

PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
May 17, 2024, 10:00 AM
90B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Joe Vetrone

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Saeka Foreman, Christine Offerman

Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Holly Miller

Town of Cecilton: Mary Cooper, Brandon Jackson

US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP): Michael Hart

Action Items:

- Mr. Hart will coordinate internally regarding the timing of the mowing at the Pearce Creek DMCF.
- MES will reach out to the community leaders regarding distribution of project updates in lieu of the November meeting.

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Offerman, Facilitator

- Ms. Offerman welcomed the attendees to the meeting, and the attendees introduced themselves.

2.0 Philadelphia District Corps (CENAP) Update

Michael Hart, CENAP

Pearce Creek DMCF Operations

- Mr. Hart stated the federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 dredging contract was completed at the end of March, with a removal of 500,000 cubic yards (cy) of dredged material from the upper Chesapeake Bay channels, and additional dredging from the Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) canal.
 - CENAP is anticipating another contract to be awarded at the end of the year.
 - The material for the upcoming contract will be placed at Pearce Creek.
- Mr. Hart stated that CENAP is considering adding another box to the sluice and this will occur at the end of 2024 or 2025.
- Mr. Vetrone asked if the material that was dredged near Chesapeake Inn was placed at Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF).
 - Mr. Hart replied that the contractor did place the material at Pearce Creek.
- Mr. Vetrone asked if there is monitoring of the water that is discharged from the Pearce Creek Lake to Chesapeake Bay.
 - Mr. Hart replied that there is no monitoring for the direct discharge from the Pearce Creek Lake to the Chesapeake Bay.
 - Ms. Offerman noted that the exterior monitoring program includes locations which monitor water and sediment quality and benthic community at the discharge from the Pearce Creek Lake to the Elk River.

3.0 MPA Updates

Christine Offerman, MES

Fall 2023 Exterior Monitoring Update

- Ms. Offerman stated that post-placement monitoring has occurred annually since Spring 2018.
 - The baseline samples were collected in Fall 2015, Spring and Fall 2016, and Spring 2017.

- The samples for Fall 2023 were collected on September 18 and 19, 2023.
- Ms. Offerman identified the testing site locations on a map, which includes six (6) monitoring locations and one (1) reference site in Pearce Creek Lake and one (1) monitoring location and one (1) reference location in the Elk River.
 - Mr. Vetrone asked what the site on the far right monitored.
 - Ms. Offerman replied that it monitored the mouth of the Pearce Creek Lake and was utilized as a reference site for the remaining Pearce Creek Lake sample locations as it was outside the influence of the Pearce Creek DMCF discharge.
- Ms. Offerman stated that the data for the surface water results were comparable between the reference and monitoring locations.
 - The data were within the range of the baseline concentrations.
 - Mr. Vetrone asked how many metals were tested.
 - Ms. Offerman replied that the list of metals that are tested is available to the public.
 - A summary of the results is available on the Pearce Creek website (<https://pearcecreekoutreach.com/ExteriorMonitoringReports.html>); the full reports can be provided upon request.
- Ms. Offerman stated that the data for the sediment results has been consistent with previous monitoring events.
 - The locations comprised of silts and clays, and Pearce Creek Lake 7 (PCL-07) comprised of sands and silts.
 - The nutrients in the sediments are naturally variable at all locations.
- Ms. Offerman stated that most of the metals that were tested at Pearce Creek Lake and Elk River were between the threshold effect concentration (TEC) and probable effect concentration (PEC).
 - Nickel concentration exceeded the PEC, but this is anticipated as Nickel is naturally high in the region.
- Ms. Offerman stated that most of the benthic community abundance was within the range of the baseline data.
 - The benthic community condition has not substantially changed over the years.
- Ms. Offerman stated that the monitoring program will continue in Fall 2024.
- Mr. Vetrone asked if the metals that were previously found in the aquifer are being tested at Pearce Creek Lake.
 - Ms. Offerman replied that there is a list of metals of concern that is provided by Maryland Department of Environment (MDE); metals of concern previously found in the aquifer were ensured to be included in the metals tested for in the monitoring program.
- Mr. Vetrone asked about the pH level of the water at the Pearce Creek DMCF.
 - Ms. Miller replied that the pH level was initially low.
- Mr. Vetrone asked if the dredged material settled at the bottom of Pearce Creek Lake.
 - Ms. Offerman replied that there did not appear to be any changes in the exterior monitoring sediment results.

4.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

Feedback from the Community Members

- Mr. Vetrone asked if there was dredging occurring in the North East River.
 - Mr. Hart replied that the project is for another district.
- Mr. Vetrone asked if mowing would occur at the site in the near future.

- Mr. Hart will coordinate internally regarding the timing of the mowing at the Pearce Creek DMCF.
- Mr. Vetrone asked if mowing would occur once or twice this year.
 - Mr. Hart replied that mowing would most likely occur only once as there have been equipment issues.
- The next PCIC meeting will be held **Friday, November 15, 2024, at 10am.**
 - MES will reach out to the community leaders regarding distribution of project updates in lieu of the November meeting.