

FINAL DRAFT PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
February 15, 2019 10:00 AM
90B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

AECOM: Chris Rogers, Jerry Katzmire, Richard Lekberg

Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Dave Heacock, Joy Heacock, Sandy Stake, George Hansell

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

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Christine Offerman

Stancills, Inc.: Otis Harrison

Town of Cecilton: Mary Cooper

US Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District: Gavin Kaiser

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

1.0 Welcome & Introductions

Kristen Keene, Chair

Ms. Keene welcomed the attendees to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Ms. Fidler for an important announcement. Ms. Fidler shared with the attendees that Chris Correale was retiring from Director of Harbor Development for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) at the end of March. Ms. Fidler announced that she will be the new MDOT MPA Director of Harbor Development and available for any questions or concerns regarding the Pearce Creek project, as well as Ms. Keene. Ms. Keene began introductions for the meeting attendees.

2.0 Summary Approval

Committee Members

The Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC) members reviewed the October 2018 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

Dredging & Inflow Status

Mr. Kaiser reminded the PCIC members that the US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP) had awarded a dredging contract to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company for the 2018-2019 dredging season for \$7.3 million. The dredging began in mid-December 2018 and finished in mid-January 2019. Approximately 350,000 cubic yards of material was dredged from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal southern approach channel and inflowed into Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). The next dredging cycle window will be from October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Surface water discharge from the Pearce Creek DMCF began at the end of December and was completed at the beginning of February. The discharge monitoring results are still pending and will be shared with the committee when finalized.

At the request of the residents, Mr. Kaiser has been coordinating a lease agreement with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide public access to the Pearce Creek Lake for recreational use. The current plan is to use the side gate along Stemmers Run Boat Ramp Road for access to the lake. The gate would have a combination lock and the combination would be requested from DNR by Maryland residents. The Pearce Creek DMCF site would be off-limits to the public and gates would

be installed along the access road to prevent vehicle access to the DMCF. Small motorized bikes and all-terrain vehicles could still access the site, which is a concern to CENAP for the protection of the DMCF liner. Mr. Kaiser noted that the dredging contractor observed a hunter as well as other trespassers inside the DMCF throughout the time they were on-site; trespassing remains a concern. Ms. Keene asked if signage would be present inside the access gate to direct people to Pearce Creek Lake. Mr. Kaiser replied that DNR will be installing an internal sign which would direct traffic to the left, towards Pearce Creek Lake. Anyone requesting permits from DNR to hunt in the Pearce Creek Lake area would obtain the lock combination code as well as a map of the area to direct them to the lake.

Ms. Woodruff asked if the Pearce Creek Lake would be leased to Maryland with DNR patrolling the area. Mr. Kaiser replied the lease will be with DNR who will also patrol the area, and once the lease is implemented, CENAP has asked DNR for more patrols of the area. Mr. Hansell asked if a parking lot would be provided near the gate and possibly blocking traffic from there. Mr. Kaiser replied that parking would be located at the existing parking lot near Stemmers Run Boat Ramp Road; the access road behind the gate is to allow boats to be brought to the boat ramp which has a turnaround area and small parking lot right beside Pearce Creek Lake. Mr. Lavin asked if hunting permits will be granted. Mr. Kaiser replied that DNR has proposed only permitting the hunting of waterfowl in the Pearce Creek Lake (no deer hunting permits in the area). If dredging and inflow is occurring, then the lake will be closed to the public during that time. Mr. Lavin asked if the permits would include all the information regarding when they would be allowed at Pearce Creek Lake. Mr. Kaiser stated that DNR would be handling the permitting process and issuing the permit for a specific schedule; the DNR website will also provide information regarding possible restrictions due to dredging activities.

Ms. Woodruff suggested contacting the Cecil Whig to develop an article detailing the lease of Pearce Creek Lake and explain any necessary restrictions. Mr. Kaiser agreed and replied that once the lease is finalized, the information will be forwarded to the Cecil Whig. Mr. Kaiser stated that if there are issues, public access will be revoked in order to ensure the protection of the DMCF liner. Mr. Kaiser had discussed with DNR opening the small parking lot by the bridge on Stemmers Run Road rather than next to the DMCF, which was mentioned by one of the residents at the last PCIC meeting. DNR has opted to gain access to Pearce Creek Lake next to the DMCF due to past parking and trash dumping issues at the former location.

