

PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

May 15, 2015; 10:00 AM

90B North Center Street

Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Bill Haines, Norine Haines, Kathy Zawatski, Dave Heacock, Sandra Stake, Stephen Zawatski, Ken Cowley, George Hansell, Wilma Fitzner, Bob Fitzner, Joy Heacock, Wendy Dulaney, Wayne Dulaney

Cecil County Health Department (CCHD): Angela Scramlin,

Cecil County Department of Planning and Zoning: Eric Sennstrom

Cecilton Mayor: Joe Zang

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Kristen Keene, Dave Peters

Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Dave Blazer

MPA Consultant: Fran Flanigan

Sunset Pointe Residents: Ray Soly

URS Corporation: Chris Rogers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Timothy Kelly – via conference call

West View Shores (WVS) Residents: Valerie Woodruff

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Dave Blazer

- Mr. Blazer convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2.0 Summary Approval

Committee

- The March 20th meeting summary approval was deferred until the next meeting.

3.0 USACE updates

Tim Kelly

Liner Construction

- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) required a third party to independently review the liner and construction specifications. Geosynthetic Institute conducted the review which indicated that the liner project is of sound design. The Geosynthetic Institute letter of opinion will be available on the Pearce Creek outreach website.
- MDE is currently reviewing the liner construction plans.
- Overall there will be three entities conducting QA/QC of the liner material for strength, durability, and bonding qualities: the contractor, a third party consultant who is hired by the contractor, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) inspectors.

Tree Planting

- USACE will obtain \$3,000 in funding for the purchase of trees, which limits the number of trees purchased. Larger pine trees will be planted in the next couple of weeks.
- The liner construction contract includes a landscaping component.
- Community members requested a cross-sectional profile of the berm area and an all-inclusive view of the planting plans for the site. The goal is to outline community expectations that the USACE could agree to.
- In response to an inquiry on why the berm was still being mowed the USACE explained that mowing the grass allows inspection of the dikes to ensure structural integrity is maintained.

Timeline of liner construction and placement

- The USACE will finalize the construction contract in June and the Notice to Proceed (NTP) will be sent to the contractor in August. The contract duration will go until December 2016.

Mosquito Spraying

- The USACE is currently coordinating with Cecil County regarding mosquito spraying, which will be initiated after the first placement of dredged material occurs.

Future Activities

- Concerning well abandonment within the disposal area, one U.S. Geological Survey well located outside of the berm is leaking and the USACE will be completing the repair.
- Relocation of the staging area is included in the liner construction contract, which should begin in August, when the NTP is issued.

C&D Approach Channel Dredging

- Chesapeake & Delaware Canal dredging included 500,000 cubic yards of material dredged south of the Sassafras River, near Pooles Island, and transported to Poplar Island. The hope is that enough material was dredged to hold off from dredging again until the Pearce Creek site has been reactivated.

4.0 MPA Update

Dave Blazer

- The Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) includes the approved funding for the Pearce Creek waterline construction project on Page 10. In total, \$14.184 million has been allocated to the Pearce Creek project and has been budgeted to account for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. Fiscal years start July 1st and end June 30th; i.e., fiscal year 2016 occurs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- The [CTP document](#) will be included on the Pearce Creek outreach website.
- Concerning other sources of funding:
 1. A current agreement between MES and the Town of Cecilton (Town) funds the planning and design of the water system, which is about \$700,000, of which 75% has been used;
 2. A separate line item includes funding for outreach, meetings, open houses, etc.; and
 3. A third funding source is being used for the exterior monitoring program.

5.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress

Mayor Zang and Chris Rogers

- 95% of the water line designs have been finished; however, the Town/URS is attempting to acquire two additional easements from private individuals in an effort to save time and money:
 1. An easement located off of Pond Neck Road for a second chlorination system. An alternate plan is available in the event the easement is not obtained.
 2. An easement located behind the homes of Crawford Acres to make the water line pathway more direct.
- After meetings with the State Highway Administration, it was decided that the water line can be placed directly in the drainage ditch, which eliminated the need for additional easements.
- Most of the permits have been obtained and URS is sending out a public notice regarding the request to increase the Town's Groundwater Appropriations Permit.
- Excavation for the water line will likely begin early fall 2015.

- The Town is still in a position to front the costs for the fire hydrants and will inform the citizens of the actual costs once it goes out to bid.
- The West View Shores (WVS) community shareholders will vote on the installation of the fire hydrants in their community.

6.0 Outreach Update

Dave Blazer

Elected Officials

- MPA and USACE met with elected officials to provide an update on the Pearce Creek project.
- The next meeting with elected officials is scheduled for July 21st.
- The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), MDE, and the Governor has been made aware of the high priority of the Pearce Creek project.

Website Updates

- The MPA GreenPort website is being designed to discuss all the work the MPA is doing for the dredging program and for the terminals regarding environmental stewardship, and can be reached via the MPA webpage. A link to the Pearce Creek outreach website will also be added.
- The Pearce Creek outreach website is continually updated depending on project progress.
- A resident requested a visual indicating the location of the groundwater monitoring wells and identifying which aquifer(s) the wells would be pulling from.
- Concerning the Water Quality Certification conditions and discharge requirements, the specific discharge parameters are still being developed and will be determined via MDE and USACE coordination.
- In response to a concern expressed about the discharge water impacting the community beaches, it was explained that there will be two levels of aboveground monitoring:
 1. Monitoring the water being discharged from the site, which will be conducted by USACE as a regulatory requirement, and;
 2. Monitoring the environmental conditions surrounding the Pearce Creek DMCF subsequent to discharge, which will be voluntarily conducted by MPA.

7.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

- Two primary concerns were raised from the Sunset Pointe community:
 1. The ability to pay for fire hydrants, and
 2. The ability to maintain wells for irrigation.
- Maintaining a well for irrigational purposes would be determined by MDE on a case-by-case basis for the Sunset Pointe community, which contains larger lot sizes. MPA will set up a meeting with MDE to discuss the exceptions issue. Most exceptions are for agricultural purposes and it is unknown if it would also apply to lawn irrigation.
- A Sunset Pointe community member inquired about the process to apply for exceptions to well abandonment as well as having a representative attend the community meeting on June 6th to discuss the information.

8.0 Future Meeting Discussions

Fran Flanigan

- Site visits/tours/Open House events can be scheduled on an as-needed basis.
- Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC) members are available to attend community meetings, as requested.

- A community member requested that a representative from the liner construction company attend a PCIC meeting or meet with community leaders to discuss the liner.
- A community member requested photos of other DMCF sites at the next PCIC meeting to view how vegetation has been planted. The group was reminded that the USACE owns the Pearce Creek site while the other sites, such as Cox Creek and Masonville, are owned by the MPA, however, photos of other DMCF sites will be provided.
- A community member expressed concern regarding the other DMCFs in Cecil County, which may potentially have the same issues as Pearce Creek. There is a commitment from USACE to look at the other sites; however, they are currently focused on the Pearce Creek DMCF.

9.0 Other Issues

Committee Members

- The PCIC was asked if email updates would be appropriate in lieu of a meeting, in the event that the agenda is light; decisions will be made on an as-needed basis.
- A community member requested that a MDE representative attend a PCIC meeting; MPA stated that they can pass along the request to MDE.

10.0 Adjourn

Dave Blazer