

PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

July 24, 2015; 10:00 AM

90B North Center Street

Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

Bay View Estates (BVE) Citizens: Bill Haines, Norine Haines, Kathy Zawatski, Sandra Stake, Stephen Zawatski, Ken Cowley, George Hansell, Joy Heacock, Wayne Dulaney, Mary Ann Fischer

Cecil County Health Department (CCHD): Angela Scramlin, Fred von Staden

Cecil County Department of Planning and Zoning: Eric Sennstrom

Cecilton Mayor: Joe Zang

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Kristen Keene

Maryland Port Administration (MPA): Dave Blazer

MPA Consultant: Fran Flanigan

URS Corporation: Chris Rogers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Tony DePasquale

West View Shores (WVS) Citizens: Valerie Woodruff, Stephen Modzelewski, Gary Shetzline, Bobbye Jopling, Eddie Lavin, Rose Kannuck, Steve Martin, Helena Davidson

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 was previously approved via email and the May 15th meeting summary was approved as written.

3.0 USACE updates

Tony DePasquale

Liner Approval

- On June 17th the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) received the liner design and construction approval from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).
- The liner construction contract with USACE subcontractor, Sealaska, was settled at \$18.9 million, which includes the cost of the construction, placement, and earth moving activities; the USACE will purchase the liner separately for about \$5 million.
- USACE anticipates sending the Notice to Proceed to Sealaska in early August, and the subcontractor is expected to be on site by the end of August.

Mosquito Spraying

- USACE has contacted the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss contracting with them as part of their regular mosquito spraying operations. The USACE will follow DNR guidelines and regulations that apply to mosquito spraying activities.
- Mosquito spraying will occur during the dredging and disposal periods. Originally dredged material placement was going to take place in October 2016, but initial placement will now occur in October 2017; the first mosquito spraying event will be conducted after the initial placement of dredged material.

Site Activity

- USACE is actively trenching and ditching the interior of the Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) to prepare for installation of the liner.
- USACE abandoned and closed all wells inside the site and one external well was also sealed, which eliminates any potential pathways from the DMCF to the underlying aquifer.
- Future groundwater monitoring will occur before dredged material placement and discharge monitoring will occur after placement. USACE will work with MDE to develop the monitoring plans, and will share the monitoring approaches with the Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC).

Tree Planting

- USACE intends to replant unsuccessful trees near the entrance to the Pearce Creek DMCF.
- Relative to the berm area along Pond Neck Road, the federal landscaping guidelines require vegetation-free zones, which provide the minimum acceptable buffer between the vegetation and berm structure.
- Managing the vegetation on the berm adjacent to Pond Neck Road allows for the proper inspection, surveillance, and monitoring of all DMCF structures and adjacent areas. It also allows access for operations and maintenance activities, and prevents potential plant- and animal-induced damage to the structures.
- Based on the landscaping guidelines, it is not feasible to plant vegetation (i.e. trees or large herbaceous plants) along the berm slopes; however, it was determined that it is feasible to conduct tree plantings along Pond Neck Road in the area located between the Cecil County right-of-way and the drainage ditch.
- USACE stated that the upper section of the dike is the most important and needs to be maintained as a clear area. The existing berm vegetation can persist, but there is a need to keep vegetation out of the newly constructed areas.

4.0 MPA Update

Dave Blazer

Sunset Pointe Community Meeting

- MES attended the Sunset Pointe community meeting in June to provide project updates and discuss well abandonment.
- Maryland Port Administration (MPA) provided two letters to the PCIC, which MDE had previously sent out, stating that when the community water systems become available, citizens must hook-up to the new system and abandon their wells.
- An exception was mentioned at the public hearing, which involved the use of wells for an agricultural purpose. MPA is working with MDE and the communities regarding details on applying for an exception. MPA has recommended to citizens that they can send a letter to MDE, the Cecil County Health Department (CCHD), the Town of Cecilton (the Town), and MPA to apply for an exception to well abandonment.
- A citizen asked why an artesian well system is not feasible in this situation. MPA replied that Maryland law reads that if your residence/establishment is located in a public service area, you are required to connect to the water system. State law also requires that wells must be abandoned and sealed due to cross contamination concerns.
- In the event that a resident decided to reconnect to a well after being hooked up to the new water system, they would have to drill a new well; however, they would not be able to obtain a well permit.

