Final Draft Summary of the Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee Meeting

July 22, 2026 - 5:30 PM
Cox Creek Operations and Maintenance Complex
1000 Kembo Road, Curtis Bay, MD 21226
Hybrid Meeting

Attendees:

Anne Arundel County Bird Club: Dawn Merino*

Arcadis: Bert Buell

Baltimore Industrial Group: Scott Dauphinais*

Cox Creek Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) Facilitator: Angie Ashley

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Amber Peters, Dallas Henson, Jim Faulkenhan, Robert Natarian

Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Danielle Fisher, Darren Swift, Holly Miller, Joseph Ross, Katrina Jones, Kelvin Moulden

Northgate Environmental Management Inc.: Jacob Lacy

Pasadena Sportfishing Group (PSG): Robert Christy*

Riviera Beach Community: Karen Warner

Scenic Rivers Land Trust: Erin Killbane*

Stoney Beach Community: John Garofolo*

* Denotes Cox Creek COC members.

Action Items:

- MPA will investigate obtaining aerial imagery through the MES survey team to document the progress of the Stoney Beach beneficial use (BU) project.
- MPA will consider a tour of the Cox Creek Forested Conservation Area related to the Swan Creek Nature Trail (SCNT) for stakeholders, including Scenic Rivers Land Trust and local elected officials, to highlight the conservation area.
- MPA will provide the Cox Creek COC with an update on coordination efforts related to the Brandon Shores Development Project following the August meeting with the Brandon Shores Development Group.

1.0 Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks, Angie Ashley, Facilitator

The meeting materials can be found at the following link: 7/22 Cox Creek COC Meeting Ms. Ashley welcomed attendees, called the meeting to order, and led introductions. Ms. Ashley also provided opening remarks on behalf of the committee chairperson and requested a motion to approve the April 22, 2026, Cox Creek COC meeting summary, which the Committee approved as written.

2.0 NIS Announcements, Holly Miller, MPA

Ms. Miller noted that in-person meeting participants received a copy of the Mid-Year Report, which highlights accomplishments to date. The report can also be found at the following link: 2026 Mid-Year Report. Ms. Miller noted that a Get the Scoop on Dredging community event was held on June 3, 2026, at the Riviera Beach Public Library, providing a good opportunity for community members to engage directly with experts and learn more about ongoing dredging activities.

MPA continues to monitor the proposed Brandon Shores development project and Ms. Miller thanked Mr. Garofolo for inquiring about whether comments MPA previously submitted regarding the project were included in the Anne Arundel County application review. It was confirmed that the MPA comments were considered as part of the review process. The Brandon Shores Development Group recently requested a meeting with MPA to discuss concerns outlined in MPA's stakeholder letter, which will be held in August. MPA will provide an update following those discussions.

Mr. Garofolo provided an update on the county's review of the proposed development, noting that county zoning and environmental staff conducted a detailed evaluation of the application, including requested exceptions to conservation and environmental requirements. The application was denied following the review; however, the applicant may resubmit within 60 days. Mr. Garofolo also emphasized the importance of continued community involvement and noted consideration for additional outreach efforts, including a petition related to the proposed development.

3.0 Cox Creek DMCF Update, Darren Swift, MPA

Mr. Swift reviewed the 2026 Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) inflow events, reporting final placement volumes of 26,865 cubic yards (cy) for the Shallow Creek project, 534 cy for the Hart-Miller Island Pier project, 34,338 cy for the Baltimore Sail250 project, and 468,354 cy for the Seagirt West Brewerton Channel project. Approximately 108 million gallons of water have been discharged from the DMCF to date in 2026.

The USACE is planning for the next federal dredging cycle and is exploring the potential to place dredged material at the Cox Creek DMCF during the winter months rather than the summer. Material placed during warmer months can contribute to algae blooms as nutrients associated with the dredged material enter the shallow-water environment and water

temperatures increase. These conditions can complicate DMCF water management operations. Winter placement would provide additional opportunities for water management and discharge activities before warmer weather.

Other updates related to the Cox Creek DMCF included progress on the Colgate Creek Project. Material hauling began the week of July 13, 2026. To date, 241 truckloads have been transported, representing approximately 2,892 cy of material. An estimated 80,000 cy of material remains to be removed from the site.

