

**SUMMARY OF THE DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
INNOVATIVE REUSE COMMITTEE (IRC) MEETING
February 4, 2025, 5:30 PM In-Person and Virtual Meeting**

Attendees:

Anchor QEA: Walter Dinicola*, Billie-Jo Gauley*, Mindy Strevig
Baltimore Port Alliance: Rupert Denney
Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS): David Riter
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF): Gussie Maguire*
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology (EA, Engineering): Frank Barranco
EcoLogix Group: Steve Pattison*
Gahagan & Bryant Associates, Inc: Benjamin Cushing*
GEI Consultants: Nancy Straub, Reggie Graves*
HarborRock: Jeffrey Otto*
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Maggie Cavey*
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Dallas Henson, Saeka Foreman
Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Rachael Gilde, Katrina Jones*, Holly Miller, Kelvin Moulden, Joe Ross,
Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA): Andrew Kays*
Northgate Environmental Management: Sam Merrill*, Jacob Lacy*
Remline: Michelle Puszcz*, Zelda Parker*
Rummel, Klepper and Kahl (RK&K): Sari Rothrock
Synagro: Lisa Williams*
The Nature Conservancy: Austin Bamford*, Joseph Galarraga*
The Terrapin Institute: Marguerite Whilden*
Tradepoint Atlantic: Peter Haid
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES): Elizabeth Price*
Water Oak Cove: David Copley*

*Denotes attendees who participated virtually

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Sari Rothrock, RKK

Ms. Rothrock welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda. Ms. Rothrock led introductions of in-person attendees followed by introductions of virtual attendees. Attendees were provided the summary from the November 12, 2024, IRC meeting and were asked to review and provide comments by February 7, 2025.

2.0 Innovative Reuse Program Updates

Kelvin Moulden and Joe Ross, MPA

Mr. Moulden provided an update on the MPA Annual Meeting, Innovative Reuse (IR) research and development Request for Proposals (RFP), and general IR program progress:

- **MPA's Annual Meeting** was held on December 6, 2024. A panel discussion facilitated by Karenthia Barber from the Maryland Port Commission featured a conversation with Bennett Creighton (Ports America), Miguel Lambert (Repurpose Aggregates), and Nicole Were (Severna Park Middle School); the panel discussion was well received. Each panelist represented different branches of innovation, navigation, and stewardship – components of the DMMP's updated mission and MPA Office of Harbor Development's revised name. Mr.

Lambert demonstrated strong advocacy for IR in his panel responses. The in-person attendance increased 30 percent compared to 2023 with 120 people attending.

- **Research and Development Updates**

- HarborRock’s sampling and analysis plan was submitted and received approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The company recently sampled a dried dredged material stockpile sourced from the Cox Creek dredged material containment facility (DMCF) and is returning to sample additional material directly from the DMCF.
- Northgate Environmental Management is investigating cement clinker and supplementary cementitious material. The company recently received samples and will begin analytical and physical testing soon.
- The University of Maryland has been working on studies of vegetated earth berms and will be invited to present at an upcoming IRC meeting.
- MPA is working to issue a Request for Information (RFI), which is in the final stages of internal review. MPA plans to advertise the RFI soon and it will have a six-month window for response time. There are approximately forty questions as part of the RFI.
- The Cox Creek Sediment Technology and Reuse (STAR) Facility recently received Forest Conservation Act approval for the cross-property access road. It also received approval from MDE on the last remedial action plan that is required by the Administrative Consent Order.

- **Mr. Moulden shared potential items for future IRC meeting discussions.**

- MPA is currently in the brainstorming phase of working to develop a guidance document or tool to serve as a one-stop shop to navigate the dredged material reuse process.
- The geotube pilot project (also known as the IRBU Material Dewatering Pilot Project) plan has been submitted to MPA and subsequently approved. The team is currently working toward implementation. The project will investigate different commercial geotextile fabrics and geotubes for dewatering.
- MPA is aiming to update the IR / Beneficial Use (B U) Strategy document; the current strategy was updated in 2020. The second half of the meeting will be used to gather IRC input on the next strategy update.

Mr. Ross presented updates on the Swan Creek Nature Trail and Masonville Cove.

- A spur of **the Swan Creek Nature Trail** was created using 90 cubic yards of Category 1 IR material. The trail was graded, and geotextile fabric was utilized for the eight (8) foot by 400-foot path. The spur construction was completed in September 2024 and, as of early February 2024, is maintaining its structure. MPA will continue to monitor the progress and success of this process.
- At **Masonville Cove**, rainfall inundates areas on the access road in Zone 2. MPA plans to use the same method as they did with the Swan Creek Nature trail spur (geotextile with an estimated amount of 84 cubic yards of dredged material) to stabilize the roadway.

Upon conclusion of the IR updates, the presenters took questions.