Water Quality Certification

Mr. Kaiser stated that the new Water Quality Certification application was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in September 2018 and MDE recently sent it out for public notice. Ms. Keene stated that the public notice is available on the Pearce Creek Outreach Website (www.pearcecreekoutreach.com) and will be published in the Cecil Whig today (2/15). Comments are due to MDE on 3/8 and can be submitted by mail or email; submission information can be found on the public notice. This Water Quality Certification application request is similar to the original application; the new application was submitted because CENAP has dredged the authorized volumes of material from the original application.

Groundwater Monitoring

Mr. Kaiser stated that the 2018 Groundwater Monitoring Report is currently being finalized.

4.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress

Chris Rogers, AECOM

Water System Completion

Mr. Rogers stated that the water system project is complete. All residents are connected except for seven homes.

Road Restoration

Mr. Rogers stated that a plan is being developed to fix a suspected spring issue on Basin Road in West View Shores. In April, AECOM will begin road improvements to prevent water from sitting on the roads, which has been creating an ice hazard. Mr. Lavin stated that the Town of Cecilton has been salting the area to help temporarily mitigate the issue. Mr. Rogers stated that AECOM subcontractor, Reybold, will perform an exploratory dig down to the waterline to determine the issue, which AECOM suspects may be a spring due to the investigations in the area so far. Once the issue is further investigated and AECOM confirms that there is not a leak in the waterline, Reybold will then install a series of pipes and underdrains to move the water under the road and to the other side to drain into the existing culvert.

Expansion Tank

Mr. Rogers stated that residents should have received a letter explaining that the existing expansion tank pressure setting needs to be adjusted. There is no safety issue with the current setting, but in the manufacturer specifications if the pressure is not set in accordance with the system pressure, then the life expectancy of the expansion tank could be reduced. In order to maximize the investment, a plumber will be returning to all homes to make a slight adjustment to the expansion tank pressure setting. Coordination is currently ongoing through “cold calls”, which includes walking door to door and then through scheduling calls. A second round of “cold calls” will be conducted in the spring when more residents are available.

Mr. Lavin asked if the pressure reduction valve (PRV) was supposed to be set at 55 pounds per square inch (psi); Mr. Rogers replied yes. Mr. Lavin stated that the system in his home goes from 50 psi to 80 psi every day and leaks have already occurred. Mr. Katzmire stated that when the plumber is in Mr. Lavin’s home to correct the expansion tank pressure issue, they will have him investigate the PRV issue. Mr. Hansell asked why a pressure gauge was not installed with the system. Mr. Rogers replied that per plumbing code, a pressure gauge is not required because of the installation of the PRV. Mr. Heacock stated that there is \$6.00 gauge available on Amazon which has a hose connection to read the pressure.

5.0 MDOT MPA Updates

Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA

Fall 2018 Exterior Monitoring Update

Ms. Keene stated that the fall 2018 monitoring was conducted in the first week of October and sampled for surface water quality, sediment quality, and benthic (bottom-dwelling) community structure of the Pearce Creek Lake and Elk River. The results have been received and the draft report is currently under review. Anchor will provide a presentation on the fall 2018 results at the May 2019 PCIC meeting. The fall 2018 sampling is the second post-placement monitoring event since the DMCF has been in operation. In 2019, exterior monitoring will continue in the spring and fall. The spring 2019 sampling should be occurring in the next few months and the PCIC will be apprised of the progress.

Mr. Hansell asked if this was the voluntary monitoring performed by MDOT MPA. Ms. Keene replied yes. Mr. Hansell asked if exterior monitoring would continue indefinitely or if an end date has been determined. Ms. Keene stated that currently there is no end date for the exterior monitoring. Mr. Hansell

asked for the end date of the other MDOT MPA DMCF's exterior monitoring programs. Ms. Keene replied that the end dates vary between sites. Ms. Fidler stated, as an example, Hart-Miller Island exterior monitoring has been performed for 30 years. The decision to continue exterior monitoring will be informed by the results, the requests of the citizens, and budgetary constraints. Ms. Keene stated that based on the three years of baseline monitoring and one year of post-placement monitoring the results have been consistent.

