SUMMARY OF THE COX CREEK
CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
January 22, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Anne Arundel Bird Club: Dawn Merino*
Baltimore Industrial Group: Scott Dauphinais*
Chesapeake Bay Association: Frank Neighoff
Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee (C O C) Facilitator: Angie Ashley
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology (EA): Peggy Derrick
Marine Trades Association of Maryland: Dirk Schwenk
Maryland Environmental Service: Mackenzie Miller
Maryland Geological Survey: Anna Gillmor
Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Danielle Fisher, Katrina Jones, Holly Miller, Amanda Peñafiel, Joseph Ross, Darren Swift, Nathan Thompson
Marylanders Grow Oysters: Carl Treff
Pasadena Sportfishing Group (PSG): Robert Schmidt
Resident of Legislative District 31 & Chair of the Cox Creek C O C: Gary Gakenheimer*
Riviera Beach Community: Amy Beall, Mark Donohue, Sandra Donohue, Kelly Hunt
Rock Creek Racing Association: David Copley
Scenic Rivers Land Trust (SRLT): Erin Kilbane
Stoney Beach Community: John Garofolo
The Terrapin Institute: Marguerite Whilden

* Denotes Appointed Cox Creek C O C members.

Action Items:

- Ms. Ashley will provide Ms. Whilden with an update on Cox Creek C O C membership appointments. *Complete*

1.0 Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

Angie Ashley, Facilitator
Gary Gakenheimer, Chair

Meeting materials can be found at the following link: 01/22 Cox Creek C O C Meeting. Ms. Ashley welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

Ms. Ashley reminded attendees that the Cox Creek C O C is established in statute. During the last legislative session, House Bill 343, cross-filed with Senate Bill 20, was passed updating the Cox Creek C O C membership effective July 1, 2024. Those interested in seeking appointments for the vacancies applied via the Governor's Appointment Office online portal. Members are appointed by the Governor, who also determines the terms. This process is in progress, and to date, the Governor has appointed three of the twelve members including Mr. Gakenheimer, a resident of Legislative District 31; Mr. Dauphinais, a member of the Baltimore Industrial Group; and Ms. Merino, representing recreational birding in Anne Arundel County. These appointment terms were backdated and run from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025. MPA staff have been coordinating with the Governor's Appointment office, which noted on December 9, 2024, that the process would be suspended until after the legislative session ends in mid-April 2025. Therefore, MPA does not expect additional appointments until then but encourages continued participation from community members and looks forward to additional appointments later in the year.

Mr. Gakenheimer requested a motion to accept the October 9, 2024 meeting summary, which the Committee accepted. Mr. Gakenheimer announced that the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) is hosting its annual conference on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Maritime Conference Center.

2.0 2024 DMMP Annual Report **Darren Swift, MPA**

Mr. Swift reviewed highlights from the 2024 Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Report. MPA is proud of the contributions that all DMMP committees have made towards the DMMP successes in 2024. In 2024, working from its rolling twenty-year plan, the DMMP moved forward to carry out strategic operational initiatives. Top priorities were Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) expansions, exploration of new management options, and stakeholder engagement.

Funding & Policy

Mr. Swift stated that MPA continues to engage congressional delegations and federal and state partners to ensure favorable legislation, sufficient funding, and support for climate change and resilience planning.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Budget and Work Plan included over $98 million in federal appropriations for annual channel dredging and associated activities. Dredging is currently occurring from that funding.

MPA worked closely with congressional members to draft language in Congress's 2024 bill to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). This legislation authorizes flood control, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects for the USACE. WRDA 2024 is currently in conference and the anticipated passage of the bill is pending.

The Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Partnership consisting of MPA, Living Classrooms Foundation, National Aquarium, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the primary collaborators forming the Partnership. Fundraising efforts have more than doubled MPA's initial seed funding resulting in over $5.3 million in grants and donations since 2006 and over $500,000 in 2024 alone.

The State Highway Administration (SHA), in partnership with MPA, has drafted a material specification for including dredged material in SHA's standard specifications for construction and materials in 2025. This is currently in the clearinghouse process at SHA and MPA is hopeful that it will be included in the next publication of specifications.

