

PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

April 21, 2017 10:00 AM

90B North Center Street

Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

AECOM: Chris Rogers

Anchor QEA: Karin Olsen

Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Dave Heacock, Joy Heacock, George Hansell, William J. Fischer, Mary Ann Fischer, Becky Kiersznowski, Steve Zawatski

Cecil County Department of Planning and Zoning: Tony DiGiacomo

Cecil County Health Department: Angela Scramlin

Cecil Whig: Jake Owens

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE): Elder Ghigiarelli

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Kristen Keene, Christine Holmburg

Maryland Department of Transportation's Port Administration (MPA): Kristen Fidler, Chris Correale, Alex Shull

Congressman Harris's Office: Mary O'Keeffe

Sunset Pointe: Kathleen McDonough

Town of Cecilton: Mary Cooper, Mayor Joe Zang

US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP): Gavin Kaiser, Wayne Marson

West View Shores (WVS) Residents: Diane English, Valerie Woodruff, Eddie Lavin

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Kristen Fidler, Chair

- Ms. Fidler welcomed the attendees to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2.0 Summary Approval

Committee Members

- The Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC) members approved the draft February 2017 meeting summary as written; the summary will be posted as final on the Pearce Creek outreach website (www.pearcecreekoutreach.com).

3.0 Philadelphia District Corps (CENAP) Update

Gavin Kaiser, CENAP

Liner Construction Updates

- The liner construction is 100% complete and the remaining liner-related construction items will resume in mid-October.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP) intends to replant the trees around the entrance to the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). It has been determined that the requested tree planting along Pond Neck Road is not feasible considering CENAP needs access to the swale adjacent to the road for stormwater management purposes, and planting trees would prevent mower access to the swale. Although no trees will be planted there, the lower portion of the berm will not be mowed and allowed to grow naturally. There is a 16 acre area near the southeast portion of the DMCF which has been cleared and subsequently regraded to prevent ponding and reduce mosquito habitat; once the area has some natural growth the debris will be removed.

Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update

- The map of the groundwater monitoring well locations has been updated and is located on the Pearce Creek outreach website. The installation of 18 new monitoring wells will occur next week and take about a month and a half to complete. The drillers have been made aware of noise concerns due to the close proximity of the communities.

Discharge Monitoring Plan Update:

- A Discharge Monitoring Plan was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on February 3rd and CENAP is waiting for a response.

4.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress

Chris Rogers, AECOM

Water System Construction Updates

- The transmission main and distribution main projects are nearing completion.
- Regarding road restoration along Pond Neck Road, the surface will be milled and then overlaid with pavement after the temporary patches have been completed. Reybold is in the process of milling out West View Shores (WVS) and the millings are being recycled with the existing tar and chip in Bay View Estates (BVE), which will serve as the base for the new tar and chip roads.

On-lot Construction Contract

- Reybold was awarded the on-lot contract and is in the process of finalizing all of the contract documents. AECOM anticipates that the Notice to Proceed will be issued in the first week of May; once issued, Reybold will begin contacting homeowners and scheduling the on-lot work.

Access Agreements

- A total of 175 access agreements have been received to date. Residents were reminded that Reybold will not be able to proceed with any on-lot work, which includes contacting the homeowner for scheduling, until a signed Access Agreement is received.
- Blank access agreements are available on the Pearce Creek outreach website; residents can also request a hardcopy be mailed.

4/8 Public Information Meeting Overview

- The *What to Expect During On-lot Construction* public information meeting was well attended and a significant amount of feedback and discussion was generated.
- The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been updated and will be placed on the Pearce Creek outreach website. Additionally, the PowerPoint presentation given at the public meeting will be narrated and posted on the outreach website.
- During the public meeting, there were many requests to retain some or all of the residential water treatment systems as the in-home connections are made to the public water supply. Due to the variability of treatment systems that exist throughout the communities, it will take some time to determine the details of how the contractor will complete each request while adhering to the specifications of the on-lot contract; residents will be notified once progress is made on the issue.
- Ms. Fidler reiterated the action items from the public meeting:
 - Access Agreements must be signed by the property owner and returned to AECOM.
 - Residents wishing to keep their well pump need to notify Reybold before well abandonment activities occur.