American Planning Association Conference Feedback

Ms. Keene stated that in October 2018 the Town of Cecilton, MDOT MPA, AECOM, CENAP, and Valerie Woodruff from West View Shores, gave a joint presentation at the American Planning Association conference on the Pearce Creek project. The feedback was positive, and the information was very well received by the conference participants. The presentation demonstrated that interagency partnerships and relationship building with the communities is critical to project success.

Website Updates

Ms. Keene stated that there are many new additions coming to the Pearce Creek Outreach website. The public notice for the Water Quality Certification application is on the website for the duration of the public comment period. The notice to residents regarding the expansion tank adjustment has also been placed on the website, as well as the home winterization information. The 2017 groundwater monitoring results will be made available now that MDE has reviewed the information. The 2018 surface water monitoring report has been reviewed by MDE and will be placed on the website as well. Ms. Keene reminded the PCIC that the groundwater and surface water monitoring being conducted by CENAP are required by the Water Quality Certification, but the exterior monitoring is voluntarily conducted on behalf of MDOT MPA.

Ms. Keene stated that the 2018 Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual Report has been placed on the outreach website. The report is distributed annually by MDOT MPA and is a compilation of the past year's DMMP activities and includes recommendations moving forward into the next year. The recommendations are developed by the citizen and advisory committees, approved by the Management Committee, and then presented to the Executive Committee for final approval. Pearce Creek is included in the report as there is a vested interest in ensuring the project remains successful. One of the key notes identified in the 2019 report as it relates to Pearce Creek is: "Continued collaboration and coordination among the Corps, MDOT MPA, MDE, Town of Cecilton, Cecil County agencies, and citizens are needed to ensure that monitoring activities associated with DMCF operations are being completed, as well as any remaining waterline connection items".

Ms. Keene mentioned that the Grant Agreement, which is funding the waterline connection, is being extended for an additional year to spring 2020 to continue services associated with waterline related issues. The extension is for additional time only and the remaining funding is not impacted in any way.

6.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

Feedback from the Community Members

Mr. Heacock stated that there are a number of residents who have experienced unexplained high water bills and asked if the high water bills could be related to the pressure issue. Mr. Rogers replied not unless there is an obvious leak within the home. Ms. Cooper stated that the high water bill concern has been shared with the Town of Cecilton who investigated the water meter at the home; the water meter was functioning as it should be. The Town requested that residents check within their homes for a leaking

toilet or a faucet drip as interior leaks appear to be causing the high water bills. Ms. Cooper encouraged any other residents having unexplained high water bills to contact the Town of Cecilton to determine if there are issues with the water meter or running/leaking water. There are free dye packets to check for leaking toilets available at town hall and residents are encouraged to stop by to get some. Information regarding the dye packets will also be placed on the Pearce Creek outreach website.

Mr. Heacock stated that the drainage ditch along Pond Neck Road, next to the DMCF, is full of water and may be clogged. Mr. Kaiser will investigate the issue. Ms. Woodruff asked Mr. Kaiser if the opening of the gates at the Conowingo Dam impacts the amount of dredging that needs to be done. Mr. Kaiser replied that it could have an effect.

Mr. Kaiser announced that he will be at the US Army Corps of Engineers Division Office for a few months and during that time, Jeff May from the Baltimore District will be attending the PCIC meeting in his stead. Tim Kelly will also be heavily involved. Residents can still email Mr. Kaiser with any questions and the email will be directed appropriately.

Future Meeting Discussions

Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA

Ms. Keene stated that the next PCIC meeting will be held Friday, May 17, 2019 at 10 am.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

- May 17, 2019
- August 16, 2019
- November 15, 2019

Adjourn - Noon

Kristen Keene, Chair