In response to an Executive Order signed April 20, 2007, establishing the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, MPA developed a policy entitled "Incorporating Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Information into the Public Marine Terminal and Harbor Development Process." The policy identified the need to make infrastructure and facility improvement decisions to maintain a competitive advantage for Maryland and to accommodate projected long-term growth in waterborne cargo. The first assessment was completed in 2010, and an update to the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Recommendation Report is currently underway.

Planning & Operations

Mr. Swift stated that MPA continues a path to the future by implementing strategic and operational initiatives aligned with the rolling twenty-year plan. This includes expanding DMCFs and exploring new dredged material management techniques. Ongoing implementation continues with

inflow at the Paul S. Sarbanes Ecosystem Restoration Project at Poplar Island (Poplar Island) expansion, and at the Masonville and Cox Creek DMCFs.

Through the twenty-year rolling planning process, material placement has been projected for the next twenty years; however, the DMMP will need to continue to identify and work through the planning process to have sufficient dredged material placement capacity beyond fiscal year (FY) 2024. MPA must continue to manage its facilities to maximize capacity, adhere to project construction schedules, and incorporate capacity recovery efforts through the innovative reuse (IR) and beneficial use (B U) program. Current projections show that the IRBU program will become instrumental in maximizing capacity to ensure MPA can accommodate channel maintenance dredging needs during the twenty-year planning period. MPA believes that the IRBU program will ensure capacity needs in the Baltimore Harbor.

MPA's IRBU program is at the forefront of implementation by using dredged material in sustainable and resourceful applications. A pilot study for dewatering dredged material using geotextile tubes (geotubes) will begin as early as 2025. This is an exciting step forward. Previously, MPA was limited by a lack of space to create a dewatering and drying operation. Now, MPA can have readily available material for IRBU projects and the capacity to dewater and dry material continually which will result in significant progress towards capacity recovery.

MPA plans to issue the Cox Creek Sediment Technology and Reuse (STAR) Facility Request for Information (RFI) in early 2025. The RFI will address large-scale IR of dredged material by informing site development and identifying potential IR developers and processes that could take place at the Cox Creek STAR Facility. Respondents will be asked to provide detailed information regarding the proposed operations, how those would be implemented, the scale of the operation, production rates, and time frame for development and implementation. The ultimate purpose of any information received will be to develop a complete plan for IR operations development at the Cox Creek STAR Facility. The goal is for large-volume dredged material processing to begin at the Cox Creek STAR Facility in FY26, the start of a five-year scale-up period, during which the Cox Creek STAR Facility will process gradually increasing volumes of dredged material. Approximately 1.2 million cubic yards (mcy) of dredged material is anticipated to be recovered from the Cox Creek DMCF during the five-year scale-up period.

The Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) has approved nine IR Research & Development (R&D) contract awards for sustainable reuse applications that support long-term, strategic planning initiatives and identify the critical steps to making large-scale IR a reality at the Port of Baltimore (POB). Results from six of the IR R&D projects have been shared, and the products show potential for large-scale implementation. In October 2024, the Maryland BPW approved a ninth and final IR R&D contract to HarborRock to convert dredged material into supplemental cementitious material and lightweight aggregate. Results are expected in early 2026. MPA will evaluate the IR R&D projects for lessons learned, adaptive management approaches, and scalability, focusing on future opportunities to recover capacity at the Cox Creek DMCF. It is from these projects that MPA feels confident that the IRBU program is primed for capacity recovery at the Cox Creek DMCF using the Cox Creek STAR Facility.

Senate Bill 353 was filed in January 2024 seeking the formation of a Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Task Force, but the bill was not passed into law. Regardless, MPA is committed to an inclusive process and has moved forward with a CAD Subcommittee under the DMMP's Bay Enhancement Working Group (BEWG). The membership and objectives of the CAD

Subcommittee are modeled after those outlined in the CAD Task Force legislation. The CAD Subcommittee members are exploring technical aspects of a second pilot project including environmental impacts and benefits, location selection, associated regulations, and socioeconomic benefits and impacts to meet the state's long-term dredged material placement needs. The CAD Subcommittee will develop a group consensus and submit a report to the DMMP Management Committee and DMMP Executive Committee in mid-2025.

