the continued cleanup efforts in the community and rain garden maintenance near the school. NA partnered with local churches to host 94 volunteers in a community clean up including Templo de Ayuda y Restauración (TAYR) Latino-based congregation in south Baltimore. NA also engaged with TAYR at Patapsco Valley State Park in the fall to explore additional green spaces. NA supported First Thursdays in 2021. In November 2021, NA participated in the USFWS Urban Refuge Academy, which focused on prioritizing work in urban refuges and rebuilding structure and function to meet goals. At the end of April 2021, NA hosted the Project Clean Stream event; 50 volunteers visited Masonville Cove and removed an estimated amount of 16,000 pieces of trash, which amounted to an estimated 107 lbs. Also, at the end of April, NA and several partners in Baltimore completed the City Nature Challenge. In Baltimore, 709 residents engaged in the challenge and made 8,000 observations in total across the city for 1,393 species. In coordination with USFWS, NA hosted four courses on community engagement for the DOI, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In July, NA will host Latino Conservation week, and in collaboration with Patuxent Research Refuge, NA will host a Hispanic Access Foundation summer 2022 intern at Masonville Cove. Other upcoming events include Fishing First Thursday in July and August, as well as the Annual BioBlitz and Urban Wildlife Conservation Day in September. Additionally, in August, NA will be hosting this year's Association of Zoos and Aquarium Annual Conference and inviting 3,000 close partners/friends to attend. More details will be sent out later.

MDOT MPA

Ms. Jones shared that the 2022's Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) theme is innovating, investing, and implementing. This year will be the first opportunity to pilot MDOT MPA's Youth Birding Week; it will take place during the week of July 11-15. The upcoming event is an example of creating equitable access to DMMP sites to intentionally engage youth in targeted environmental programs as a pathway to careers in STEM and the maritime industry. It is a pilot program that will convene each day at Masonville Cove, with 10 students ages 8-12. Activities will include introduction to birding and bird identification. It will also include visits to all MDOT MPA sites to explore different habitats and the comparative diversity of birds that can be found in each habitat.

Community engagement opportunities have also been implemented by effectively educating and engaging all stakeholders equitably to increase the public's knowledge of the Port of Baltimore and dredging program, and their importance to the State of Maryland. MDOT MPA recently participated in the Curtis Bay Community Festival, which was a success, as community members enjoyed the weather and activities in each other's company. Ms. Jones expressed that last month she hosted the National Association of Wetland Managers for a tour at Masonville Cove. There was also a tour held with the Critical Areas Commissioners.

Ms. Jones remarked on another community engagement highlight, the Literacy Celebration with the Boys and Girls club. The Literacy Celebrations was a day where students had the chance to meet author Aja Dorsey Jackson and receive an autographed copy of her book, "The Almost Adventures of Plane Jane and the Capitol Bee." The books were generously provided in partnership with the Harbor City Links Incorporated, who purchased books for distribution to community members.

The Baltimore Port Alliance and MDOT MPA organized their 3rd Hiring and Career Expo at the Community College of Baltimore County on May 26, 2022. There were 37 private sector, government, and non-profit organizations that participated, ranging from locally owned companies to federal agencies, with over 120 job seekers that attended. There will be another event that is being planned to take place in Fall 2022.

5.0 Announcements and Open Discussion

MDOT MPA project manager Joe Ross provided a brief update on the Masonville Shared Use Path. Mr. Ross expressed that the trail is still in the preliminary phase of getting the trail design. MDOT MPA is in the process of signing the memorandum of understanding with the federal government to move forward with design. MDOT MPA looks forward to sharing updates with the MCAC as it progresses.

Ms. Ashley stated that the date of the next MCAC meeting will be moved to September 21, 2022 at MedStar Harbor Hospital and combined with the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting and the Harbor Team meeting. There will also be a planned trip to go to Hart-Miller Island on August 19, 2022 hosted by MDOT MPA for the committees and more information will be sent out later.

6.0 Adjournment

The next Masonville Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 21.