

FINAL DRAFT PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
August 16, 2019 10:00 AM
90B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

AECOM: Jerry Katzmire

Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Dave Heacock, Sandy Heacock, Ralph Shrom, John Sobon

Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Kristen Keene

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Christine Offerman

Sunset Pointe Resident: Kathy McDonough

US Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District: Gavin Kaiser (via phone)

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

Pearce Creek Resident: Igor Batytskiy

Action Items:

- Ms. Keene will distribute the new contact information to the PCIC.

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Kristen Keene, Chair

Ms. Keene welcomed the attendees to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

2.0 Summary Approval

Committee Members

The Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC) members reviewed the May 2019 meeting summary. The summary was approved as written and will be made available as final on the Pearce Creek outreach website (www.pearcecreekoutreach.com).

3.0 Philadelphia District Corps (CENAP) Update

Gavin Kaiser, CENAP

Pearce Creek DMCF Operations

Mr. Kaiser stated grading work occurred in and around the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF), which addressed the drainage ditch issues discussed at previous meetings. The US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP) will continue to monitor the DMCF and conduct maintenance grading as necessary. CENAP is working on the contract for the upcoming winter dredging project, which will involve a similar dredged material volume as previous dredging projects (approximately 350,000 cubic yards). More information will be provided on the contract status at the next PCIC meeting.

CENAP received a new Water Quality Certification (WQC) from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for one year, which expires March 31, 2020. CENAP will apply for another extension towards the end of the term. As stipulated in the WQC, CENAP continues to monitor the groundwater wells and conduct surface water discharge monitoring.

Pearce Creek Lake Access

Mr. Kaiser stated that CENAP is still coordinating with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). CENAP requested that DNR install safeguard measures at the DMCF, such as fencing, to prohibit pedestrian and vehicle access to the DMCF. A concern raised by DNR was the overlap between the hunting season and dredging/inflow in which access to the area would be revoked. DNR requested a

months' notice before dredging is anticipated to occur to notify and coordinate site access. CENAP stated that the dredging schedule fluctuates and a months' notice may not be possible. CENAP and DNR are working through this issue. Ms. Woodruff suggested postponing an announcement in the Cecil Whig when the Pearce Creek Lake is reopened for public use.

Mr. Batytskiy asked for clarification regarding the DMCF discharge monitoring and surface water monitoring. Mr. Kaiser replied that when dredged material is inflow into the Pearce Creek DMCF, the slurry is an estimated 30% solid material of silt and/or sand and 70% water. In the DMCF, the solid material is allowed to settle out of the water, and the remaining overlying water is discharged through the weir box. Physical water quality parameters, such as turbidity, and other chemical constituents of the water are monitored. After the decant water is discharged through the weir box, it enters a detention basin to allow more material to settle out. The discharged water then travels through a vegetated swale, leading to the Pearce Creek Lake, and eventually the Elk River. The water used to mix the inflow slurry is sourced from the Chesapeake Bay in the area which is being dredged.

Mr. Batytskiy asked how often the water was tested and the criteria used for testing. Mr. Kaiser replied that CENAP contracts TetraTech to collect and test the water according to the requirements of the WQC issued by MDE. Turbidity, priority pollutants (i.e. metals, nutrients) and other physical properties (i.e. pH, dissolved oxygen, etc.) are required testing criteria. Discharge occurs after inflow has occurred and water is available once the material has been allowed to settle out. Monitoring occurs daily during discharge and the reports are submitted to MDE; to date there have been no issues with the discharge results. CENAP would not be able to discharge if the monitoring results exceeded the water quality requirements.

Mr. Batytskiy asked if CENAP tested the water in Pearce Creek Lake. Ms. Keene stated that there are three types of monitoring activities associated with the Pearce Creek DMCF; discharge monitoring, groundwater monitoring, and exterior monitoring. The discharge monitoring conducted by TetraTech and the groundwater monitoring conducted by CENAP are required by MDE. Exterior monitoring, or environmental monitoring, is voluntarily conducted by Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) through a contract with Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and Anchor QEA. There are seven monitoring sites in the Pearce Creek Lake and one in the Elk River, with two reference sites (one located in the Pearce Creek Lake and one located in the Elk River) for a total of 10 exterior monitoring sites. Each exterior monitoring location is tested for water quality, sediment quality, sediment toxicity, and benthic (bottom-dwelling organisms) community structure parameters. The monitoring sites are in areas near the discharge location from the vegetated swale and the location of discharge from the Pearce Creek Lake to the Elk River. Mr. Batytskiy asked if the results are available to the public. Ms. Keene replied that the exterior monitoring results are publically available on the Pearce Creek Outreach website, as are the CENAP groundwater and discharge monitoring results. The results are shared at the PCIC meetings through a combination of short summaries and presentations. Ms. Keene stated that the results have consistently shown that there are no environmental or ecological concerns in the lake or adjacent river area as a result of dredged material placement in the Pearce Creek DMCF. According to the State of Maryland water quality assessments, there are no health or recreational restrictions in these areas.