The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration (Mid-Bay) Project is advancing, with notable progress on both Barren and James Islands. Mid-Bay will begin to accept 1 to 2 mcy of annual dredged material from the Maryland Chesapeake Bay channel segments as Poplar Island placement capacity is reached in 2035. Throughout 2024, MPA and USACE worked closely with community members, especially watermen, to limit the potential impacts of construction on livelihoods.

Poplar Island is world-renowned for its effective B U of dredged material to restore remote island habitat. Lessons learned are already being incorporated into the planning and design for the Mid-Bay Project. The goals of research at Poplar Island are to maximize climate resiliency and habitat restoration and develop a set of lessons learned to be applied to other B U projects. Multiple studies have been completed or are underway assessing the relationships between wetland restoration using dredged material and nutrient cycles, greenhouse gases, and long-term resiliency in the face of potential sea level rise. The research supports important DMMP recommendations to incorporate the potential impacts of climate change and facilitate the use of nature-based and climate-resilient solutions in long-term DMMP project planning.

MPA achieved a significant construction milestone at the Cox Creek DMCF by raising the upland dike to +60 feet, increasing the overall capacity to 14.7 mcy. The feasibility study for the next expansion phase, raising to +80 feet, is complete and MPA has initiated design efforts. Construction is expected to begin in FY30. The related mitigation, a nontidal wetland restoration and creation project at Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center, is pending the finalization of the conservation easement with USACE. MPA plans to submit a request to the Maryland BPW to secure the easement in early 2025 at which time construction can then commence.

Ms. Fisher stated that on Saturday, October 19, 2024, MPA hosted its annual Open House at the Cox Creek DMCF. As in previous years, the event featured facility tours, educational and information tables on MPA projects, and community resources including the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, the Maryland Department of Transportation Key Bridge Rebuild Team, the Anne Arundel Bird Club, and more. A record turnout of 212 attendees from Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City enjoyed interactive booths, arts and crafts, fishing, birding, educational games, food, and the ever-popular Touch-a-Truck. This family-friendly event was for the community to learn about the POB's dredging program and witness a groundbreaking ceremony for the Swan Creek Nature Trail (SCNT), as well as to meet POB staff and project partners. About 48% of attendees were first-time visitors at Cox Creek and eleven community partners participated.

The Cox Creek C O C continues to provide input to MPA regarding managing dredged material at the Cox Creek DMCF and to make recommendations on minimizing its potential impacts on the communities and natural resources. A recent project demonstrating this collaboration is the SCNT. Developed in coordination with the Cox Creek C O C and community stakeholders, the SCNT is a community enhancement project to create an approximate 2-mile loop in the forest conservation

easement area. The design includes boardwalks, a bridge, outdoor classrooms, and informational and directional signage. The project has received $179,316 of federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Recreational Trails Program. The design is complete, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the Cox Creek Open House. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025 and MPA hopes to open the SCNT to the public in late 2025 or early 2026. Ms. Hunt expressed excitement toward the opening of the SCNT and stated that the Cox Creek Open House was a great event.

Mr. Swift stated that the dike raising at the Masonville DMCF to an elevation of +30 feet is 50% complete and slated for completion ahead of schedule, likely by the end of 2025. The design for raising the dike to +42 feet is 60% completed and is occurring concurrently with construction to +30 feet. The goal is to have a gap of only a few months between construction to +30 feet and to +42 feet. Design work for the +42 feet began in August 2024 and is expected to be complete by the end of 2025. The final elevation of +42 feet will result in the site having a total capacity of 10.4 mcy which is critical to maintaining the fifty-foot channel system for the competitive movement of cargo and thousands of jobs associated with the POB.

Since its establishment in 1981, the Hart-Miller Island (HMI) C O C has ensured an open dialogue between the communities surrounding the site and MPA. While HMI may have been considered for reopening in 2024, it remains a haven for boaters in the northern Chesapeake Bay. The site provides the public with recreational opportunities and the chance to encounter many different species of plants, insects, and wildlife, including abundant migrating bird populations. Over 37,700 people visited HMI in 2024 to fish, camp, boat, swim, bike, hike, and picnic. In 2024, 219 species of birds were observed on the official census, with thirty species confirmed as breeding on-site.