- The Sunset Pointe community members also asked about laying a cable line in the same trench during the water line construction. It was relayed that the cable company and the Town want the water line to be free and clear from interference of other utilities for maintenance purposes.

5.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress

Mayor Zang and Chris Rogers

Groundwater Appropriations Permit Public Notice

- Based on the hydrogeological information that was submitted, MDE issued an increase in the Town's Groundwater Appropriations Permit (GAP) to account for the increased service area.
- URS and the USACE are in the process of designing a chlorine injection station on the USACE site. There is a more favorable site which is also being pursued; however, URS is pursuing both options so as to not delay the project.
- Boring data has been collected from the applicable roads in an effort to document the existing conditions of the paving for post-construction restoration purposes.
- URS is on schedule for the water system construction bid to go out in November and for construction to begin in January or February 2016. URS anticipates it will take about 18 months to complete construction of the main, distribution system, and the on-lot work.
- Concern was expressed about the gravity fed system being able to produce 65 lbs. of water pressure continually. Mayor Zang noted that the size of the pipe has been increased to lessen the drag and that the engineers are confident the system will produce sufficient pressure.
- A citizen asked if there would be any problems with the pipes freezing. URS stated that the pipes will be at a depth which will prevent freezing.
- The Town will send an access agreement to each citizen in an effort to complete the hook-ups. Additionally, the Town will ensure that cross contamination will not occur during the connection process.
- MPA reminded the PCIC that citizens will have an opportunity to connect to the system at no charge; however, after the designated time window expires, residents will have to pay for connections. A citizen who refuses to connect to the system will not receive a free hookup and MDE will implement an enforcement action, which would require the citizen to pay for the hookup. The citizens will have advance notice as to the designated hookup timeframe.
- A citizen inquired about the decision regarding the two flush hydrants; MPA, the Town, and URS will discuss a resolution.

6.0 Outreach Update

Dave Blazer

Elected Officials

- MPA met with Cecil County staff members, Mayor Zang, Senator Hershey, Congressman Harris's staff, and Councilman McCarthy to discuss updates regarding the Pearce Creek project.
- MPA updated Delegate Arentz and Delegate Jacobs on the progress of the Pearce Creek project via phone communications.

Website Updates

- Additional information has been added to the Pearce Creek outreach website including:
 1. The Geosynthetic Institute report letter regarding the USACE liner design;
 2. The Dredging 101 section, specifically hydraulic dredging;
 3. The Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) page, which highlights the funding for the Pearce Creek waterline construction;
 4. An Exterior Monitoring 101 section;

5. Recent meeting materials;
6. General language regarding the three levels of monitoring (i.e. groundwater, exterior, and discharge); and
7. The two recent Cecil Whig articles on the Pearce Creek project.

7.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

- USACE can inform the communities as to when the liner construction contractor will mobilize.
- A citizen inquired about the staging areas. USACE responded that the area along the back of the site will serve as the predominant staging area. The area in front of the Pearce Creek DMCF is available for staging, but will not be used to store many materials.

8.0 Future Meeting Discussions

Fran Flanigan

- The citizens were reminded that a PCIC representative can attend community meetings.
- The next meeting PCIC meeting is scheduled for September 18th.
- Elected officials asked for a site tour once construction begins, and MPA can conduct a tour for citizens as well, if requested.

9.0 Other Issues

Committee Members

- A citizen requested that MPA investigate the degradation occurring at Stemmers Run; for MDE to be in attendance at the PCIC meetings; and for discharge monitoring plan updates to be placed on the agenda. MPA replied that the discharge monitoring plan is in process; however, the site will not be discharging for two years so it is not a priority at this time. Current priorities involve liner construction and sediment and erosion control plans. USACE replied that the site does not discharge into Stemmers Run; the MDE Water Quality Certification permit only applies to monitoring the discharge from the disposal site into the Pearce Creek Lake.
- Part of the exterior monitoring program involves collecting baseline data before discharge begins, so other potential problems affecting the water quality of Pearce Creek Lake may be identified.
- A citizen expressed a concern about the beaches and requested to an opportunity to review the discharge plan once it is available. MPA replied that the discharge monitoring plan will be shared with the PCIC once it has been established.

10.0 Adjourn

Dave Blazer