4.0 Drinking Water Line Progress *Road Restoration*

Jerry Katzmire, AECOM

Mr. Katzmire stated that Reybold (construction contractor) installed underdrains on Pond Neck Road and Basin Road to correct the spring/seepage issues. The underdrains have been checked periodically and appear to be doing well.

Expansion Tank Adjustments

The necessary expansion tank adjustments have been completed in all but five homes. AECOM will continue to work on addressing the remaining homes that require adjustments to the expansion tank. It was also noted that the initial improper calibration of the expansion tanks does not pose a safety issue, but rather impact the lifespan and manufacturer warranty of the equipment.

Project Closeout Activities

There is one final water line connection to be made at a property located on South Drive, which is scheduled to occur the week of August 19. With regard to the boat ramp area in the Bay View Estates (BVE) community, AECOM will perform activities to square the edges and remove the grass coming through the chip seal near the boat ramp. Work on the boat ramp area is anticipated to commence around the end of September or beginning of October. AECOM has a detailed spreadsheet of the few remaining closeout items, including a tree replacement on a property in the Sunset Pointe community.

Mr. Lavin stated that his Pressure Reduction Valve (PRV) is reading at 85 pounds of pressure and requested that an engineer visit his home to investigate the issue. Mr. Katzmire added Mr. Lavin's issue to the list of project closeout items. Mr. Heacock asked if any progress has been made to connect the remaining home in BVE. Ms. Keene stated that the remaining BVE homeowner passed away, and the deed for the house is still held in the name of the homeowner. Until homeownership transfers to another entity that can sign the access agreement, the in-home connection cannot be made. AECOM has been diligent in investigating the ownership transfer status, but there has been no progress throughout the entirety of the project. The funding and term for the MDOT MPA Grant Agreement which would pay for the connection ends on June 1, 2020. If contact is made with enough time before the Grant Agreement expires, then the home can be connected. Otherwise the home will remain unconnected and the future entity owning the home will then be responsible for payment of water line connection.

Currently, there are seven homes (five total homeowners) that remain unconnected to the water system. With the South Drive property connection occurring next week, 97% of the homes within the designated service area will be connected to the water system. MDOT MPA has been in contact with all homeowners who have refused to be connected and they understand that if they were to sell their house or needed to obtain a permit for any work on their house in the future that they would be required to connect to the water system. A final letter will be sent to the five remaining homeowners to document the final decision. Mr. Heacock asked for clarification regarding a specific home which has yet to be connected to the waterline but has changed ownership twice. Ms. Cooper stated that the Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) has been in contact with the Town of Cecilton to ensure that the house would be hooked up to the water system and therefore allowing the transfer of ownership. The CCHD understands that the project is still ongoing and have made an allowance since the house will be connected.

5.0 MDOT MPA Updates

Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA

Spring 2019 Exterior Monitoring Update

Ms. Offerman stated that sample collection for the spring 2019 post-placement exterior monitoring event was completed from May 20 to 22, 2019. The results for the sediment samples (includes sediment quality

and sediment toxicity), the surface water samples, and the benthic community samples have been submitted to the appropriate laboratories; all results are expected by the end of August. Once all the results are received, the reports will be drafted and submitted to MES and MDOT MPA for review.

Anchor QEA has completed an initial review of the sediment, water, and benthic community data and the results are similar to previous sampling events, and the concentrations are consistent with or slightly below the baseline concentrations. This indicates that environmental conditions in Pearce Creek Lake and the Elk River are essentially the same as the conditions before any surface water discharges from the DMCF. The next sampling event is scheduled for fall 2019 and is tentatively scheduled for the second or third week in September.

DMMP Annual Meeting

Ms. Keene reminded the group that the PCIC is one of ten stakeholder advisory committees which helps to serve the Port of Baltimore on decisions and practices for managing dredged material. Ms. Keene stated that every year an Annual Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) meeting is held in Baltimore and PCIC members are invited to attend. The DMMP Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2019 at 10am.

Ms. Keene noted a change in the Chair of the DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Mr. Fran Taylor served as the Chair of the CAC for 15 years and also served as the CAC liaison on the DMMP Executive Committee. Mr. Taylor retired from this position and Mr. Adam Lindquist is the new Chair of the CAC. Ms. Keene will distribute the new contact information to the PCIC.

6.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

Feedback from the Community Members

Ms. Woodruff stated that there have been no issues on behalf of the West View Shores community. Everyone has been pleased with the solution to the spring seepage issue. Mr. Heacock stated that no issues or concerns have been received from BVE residents. Ms. McDonough acknowledged that there were no concerns on behalf of the Sunset Point community.

Future Meeting Discussions

Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA

Ms. Keene stated that the next PCIC meeting will be held Friday, November 15, 2019 at 10am.

Adjourn - Noon

Kristen Keene, Chair