Outreach & Education

Mr. Swift stated that environmental justice, diversity in representation, and increasing public knowledge about the POB are top priorities for MPA, which has long recognized that the POB's success and that of the DMMP depend on Marylanders' collaboration and support. Key goals are to reflect the communities that MPA serves and to pursue outcomes that equitably benefit all Marylanders. MPA has built a model engagement program, creating widely accessible initiatives that restore the environment and enhance the quality of life for all communities. Tours to community members, business leaders, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and elected officials help stakeholders stay well informed and up to date on POB operations. These are important opportunities for MPA to receive feedback and fresh ideas on its environmental stewardship.

In 2024, the DMMP continued to invest in educating and collaborating with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. Staff bolstered new relationships with local Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), faith-based organizations, and civic organizations. MPA's education and outreach efforts have produced more than 21,000 interactions at nearly 800 events, including engagements with over 14,000 students. Additionally, 540 classrooms were engaged in 2024, of which 30% were certified as Green School classrooms by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) and 32% were in Title I schools where high numbers or high percentages of children are from low-income families.

With support from MPA and industry professionals, the Baltimore Port Alliance (BPA) hosted its sixth Hiring & Career Expo, bringing together 34 employers and more than 300 job-seekers, making it the largest held to date. The event also matched five support organizations with workers

impacted by the POB closure. In exit surveys, 75% of job seekers said they learned about opportunities for which they will apply, 78% of employers said they intend to interview or make offers to candidates they met, and 100% of exhibitors said they would attend a similar event again.

By supporting strategic improvements in the POB's capacity, the DMMP's work enhances the state's economy to benefit all Marylanders. MPA's work in DMMP committees and its commitment to science-based environmental stewardship benefit all the state's living resources. While pursuing its mission to increase waterborne commerce and advance key projects, initiatives, and studies, MPA will continue to work closely with its partners and stakeholders and emphasize strong sustainability practices and goals in 2025 and beyond.

Ms. Whilden requested a status update on Cox Creek C O C membership. Ms. Ashley noted that membership was reviewed during the meeting's opening remarks and, for efficiency, offered to provide Ms. Whilden with a written update via email. Regarding Poplar Island, Ms. Whilden inquired whether there were any new programs or educational initiatives beyond the existing school programs. Ms. Jones clarified that there were no new programs, but public tours of Poplar Island continue annually from March to October, along with ongoing efforts such as the Terrapin Education and Research Partnership (TERP) program in classrooms. Ms. Whilden followed up by encouraging University of Maryland Eastern Shore as a partner in the TERP program.

3.0 Exterior Monitoring Program **Peggy Derrick, EA**

Ms. Derrick delivered a detailed presentation on the Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program, a voluntary initiative by MPA designed to assess environmental conditions near the facility. The program monitors for any changes in the surrounding water environment caused by facility operations and effluent discharge from dewatering. Monitoring data allows for proactive changes to facility operations if necessary and is not required for the facility permits. All conclusions presented are based on data through 2022 as the 2023 draft report has not yet been released to MPA and the 2024 data has been collected but is still with the lab for analysis.

The Cox Creek Exterior Monitoring Program consists of four components including sediment quality characterization, benthic community assessment, benthic tissue analysis, and sediment toxicology testing. The technical approach to the program is modeled after similar monitoring programs at HMI and Poplar Island. The first monitoring at Cox Creek DMCF occurred in 2006 and subsequent monitoring for the next three years created a total of four years of baseline data. During this time no significant discharging from the site occurred that would impact the exterior environment to create the baseline data. Since the baseline data was gathered, twelve additional years of data have been gathered through annual monitoring. Monitoring did not occur in 2011 and 2012 due to lack of site activity and did not occur again in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Monitoring is typically conducted between late September and November. . There are eight monitoring locations located in the vicinity of Cox Creek DMCF's two discharge points. The near-field monitoring locations are located closer to the discharge points while the far-field monitoring locations are located farther away. Additionally, there are three reference locations located upstream from the discharge points which are used as a source of comparison.