Speaker	Question	Speaker	Answer
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Nancy Straub, GEI Consultants	Has MPA considered the use of geogrid before IR material is placed in access road projects?	Joe Ross, MPA	Yes, MPA has considered placing geotextile under geogrid at Masonville Cove, which has more inundation from rainfall than the Swan Creek trail.
Frank Barranco, EA Engineering	What is the schedule for the project involving the use of IR material at Masonville?	Joe Ross and Holly Miller, MPA	The schedule has currently not been determined. MPA is evaluating costs, time of year restrictions associated with nesting Eagles, and testing needs. MPA hopes to have updates to share in May.
Rupert Denney, BPA	On Page 15 of the 2024 Dredged Material Management Program Annual Report, under the section on IRBU Need and Contingency Planning, it is mentioned that “Reclaiming dredged material from the DMCFs at a volume equal to or exceeding annual inflow is essential to ensuring sufficient capacity to accommodate the 20-year dredging demand.” Given that it is unlikely that all dredged material can be managed by IR alone, how does the MPA plan to handle the volume of material, in particular the hazardous materials?	Holly Miller, MPA	Hazardous materials are not allowed to be placed at any of the MPA DMCFs and must be disposed of at specialized landfills. Category 3 material, which is not classified as hazardous but has elevated contamination levels and requires capping for reuse, would most likely be placed at the Masonville DMCF. This is distinct from Masonville Cove, as the final plan for the Masonville DMCF includes conversion to terminal space. Nevertheless, the MPA aims to innovatively reuse the majority of the material that enters the Cox Creek DMCF.
Pete Haid, Tradepoint Atlantic	Is the ultimate goal for the Masonville DMCF to be capped to achieve containment goals?	Holly Miller, MPA	Yes, the goal for Masonville DMCF is to be capped/paved and used as parking or additional terminal space.
Rupert Denney, BPA	Who are the decision makers associated with the R&D RFP awards and will the RFP close at some point?	Holly Miller, MPA	The R&D RFP that issued contracts has now closed. The final two contracts were awarded to Northgate Environmental and HarborRock. A technical evaluation committee, comprising staff from MPA, MDE, and MDOT, reviewed each proposal to assess how well it met the RFP criteria
Gussie Maguire	Has there been any trend in the quality of maintenance dredged material over the years?	Holly Miller, MPA, and Frank Barranco, EA Engineering	Based on testing that has occurred over the past 20 or more years, MPA is seeing consistency in the quality of maintenance dredged material. Mr. Barranco added that overall, the material is cleaner than in the past, adding that this may be a good topic to report on in more detail in the future.

3.0 New Year Resolutions: Updating the 2020 IR Strategy

Sari Rothrock, RK&K

Ms. Rothrock introduced the MPA goal of updating the 2020 IRBU Strategy, asking in-room and virtual participants to refer to the 2020 document and the draft 2025 document within the materials packet. Ms. Rothrock spoke about the survey that was emailed to the IRC distribution list in advance

of the meeting, which was intended to gather feedback about proposed strategy tweaks, additions, and removals. Eleven people participated in the survey, and respondents generally agreed on strategy updates, with no new strategies proposed. The only item on the survey that did not receive clear agreement was a suggestion to remove Strategy 11 from the 2020 Strategy document for the 2025 update.

Ms. Rothrock led a discussion about whether Strategy 11 from the 2020 Strategy document should remain or be removed. Strategy 11 reads:

Continue to pursue acquisition of additional property or utilization of existing property in a modified way to advance long-term, sustainable capacity recovery programs. MPA will then reevaluate potential P3 opportunities, which will help inform market potential.

Sixty percent of survey participants agreed that the strategy should be removed since the Cox Creek STAR facility has been purchased. During the meeting discussion, participants both in the room and joining virtually opined that the strategy could be removed.

Ms. Rothrock then provided instructions for a small group breakout exercise. Participants were asked to select one of four breakout groups that corresponded with the four strategy categories: Policy and Regulatory Strategies, Program Implementation Strategies, Education and Stakeholder Engagement Strategies, and Technical Strategies. Each group was assigned a facilitator and provided a worksheet instructing members to review the IR program goal and strategies within their category and to work with their group to answer two questions:

1. Do you have recommendations for updating, changing, or adding to the technical strategies?
2. Which of the technical strategies or sub-strategies is most important to pursue in 2025? Why?

After the exercise, the facilitators of each small group were asked to speak generally about their conversations and specifically about which of the strategies their group believes is the most important to pursue in 2025.

Policy and Regulatory

- The group discussed the engagement of local, state, and federal government agencies to identify regulatory barriers regarding the reuse of dredged material. A suggestion to aid with this includes a streamlined process, including clarifying policies for sediment reuse from dredging to shoreline restoration projects.

Program Implementation

- The first suggestion from this group included determining the status of the Sustainable Material Management in Maryland (SM3) workgroup to determine continued applicability. This group also discussed the need to evaluate market needs, investigate a process to streamline material testing and approval and ensure material dewatering efforts can meet reuse needs.

Education and Stakeholder Engagement

- This group suggests tailoring messaging to specific audiences, including the investment community, local residents, and technical/regulatory communities. To accomplish this, this group suggests the development of technical fact sheets and conducting listening sessions to address concerns and inform stakeholders.

Technical

- This group focused on refining strategies related to beneficial use. Key suggestions from this group are to utilize partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to obtain technical support and identify sites for beneficial use projects. This group also suggests updating strategy language wording to reflect changes in new legislative information.

5.0 Announcements and Adjourn

Ms. Rothrock alerted the group that the next IRC meeting will be held on May 13, 2025.