Once the material from the Colgate Creek project has been relocated, a contract for additional excavation of the upland cell will be advertised. The area will be excavated an additional six to seven feet to maximize capacity, generating approximately 250,000 cy of material. The excavated clay material will be stockpiled at the Cox Creek Sediment Technology and Reuse (STAR) facility for potential future use in the proposed +80 expansion project. Reusing this material could result in significant cost savings by eliminating the need to obtain material from an off-site source.

The geotechnical evaluation and subsurface investigation for the proposed +80' expansion project have been completed, and the project is advancing into the 30% design phase. Design is anticipated to be completed in 2027. If a determination is made to move the project forward, construction of the +80 expansion could begin in SFY2028 and take approximately two years to complete. The expansion would increase the site's total capacity to approximately 20 million cubic yards (mcy), adding an estimated 6 mcy.

The Cox Creek Expansion Project resulted in unavoidable impacts to approximately 1.16 acres of non-tidal wetlands and 2.32 acres of non-tidal wetland buffers. To offset these impacts, an off-site mitigation project is being implemented at the Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center within the Gunpowder-Patapsco watershed. The site was selected because it would provide high-quality wetland mitigation opportunities while also supporting future outreach and educational programming. The procurement process has been completed, and a contractor was selected, with a Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued on May 1, 2026. The contract has a duration of approximately seven months.

4.0 Swan Creek Nature Trail, Joseph Ross, MPA

Mr. Ross provided an update on the Swan Creek Nature Trail (SCNT) project and presented a diagram of the trailhead kiosk and interpretive signage planned for installation at the trail entrance. Messaging and interpretive content continue to be refined as the project advances, and signage has largely been finalized, including Spanish translations. QR codes may be incorporated to provide visitors with additional trail information and resources.

DSM Contracting, LLC was selected through a competitive bidding process and the project team

is awaiting the contractor's final construction schedule. Following review of the schedule, an NTP is anticipated in August 2026. Construction activities within the eastern portion of the site are expected to begin in October 2026 after time-of-year restrictions for the Eastern Black Rail are lifted. Initial work is expected to include construction of outdoor classroom areas, bridges, and boardwalks.

Mr. Ross reviewed public access preferences for the SCNT, presented as a graph based on survey feedback collected over the past year. The results indicated that weekends and mornings are the preferred times for trail access, with Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. identified as the most popular timeframe. The current plan is to open the trail one Saturday per month, while taking existing site scheduling and other activities into consideration. As the trail opens in early 2027, usage and visitation patterns will be monitored to help determine whether access hours should be adjusted.

Mr. Garofolo suggested organizing a special conservation-focused tour to provide community members, conservation organizations, and other interested stakeholders with an opportunity to experience the SCNT area and learn more about its environmental resources. Ms. Miller agreed that such a tour could be valuable and expressed support for expanding opportunities for public engagement.

5.0 IR/BU Implementation Update, Kelvin Moulden, MPA

Mr. Moulden provided updates on Innovative Reuse (IR), BU initiatives, and capacity recovery efforts at the Cox Creek DMCF, reviewing the targeted capacity recovery goals for the facility, and noting that recovery operations are planned to scale up annually with a goal to recover approximately 1.2 mcy of material over the next five years.

An NTP was issued in May 2026 for the Cox CreekCapacity Recovery Project. The contractor has 250 calendar days to recover approximately 50,000 cy of material from the waterside cell, with the contract extending into early February 2027. Based on anticipated production rates of approximately 300-330 cy per day, the recovery work is expected to be completed in about 150 days, providing additional schedule flexibility within the contract period. MDE approved the contractor's preferred polymer for use in dewatering operations. The staging area and asphalt pad have been installed, equipment mobilized on site, and a dredge and support vessel are expected to be deployed in the near future.

Several projects we highlighted that could potentially utilize IR/BU material from Cox Creek. A proposed wetland enhancement and living shoreline project at Masonville Cove could utilize sandier material generated from the Shallow Creek dredging project, pending approval of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant. The project would improve water quality, stabilize the shoreline, enhance wetland habitat, and benefit native bird species.