<u>Sediment Quality Characterization</u>

The sediment quality characterization component of the Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program identifies changes to the physical and chemical composition of surface sediments. Surface sediments are collected using a surface grab sampler and are submitted for physical and chemical testing. Data are compared to sediment quality guidelines for aquatic life, specifically benthic life.

Data is also compared to the Effect Range Low (ERL) and Effect Range Median (ERM) concentrations. ERL values are concentrations below which effects on benthic organisms are not expected. If concentrations fall between the ERL and ERM there is a possibility of impact on benthic organisms and if concentrations are above the ERM there is an increased probability of impact on benthic organisms. Data for each monitoring location are also compared to Baseline Control Limits (BCLs) developed using the baseline data. A 1-of-2 retesting strategy process is applied in that an analyte is said to be representative of baseline conditions if at least one result in the last two consecutive sampling events is less than the BCL. BCL exceedances in both the exterior monitoring and reference locations likely indicate a regional change has occurred. In contrast, a confirmed exceedance in one or more exterior monitoring locations but with a stable reference, may be related to an operational impact. Data sets with confirmed consecutive exceedances of the BCL will be further evaluated to characterize the magnitude and potential causes of the upward trend.

Regarding sediment quality results, specifically sediment quality guidelines, metals and individual Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) concentrations most frequently detected between ERL and ERM values. ERM exceedances are infrequent. Zinc is the most common analyte to exceed the ERM overtime; however, this is a more frequent occurrence at upstream reference locations. With respect to the BCLs, few BCLs were exceeded during the period of 2010 through 2022. No consistent trends were identified with respect to two consecutive years of BCL exceedances at the same monitoring location. Overall, the result indicates no impact to the sediment chemistry because of site operations and discharging. It is important to note that discharging due to dewatering is not continuous. Over the past ten years there has been an average of 34 days of discharge per year at the southern most discharge location.

Benthic Community Assessment

The benthic community assessment component of the Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program identifies the condition and composition of the benthic community. Surface samples are collected in triplicate, sieved, and benthic organisms preserved in the field. Samples are sorted by species or by the lowest practical taxon or group in the laboratory. Each benthic species or taxonomic group is enumerated and biomassed. The bottom substrate type and bottom salinity at the time of sampling collection is used to classify the benthic habitat. The area at Cox Creek is extremely dynamic in that depending on rainfall the salinity from year-to-year can fluctuate. Benthic metrics include total number of taxa, abundance, biomass, species diversity, evenness, species richness, dominance, pollution indicative and sensitive taxa, and feeding type.

Benthic communities are evaluated using the Chesapeake Bay Benthic index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) which uses a combination of metrics based on substrate and salinity. Each metric is assigned a condition score on comparison to established reference locations with 5 being approximates, 3 being deviates slightly, and 1 being deviates severely. B-IBI scores are calculated for each Cox Creek monitoring and reference location. The average B-IBI score, or Restoration Goal Index (RGI), is then used to determine if a benthic community meets restoration goals, is marginal, is degraded, or is severely degraded. Overall, many of the monitoring locations B-IBI average scores indicate that the benthic community near Cox Creek DMCF meets restoration goals although there is some variability year-to-year. Most year-to-year in benthic species abundance, biomass, and other metrics is associated with variability in bottom salinity and dissolved oxygen conditions driven by weather events such as precipitation and drought conditions.

Benthic Tissue Analysis

The Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program's benthic tissue analysis component assesses contaminants' uptake from sediment into benthic organism tissue. Several target species of clams are collected from each of the monitoring and reference locations. Collections for three replicate sets of chemical analyses per station is targeted to provide replicate data when analyzing the tissue chemistry of the clams. The clams are shucked, and the tissue is submitted for chemical testing of metals, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) congeners, pesticides, and lipids. There is year-to-year variability for species, tissue weight or mass, and testing.