- Homeowners should communicate with AECOM via Chris Rogers at (302) 781-5945 or christopher.rogers@aecom.com regarding any unique requests, questions, or concerns in advance of any work taking place on your lot.
- Determine the type of tar being used for road restoration (*Update: The tar being used will be a combination of water and oil based components*).
- The Cecil County Health Department communicated that the public water contains a chlorine concentration of about 0.2 - 0.5 parts per million (ppm). It takes around 20 ppm to have adverse impacts to the bacteria in a septic tank, this includes Best Available Technology (BAT) septic systems. Information on chlorine and septic systems is available on the Pearce Creek outreach website.

5.0 MPA Updates

**Kristen Fidler, MPA;
Karin Olsen, Anchor QEA**

Fall 2016 Exterior Monitoring Results

- A PowerPoint presentation was given on the fall 2016 exterior monitoring results. The results presented are from the third round of baseline monitoring to represent the initial characterization of existing conditions. The final baseline sampling effort is scheduled for spring 2017.
- Overall, the baseline sampling events have demonstrated consistency among the data sets.

Surface Water Quality

- The turbidity was highly variable at the Pearce Creek Lake locations due to natural factors such as bank erosion and algae and elevated at the Elk River reference site due to runoff from recent rain events.
- There were low concentrations overall for chemical constituents and the data was generally consistent with the fall 2015 and spring 2016 data. Copper slightly exceeded the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MDE surface water criteria at one location but it was still very similar to previous sampling events.

Sediment Sampling

- Pearce Creek Lake was composed of mostly silts and clays; the Elk River monitoring location was composed of silty clays; and the Elk River reference location was silty with a lot of shell material.
- Nutrient levels were naturally variable at all locations and the concentrations of metals were generally low at both the Pearce Creek Lake and Elk River monitoring and reference locations.

Sediment Bioassay results

- Survival was high for the Pearce Creek Lake and Elk River sediments; the sediments were not toxic, and support benthic organisms.

Benthic Community results:

- The Pearce Creek Lake reference location met the Chesapeake Bay restoration goal; six of the Pearce Creek Lake locations met the goal and one Pearce Creek Lake location (PCL-07) was classified as degraded (which is an improvement from 2016 and is most likely due to the shallow depth of the sampling location).
- The Elk River reference site met the Chesapeake Bay restoration goal and the Elk River monitoring location was classified as marginal due to the substrate, which supports a high abundance of organisms with low diversity.

Fall 2016 Elk River Beach Sampling Results

- Sampling was also conducted in two nearshore locations (RB-01 and RB-02) close to the beach in the Elk River; these locations were added at the request of the citizens. The river beach locations were evaluated independently from the baseline exterior monitoring data but include the same testing program (i.e. sediment, water quality, benthic community, and benthic bioassays).
- Regarding the surface water results, the salinity was oligohaline (salinity between 0.5 to 5 ppt), turbidity was low, and the concentrations for chemical testing were generally very low with no water quality criteria exceedances.
- Regarding the sediment results, sampling location RB-01 was primarily composed of shell fragments with some sand while location RB-02 was predominately sand.
- The nutrient concentrations were naturally variable and the metal concentrations were generally low at both sampling locations.
- The benthic community results indicated higher diversity and abundance compared to the Elk River monitoring location. A benthic bioassay was only conducted at location RB-01 and the results demonstrated high survival; location RB-02 was composed of 97% sand and gravel, which is poor test material for bioassay testing and therefore not completed.
- The fall 2016 results represent the second round of river beach sampling in the Elk River which will help to better understand the existing environmental conditions in this area and determine any fluctuations over time.
- It was recommended that Anchor QEA examine the data from the Susquehanna River monitoring station (near Conowingo Dam) as it could have an effect on the exterior monitoring and river beach sampling data.

6.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

Feedback from the Community Members

- It was requested that 6-foot tall bumpers (also known as bollards) be placed around the fire hydrant installed in the WVS parking lot area where a significant amount of boat trailer traffic exists. AECOM will look into the issue.

7.0 Future Meeting Discussions

Kristen Fidler, MPA

- The next PCIC meeting will be held Friday, June 16th at 10 am.

Adjourn - Noon

Kristen Fidler, Chair