The Hawkins Point DMCF South Cell Closure Project could use material to support final grading and closure activities, and the planned +42-foot dike raising at the Masonville DMCF, which may utilize material from the Colgate Creek Project. MPA recently acquired the former St. Helena Manufacturing property near the Dundalk Marine Terminal and may require

approximately 80,000 cy of engineered fill material.Mr. Garofolo asked about MPA's plans for the property. Mr. Moulden noted that the property's long-term use is still being evaluated. Ms. Miller stated that potential future uses could include expanded port operations, cargo storage, or administrative facilities.

Mr. Moulden reviewed potential non-MPA IR/BU opportunities. MPA has been coordinating with One Westport, which is a mixed-use development project in Baltimore, to determine whether fill material may be needed for the development of residential and retail space. While some parcels have already met their fill requirements, the developer plans to complete additional site surveys and will provide an update on potential material needs.

The BGE Riverside Substation project recently requested approximately 20,000 cy of material to backfill an emergent wetland that’s impacted by contamination. The timing could align well with the Cox Creek Capacity Recovery Project, allowing the dried material to be transported directly to the site, but regulatory coordination and project schedules will be needed.

Mr. Moulden stated that they are exploring additional partnership opportunities and launched a dredged material marketing initiative to identify BU for material recovered from the Cox Creek Capacity Recovery Project. As dredged material becomes available, outreach is being focused on commercial real estate development projects, which often require large quantities of fill. He noted that recently they met with representatives from CBRE to discuss marketing strategies. Feedback from the meeting emphasized the importance of cost, material availability timelines, and material quality to developers.

Mr. Garofolo asked whether MPA is considering financial incentives to encourage use of material recovered through the IR/BU program. Mr. Moulden stated that MPA is still evaluating future approaches for distributing or marketing the material. Ms. Miller explained that, at this stage, the primary benefit to MPA is the recovery of DMCF capacity and, therefore, providing recovered material at little or no cost can support that objective. Ms. Miller further noted that the material has inherent value and that MPA's approach to material distribution could evolve as the program matures and the material becomes more widely accepted for reuse.

Mr. Garofolo encouraged MPA to consider potential impacts on the existing soil supply industry as material marketing efforts advance, and suggested emphasizing recycling and sustainability in future outreach and marketing. In response, Mr. Moulden noted that MPA is exploring opportunities to engage commercial developers, soil producers, and suppliers as potential end users of the recovered material. Mr. Swift added that MPA previously participated in the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) Recycled Materials Task Force and highlighted SHA's 2025 approval of a specification for dredged material and dredged material blends, which supports broader use of dredged material by soil producers. MPA recently met with SHA to discuss additional beneficial use opportunities, including wetland mitigation and shoreline stabilization projects.

Mr. Moulden highlighted the Innovative Reuse Committee's 20-year anniversary and recognized its contributions to advancing dredged material reuse initiatives, from research and demonstration projects to large-scale implementation efforts.

Mr. Garofolo noted that shoreline grasses at the Stoney Beach BU project are growing and that sediment is accumulating within the riprap cell, indicating that the project is functioning as intended. Mr. Moulden stated that the project was recently used as a case study during discussions with a commercial developer, while Mr. Garofolo noted that he has shared information about the project with several community groups and has observed significant interest in the beneficial use program. Mr. Garofolo suggested obtaining updated aerial imagery to document the project's progress. Mr. Moulden noted that MES may be able to support this effort through its survey department, which has drone imagery capabilities.

6.0 Roundtable Remarks & Open Discussion, All Attendees

Mr. Christy noted that Kurtz Beach will host its Made in Maryland Festival on August 16, featuring Maryland-based vendors, businesses, and products.

In addition, the Pasadena Sport Fishing Group will host a Kids Fishing Derby on September 19, with approximately 60–70 children and 50 families expected to participate. The event is intended to introduce participants to the Patapsco River, promote catch-and-release fishing practices, and provide an educational outdoor experience for families.

Mr. Christy also highlighted the success of a recent Cops and Bobbers event, which brought together more than 35 children from communities ranging from Brooklyn and Curtis Bay to Severna Park. The event focused on environmental education, fishing, and positive interactions between youth and law enforcement officers.

7.0 Upcoming Events and Adjournment, Angie Ashley, Facilitator

Ms. Ashley shared that the next Cox Creek COC meeting is on October 28, 2026. Additionally, the 2026 Cox Creek open house will be held on October 18, 2026.