

FINAL
SUMMARY OF THE DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
November 16, 2022, 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Anchor QEA: Karin Olsen
Angie Ashley Consulting: Angie Ashley
Association of Maryland Ports (AMP): Eric Nielsen
National Audubon Society Mid-Atlantic Region: David Curson
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF): Doug Myers
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC): Adam Lindquist (Chair)
Council Fire: George Chmael II
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Marni Dolinar, Benjamin Langer
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE): Matthew Rowe
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Richard Ortt
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT): John Denniston
MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Dave Bibo, Bertrand Djiki, Danielle Fisher, Rachael Gilde, Margie Hamby, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Rachel Miller, Oge Nwafor, Amanda Peñafiel, Joseph Ross, Darren Swift
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Jonathan Watson
Rukert Terminals Corporation: Andy Nixon
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES): Dr. Peter Goodwin, Dave Nemazie
US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (CENAB): Katie Perkins
US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP): Mike Hart
US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): Robbie Callahan

Action Items:

1. Management Committee members will provide MDOT MPA with any remaining comments on the 2022 Annual Report by close-of-business Monday, November 21.
2. The 2022 Annual Report will be revised to reflect the Management Committee's comments and recommendations.
3. Ms. Miller will meet with Mr. Rowe offline to discuss specific language that could be used to enhance the 2022 DMMP Annual Report.

1.0 Convene and Welcome

Ms. Holly Miller, MDOT MPA

Ms. Miller welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. The June 22, 2022, and September 28, 2022, Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Management Committee meeting summaries were distributed to attendees prior to the meeting and all action items have since been completed. Ms. Miller requested a motion to approve the June and September meeting summaries. Mr. Rowe made a motion to approve and Mr. Myers seconded that motion. The committee approved the June and September meeting summaries as written.

2.0 Discussion and Approval of DMMP Annual Report

Dr. Peter Goodwin, UMCES

Dr. Goodwin recognized the staff within the DMMP in their efforts to put together the 2022 DMMP Annual Report. In addition, Dr. Goodwin emphasized the importance of this year's annual report in

informing the transition team for the state's new administration and stated that for this reason the report holds increased significance in comparison to previous years.

Dr. Goodwin stated that significant progress has occurred over the past year and the Management Committee has done a phenomenal job in supporting and guiding the DMMP. The goal of the 2022 Annual Report is to capture the achievements of the DMMP, inform the public, and to inspire those who might read the report. The report is intended to provide a concise overview of the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) long term dredged material management plan, highlight the accomplishments of the DMMP and the critical partnerships that make those accomplishments possible, and serve as a guidance document for the incoming administration by providing a set of comprehensive recommendations.

Dr. Goodwin stated that the 2022 DMMP Annual Report captures the importance of sustaining the waterborne commerce of the Baltimore Harbor while also including the importance of stewardship of natural resources such as the health and well-being of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The report also emphasizes the close relationship of stakeholders with the DMMP in ensuring that the most cost effective, innovative, and environmentally sound placement of dredged material occurs.

Dr. Goodwin stated that based on the Management Committee's comments on the recommendations section of the report from the September 28 meeting, adjustments were made.

Funding and Policy Recommendations

Dr. Goodwin stated that in Maryland, there is significant state support from the congressional delegation and the American Association of Port Authorities to ensure that federal policies and legislation continues to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Program and its relevance to the Port of Baltimore. The Port of Baltimore will continue to leverage important partnerships across both federal and state agencies and related collaborative efforts including the Maryland Commissions on Climate Change. Dr. Goodwin emphasized that Maryland now has the most ambitious and visionary legislation in the nation in terms of climate change and that the DMMP plays a large part in the carbon sequestration and mitigation aspect of those state goals. MDOT MPA continues to seek out federal and state funding for greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration partnerships to achieve the Climate Solutions Now Act targets which includes viewing these targets through the lens of environmental justice, equity, and diversity objectives.

Planning and Operations Recommendations

Dr. Goodwin highlighted changes that have been made since the Management Committee's last discussion. In the September 28 meeting, the Management Committee emphasized looking beyond the twenty-year timeframe for capacity and demand planning in supporting long-term sustainable dredged material management options. The Management Committee also requested that best available science continue to be used in helping the state quantify the benefits of carbon sequestration in greenhouse gas inventory regarding efforts to incorporate the potential impacts of climate change into long-term DMMP projects planning, dredged material containment facility (DMCF) design and operations, and related projects. Lastly, the Management Committee emphasized the importance of equitable distribution of benefits and understanding potential adverse impacts to communities associated with the DMMP.

Outreach and Education Recommendations

Dr. Goodwin stated that the Management Committee wished to see environmental justice emphasized in the engagement of stakeholders and increasing public knowledge about the Port of Baltimore. In

addition, it was requested that the Management Committee members associated with the program fully reflect the diversity of the communities adjacent to, and impacted by, the Port of Baltimore. Lastly, the Management Committee emphasized the necessity of youth engagement in the DMMP so that the next generation fully understands environmental consequences and to inspire young people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematical fields along with maritime-related industries.

