

**Dredged Material Management Program
Bay Enhancement Working Group
Meeting Summary
April 26, 2011
1:00 PM, Maryland Environmental Service**

ATTENDEES:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Roland Limpert
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology (EA): Peggy Derrick, Kaitlin McCormick
Gahagan & Bryant Associates (GBA): Carter Stinchcomb
Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW): Doldon Moore
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Lauren Franke, Kristen King
Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Nathaniel Brown, Steve Storms
Moffatt & Nichol (MN): Pete Kotulak, Kristen Piggott
Phoenix Engineering, Inc. (Phoenix): George Harman
University of Maryland, CES (UMCES): Dennis King
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE): Robert Blama, Jon Romeo
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Bob Zepp

Action Items:

- Ms. Franke will consult with John Nichols regarding the scoring for CAD under the Protected Species parameter.
- Mr. King will communicate with Liz Price regarding census data for the Curtis Bay Area.
- Ms. McCormick will obtain pictures of the Cox Creek upland area in order to better identify the presence or absence of wetland areas at the site.
- Ms. Franke will send out a revised scoring matrix to BEWG members for comment.

Welcome and Introductions

Lauren Franke, MES

Meeting Goals

Ms. Franke stated that the main goal of today's meeting is to score the remaining Harbor Options, which include Cox Creek Upland, Cox Creek Upland & Millennium combined and Millennium. Ms. Franke stated that the Harbor Team decided to remove the following options from further study: Curtis Bay Depot, Fairfield, Deep Trough and HMI II.

Review of Action Items

Ms. Franke sent out the revised scoring indices, including the beneficial use "Other" category language to BEWG members, and no comments were received.

Review of Draft Scoring Parameters for Harbor Options

Lauren Franke, MES

Upland Sites

Relative to the Nutrients parameter for the Cox Creek Upland option, Mr. Harman stated that if the site is expanded under the current operating procedures, the amount of nutrients being released may increase. He added that the limit for daily loads being discharged may need to be increased. Mr. Harman stated that many different types of management options could be employed. Ms. Franke stated that there are still many unknowns as to how discharge would be handled. The team agreed to maintain scores of 0 for the Nutrient parameter for all three upland sites.

Ms. McCormick stated that Rebecca Kolberg brought in a wetland delineation report to the previous Harbor Team meeting and expressed concern that the upland area of Cox Creek may contain wetland areas. Ms. McCormick stated that these areas are not identified as wetland areas by DNR and they are considered industrial areas. Ms. McCormick stated that some pictures will need to be taken of the area to determine the lack of wetland presence. For the Non-Tidal Wetlands parameters, the team agreed to maintain a score of 0 for all three upland sites until further information is gathered.

Mr. Limpert indicated that there may be a stream present on the Millennium property. The team agreed on a score of 0 in the Streams parameter for all three upland sites until more information is available.

Ms. Derrick stated that it is still unclear as to whether or not there is unsuitable material beneath the surface layers of the Cox Creek Upland & Millennium combined and Millennium upland sites; the team agreed on a score of 0 for the soil/substrate and characteristics category.

The team agreed on a score of 0 regarding the Cultural Resources parameter for all three upland sites, pending further site specific investigations.

Regarding the Noise parameter, Ms. McCormick stated that there is an existing managed natural area less than a mile from the site locations. The team agreed on a score of -1 in the Noise parameter, for the Cox Creek Upland & Millennium and Millennium sites.

Relative to the Commercial Socioeconomics parameter, Ms. McCormick stated that there is a parcel of land within the Millennium site is actively being used by a company other than Millennium. The team agreed on a score of -1 in the Commercial Socioeconomics parameter for all three upland sites.

Ms. Derrick stated that all the data and assumptions regarding environmental justice rely on 2000 census data. The team agreed to a score of 0 in the Environmental Justice parameter for all three upland sites.

Mr. Brown asked, with regard to the Cox Creed Upland site, if there are any reports concluding any negative impacts to the avian wildlife located in the forested area. The team is unsure as to the specific areas that the birds occupy. Ms. McCormick stated that the forest area adjacent to the site is preserved under an existing conservation plan.

Mr. Storms stated that there has been a public announcement that the plant adjacent to the Millennium site will be gradually phased out and shut down. He added that MPA is communicating with the current land owner to inform them of MPA's interest in the property. Mr. Stinchcomb stated that regarding the Millennium site, there is a ten-acre portion in the center of the site that is owned by an independent proprietor.

Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD)

Mr. Blama stated that he does not agree with a score of -1 for the Protected Species parameter for the CAD option. Mr. Blama stated that the shortnose sturgeon is transient through the area(s) under consideration for this option. Ms. McCormick stated that shortnose sturgeon have been captured at the mouth of the Patapsco River, according to commercial fishing gear data. The team decided to change the Protected Species parameter score for CAD to a 0 until further input from John Nichols is received.

Mr. Moore stated that Frank Dawson relayed information that NOAA has taken a strong stand against aquaculture projects and the creation of hard substrate in the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays, including reefs. Mr. Moore added that the Massachusetts NOAA Office has communicated with DNR that they do not want any additional hard bottom in the Chesapeake Bay because the shortnose sturgeon requires a muddy habitat.

Other Updates & Next Meeting

Lauren Franke, MES

Next meeting

The Harbor Team will receive the draft scoring matrix at their next meeting on May 12th. There is no BEWG meeting scheduled at this time.