Benthic tissue data evaluation uses the same BCL process that is used for sediment chemistry in that baseline data from 2006 to 2009 was used to develop the BCL and the 1-of-2 testing strategy was also applied. At the Cox Creek DMCF, few BCLs were exceeded during the period of 2010 through 2022 although several metals had year-to-year variability including cadmium, copper, and nickel. Most BCL exceedances were near the BCL value and there are no consistent upward trends identified with respect to two consecutive years of BCL exceedances at the same monitoring location.

Sediment Toxicity Testing

The sediment toxicity testing component of the Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program determines if benthic organisms can live in the sediments and identifies any changes in sediment that influence organism survival. Toxicity tests are conducted in the laboratory using an estuarine amphipod species. Toxicity tests are ten days long and involve five replicates for each monitoring and reference location. Survival is the test endpoint, and results are statistically compared to reference sediment and lab control survival.

Between 2006 and 2022, mean amphipod survival ranged from 79% to 100% for all monitoring and reference locations combined. Only four samples were statistically lower than the reference in fourteen total monitoring years, although not acutely toxic. There was no statistical difference in survival from 2014 through 2022 over eight testing events and no acute toxicity was identified.

Ms. Merino inquired whether any recommendations had been made to MPA to change practices or methodology and if those recommendations led to any changes. Ms. Derrick responded that no issues have been encountered that require such recommendations. If a concerning trend were to emerge over several years it would warrant further examination, however thus far no such trends have been observed.

Ms. Derrick summarized that the Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program includes multiple components including sediment characterization and chemistry, benthic community, benthic tissue, and sediment toxicity testing. Few BLC exceedances have been identified for sediment and tissue chemical data and no upwards trends are evident. The benthic community condition varies year-to-year based on weather and physical water quality conditions, however overall, the community conditions are good. Sediments are not acutely toxic to benthic organisms. Overall, none of the results of the monitoring to date indicate adverse effects to aquatic benthic life from effluent discharges and facility operations. Effluent discharges are intermittent and vary by year based on inflow volume and rain events. The monitoring conducted is proactive and voluntary. Ms. Whilden asked about the purpose of voluntary monitoring if a permit does not require it. Ms. Derrick explained that the goal is to collect data to track potential changes. If any changes are detected, proactive measures can be taken to adjust operations or identify the cause.

Mr. Garofolo inquired if the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducts parallel

testing near the Cox Creek DMCF and, if so, how that data compares. Ms. Derrick responded that there are several nearby monitoring locations, including one for water quality that tracks dissolved oxygen levels upstream. Additionally, there are about three benthic monitoring locations in deeper water near the channel, which tend to show more impact from low dissolved oxygen in the summer and are often classified as degraded or severely degraded. Therefore, results from the Cox Creek DMCF are better.

Mr. Treff emphasized the significance of benthic organisms and noted that a twenty-acre disturbance could impact millions of benthic organisms. Ms. Derrick agreed on the importance of benthic organisms as part of the food chain and key indicators of ecosystem health. Ms. Derrick acknowledged that while some areas were classified as degraded, those areas still supported large numbers of organisms. The assessments consider species diversity and pollution indicators, as some species can thrive in stressed conditions while others cannot. Ms. Derrick further reinforced the importance of monitoring benthic communities for environmental health.

4.0 **Roundtable Remarks and Open Discussion** **All Members**

Mr. Schmidt announced that on the weekend of February 15, 2025, PSG will host the 32nd annual Fishing Expo at Kurtz's Beach from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. There is a $5 admission fee each day and children 12 years old and under are free.

Mr. Donohue inquired about the deadline for testimonies to be submitted for Senate Bill 168. Mr. Garofolo confirmed that written testimonies are due Friday, January 24, 2025, between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM and the public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 2:30 PM.

Mr. Garofolo expressed immense gratitude toward MPA for facilitating the presentation on the Cox Creek DMCF Exterior Monitoring Program and expressed appreciation for the monitoring being conducted. Ms. Whilden requested to be put in contact with the new Cox Creek C O C members.

5.0 Upcoming Meeting and Adjournment **Angie Ashley, Facilitator**

Ms. Ashley stated that the next 2025 Cox Creek C O C meeting will be held on April 23, 2025.