Dr. Goodwin stated that the comments made by the Management Committee have been addressed in the most recent version of the annual report. The 2022 DMMP Annual Report will be presented at the DMMP Executive Committee meeting on November 29 for approval and at the DMMP Annual Meeting on December 9. Once the report has been approved, it will be available for download on the DMMP webpage.

Mr. Rowe thanked everyone involved in the 2022 Annual Report for producing such an excellent report that covers a vast array of important topics and suggested that the report might benefit from highlighting opportunities surrounding the Mid-Chesapeake Ecosystem Restoration (Mid-Bay) Project. The current section discusses the resiliency work group, however, broadening the section to discuss opportunities to enhance nature-based designs and climate resiliency might be beneficial. Specifically, the section could mention nature-based solutions that are being planned, the climate resiliency features in the project design, leveraging partnership to access federal infrastructure funding to help enhance resiliency and nature-based features. Ms. Miller appreciated Mr. Rowe's suggestions and recommended meeting to discuss specific language that could be used to enhance the report.

Mr. Myers emphasized the suggestions made by Mr. Rowe and stated that the Mid-Bay Project is not just about finding capacity for dredged material and engineering spaces to place it, but also about placing the material so that it provides the most benefit for existing marshes and realizing the wave attenuation benefit of the facility will help extend marshes as sea level rises. Flexibility in design characteristics to be able to include nature-based solutions, which makes the Mid-Bay Project especially unique, should also be noted in the section. Expanding the section would enhance the report in terms of providing a clear and complete template for the next administration

Dr. Goodwin called for a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Report subject to the modifications requested by the committee. Mr. Rowe seconded the motion to approve. The 2022 Annual Report was unanimously approved by the Management Committee subject to the requested changes.

3.0 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Mike Hart, CENAP
Katie Perkins, CENAB**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division – Philadelphia District (CENAP)

Mr. Hart stated that dredging operations are continuing in the upper Chesapeake Bay area. The after-dredge surveys of the Navigation Hazard at Worton Point have been received and therefore the draft restriction is now able to be removed. Next steps including moving on to the Pooles Island area for more shoaling with remaining work occurring around the Sassafra River area. It is anticipated that all shoaling for this year along with completion of the contract will conclude prior to the March 31, 2023 stop date. Additional funding was received for maintenance dredging next year and therefore a new contract for FY23 shoaling is being drawn up and is anticipated to be awarded in August or September of 2023. All dredged material from this year and next year will be placed at the Pearce Creek DMCF and will continue to be monitored.

Mr. Hart stated that there is ongoing bridge construction on the Chesapeake City Bridge, which continues to limit the air draft by about eighteen inches and will continue until at least December of this year. The goal is that the contractor will be able to be off the main span of the bridge by the end of the year and allow that restriction to be removed as a result.

Ms. Miller inquired when the restrictions on Worton Point shoal will be lifted. Mr. Hart responded that the Association of Maryland Pilots and the U.S. Coast Guard will be notified in the near future and the restrictions should be lifted as soon as possible.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division – Baltimore District (CENAB)

Ms. Perkins stated that a pre-construction conference for the Mid-Bay project was held in October 2022 with the contractor Coastal Design and Construction, Inc. Construction is expected to mobilize in the late winter of 2023.

Regarding the Seagirt study, a final feasibility report was submitted the week of November 7 and is now under final review at USACE North Atlantic Division. It is anticipated to be signed by the Chief of Engineers in 2023. If the project is authorized by Congress and funding is allocated, construction is anticipated to begin in the mid-2020s.

The Maryland maintenance dredging contract is in the final design phases. Advertising is anticipated for January 2023 and the contract is expected to be awarded in the spring of 2023. With this timeline, dredging would occur in the spring window for the Tolchester Channel and Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension with material being placed at Poplar Island. The dredging of Brewerton Angle, Curtis Bay Channel, and Curtis Creek Channel is being considered as well with material being placed at Cox Creek DMCF.

4.0 Roundtable Remarks & Open Discussion

Committee Members

Ms. Ashley noted that at the September Management Committee meeting the group discussed difficulty finding the Annual Report on the DMMP website. MDOT MPA has addressed comments by reorganizing the website to feature a “Resources” tab where recent Annual Reports and webinars can be found. The 2022 DMMP Annual Report will be uploaded once approved by the Executive Committee.

Dr. Goodwin announced that the USACE and the national academies are hosting a hybrid workshop on November 30 focusing on nature-based solutions. The workshop will be beneficial to those designing living shorelines.

Ms. Miller reminded attendees that the Executive Committee meeting is being held on November 29 at 1:00 pm and the DMMP Annual Meeting is being held on December 9 at 10:00 am. Those who are interested in attending the Annual Meeting should RSVP in advance. Mr. Chmael stated that the link to RSVP for the meeting is located on the DMMP website and the event will be held both in person at MedStar Harbor Hospital and virtually.

5.0 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Holly Miller, MDOT MPA

Ms. Miller thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting.