

## PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

August 19, 2016 10:00 AM

90B North Center Street

Cecilton, MD 21919

### **Attendees:**

*AECOM:* Chris Rogers

*Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents:* Dave Heacock, Joyce Heacock, Ken Cowley, John Sobon, George Hansell, Bill Haines, Norine Haines

*Cecil County Health Department (CCHD):* Angela Scramlin

*Cecil Whig:* Jake Owens

*Maryland Department of the Environment:* Elder Ghigiarelli

*Maryland Department of Transportation Port Administration (MPA):* Chris Correale, Kristen Fidler

*Maryland Environmental Service (MES):* Kristen Keene, David Peters

*Senator Mikulski's Office:* Bart Kennedy

*Sunset Pointe:* Kathy McDonough

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):* Jerry Jones, Bill Roche, Gavin Kaiser

*West View Shores (WVS) Residents:* Valerie Woodruff, Patricia Korja-Dooley, Wayne Dooley, Gary Shetzline, Bobby Joplin, Dick Leuliette, Eddie Lavin, Penny Sass, Glen Sass

### **1.0 Welcome & Introductions**

**Kristen Fidler**

- The attendees were welcomed and reminded that a tour of the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) would be held after the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

### **2.0 Summary Approval**

**Committee**

- The draft June 2016 PCIC meeting summary was approved as written; the summary will be posted as final on the Pearce Creek outreach website ([www.pearcecreekoutreach.com](http://www.pearcecreekoutreach.com)).

### **3.0 Philadelphia District Corps (CENAP) Update**

**Jerry Jones**

#### ***Bottled Water Delivery Information***

- As of August 1<sup>st</sup> the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assumed responsibility for funding the bottled water deliveries via the Eastern Shore Coffee and Water (ESCW) Company.

#### ***Community Feedback on Water Distribution***

- A concern was expressed that too much water is being delivered and that residents have to frequently contact the ESCW to make delivery adjustments. Ms. Keene noted that the contact information for ESCW is available on the outreach website.

#### ***Liner Construction Updates***

- Progress continues on the liner installation; approximately 70% of the liner is in place now and grading is about 85% complete. Removal of the old sluice box inside of the DMCF has been completed and construction of the rock base for the new sluice box will begin soon.
- Project completion is anticipated by the end of the calendar year and the DMCF will be able to accept dredged material beginning in October 2017.
- A farmer in the area is taking material associated with the water line construction and that the USACE can accept any excess from Reybold as long as it meets their screening criteria.

### ***Groundwater Monitoring Plan Update***

- A meeting was held last week with the MDE to discuss the groundwater monitoring plan. Baseline sampling will begin next calendar year and a map of groundwater monitoring locations will be placed on the outreach website once it is finalized. The USACE February 2015 plan is currently being reviewed by MDE.

### ***Discharge Monitoring Plan Update***

- The USACE is still developing the discharge monitoring plan.
- The residents expressed a concern that the schedules for the water line construction and the liner installation were not aligned and the impression received from the meetings over the past few years was that placement of dredged material would not occur until all the residents were connected to the water system.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Water Quality Certification authorization letter required that the water system construction commence before dredged material placement could begin. Initially the timelines for both the liner and water line completion were closely aligned. Due to a delay in the legal review/approval process, and ultimately award of the transmission main and distribution main contracts, the completion of the water system was pushed back to March 2018.
- The on-lot work will begin in May 2017, and by October 2017 approximately half of the homes will be connected to the public drinking water system. MPA is working to avoid delays by focusing on connecting the full time residents first. Bottled water will be provided until residents are connected to the water line.

## **4.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress**

**Chris Rogers**

### ***Water System Construction Updates***

- The transmission and distribution main contracts are underway. The transmission main contract was awarded in April 2016 and the distribution main contract was awarded in May 2016; both contracts have a one year duration.
- AECOM is conducting new on-lot inspections and re-inspections of lots previously examined.
- The water line in front of Cecilton Elementary is in place via directional drilling and the connection to the Town's system will be completed next week. The chlorine injection station on Pond Neck Road is under construction.
- Regarding the distribution main, Reybold is currently working in Sunset Pointe and will move to WVS in the next few weeks (*Update: Reybold will be beginning work in BVE next, followed by WVS*). Door hangers and notifications will be provided to notify residents.
- The distribution main contract includes installing stubs to the right-of-way lines; the on-lot contractor will complete the connection to the meter.

### ***Water Line Design Considerations***

- Questions have been raised as to why the water line had to be placed in the pavement in some areas. AECOM avoided placement of the water line in the pavement in all areas possible; however, due to utilities, wetlands, and physical constraints, the distribution main pipe has to be in the road in certain areas. The plans were approved by the Cecil County Roads Department.
- Regarding temporary paving, AECOM is working on installing a better patch. There has been some damage on Pond Neck Road due to the lane closure and temporary material has been

installed. The County will require repairs to the full length of Pond Neck Road in the area of damage.

- Based on discussions with the Town of Cecilton and the Fire Chief, hydrants are to be installed at key intersections along the water system. Those hydrants are not included in the grant agreement; however, MPA agreed to pay for one flush hydrant per community.
- Concerns were expressed about the locations of some of the hydrants being too close to the road; a suggestion was made to install the hydrant a couple of feet off the roadway.
- A resident requested a substation to increase water pressure to ensure 65 lbs coming out of residents' faucets and expressed doubts regarding pressure efficiency.
- Regarding backfilling, there is a one-year warranty on both projects. The bid documents for on-lot work are not out yet, but a warranty will be included.
- A resident asked about the effects of the chlorine in the public drinking water on septic systems. Homeowners are responsible for their own septic system maintenance and repair and many factors impact septic systems which could cause failure or require an increase in how often the system is pumped. High volumes of water, as well as a variety of solids and/or household cleaning products can be detrimental to a septic system<sup>1</sup>. The amount and type of chlorine present in public drinking water systems will not disrupt or kill the beneficial bacterial in the septic tank<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, at homes in which the water supply is not potable due to bacterial contamination, a chlorinator can be installed to serve as a temporary solution; systems with properly operated chlorinators will not harm the septic system<sup>2</sup>. For more information on the Town of Cecilton's public drinking water, please follow the link for access to the 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report:

<http://www.pearcecreekoutreach.com/Documents/2015CeciltonCCR.pdf>

## **5.0 MPA Updates**

**Kristen Fidler**

### ***Elected Official Outreach***

- On September 20<sup>th</sup> a tour of the Pearce Creek DMCF will be held for Elected Officials. An update of the tour will be provided at the October PCIC meeting.

### ***Website Updates***

- The meeting materials from the June PCIC meeting and the May public meeting are available on the website. The annual water quality report from the Town of Cecilton is now available on the website (<http://www.pearcecreekoutreach.com/Documents/2015CeciltonCCR.pdf>).
- Meeting attendees were encouraged to subscribe for the Pearce Creek Newsletter to receive important project notifications and updates via email.

### ***Vacant Lots***

- MPA is adhering to the Grant Agreement which will fund the connections of 235 residential properties that were existing within the service area as of December 2013. Every vacant lot will be getting a stub installed for future connection.
- If the homes are not inspected and access agreements are not obtained then the connection to the stub cannot be made. MPA will pay for the connections up to 1-year from when the water system is serviceable.
- It was suggested that hydrants on vacant lots be placed between plot lines so as not to interfere with future buildings/ driveways.

### ***Exterior Monitoring Updates***

- The spring 2016 sampling event has been completed. Once the report is available, Anchor QEA will give a presentation regarding the results, which is expected in October.
- This sampling event is contributing to establishing baseline data. There will be two more baseline sampling events prior to the placement of material in the DMCF, one in fall 2016 and the other in spring 2017.
- Regarding the black rocks and sand report from the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS) that although MGS did not complete the mineralogic analysis they determined that the black color is a result of the presence of ilmenite. Ilmenite is a naturally occurring mineral found in the area; therefore, the black staining on the rocks does not appear to be due to the Pearce Creek DMCF.

### **6.0 Citizen Comments**

### **Community Representatives**

#### ***Community Meetings – Feedback from the Community Members***

- Residents expressed concerns regarding unsafe truck traffic. USACE communicated that truck speed and driver safety is discussed at every meeting and will reiterate the concern to the contractors. Placing temporary signs to slow speeds in heavy truck traffic areas was suggested. There are signs posted near the USACE site and the USACE can look into additional signage.
- A resident stated that the USACE should be required to conduct discharge monitoring at the sluice box in the lake and, if not, the resident would like a response as to why. It was replied that the concern has been communicated to MDE.
- The offer for any Pearce Creek residents to join a tour of Poplar Island still stands.
- A resident asked how trees will be kept from growing on/through the liner. USACE replied that the liner has three parts: geotextile as a thick cushioning fabric over the improved subgrade to protect liner from puncture, geomembrane (which is designed to be impenetrable), and another thick geotextile placed over the installed liner ((note: refer to March 2015 PCIC meeting summary on the Pearce Creek Outreach website for a detailed description of liner). Herbicide will also be sprayed on the liner and continued maintenance efforts will prevent more mature growth.

### **7.0 Future Meeting Discussions**

### **Kristen Fidler**

- The next PCIC meeting will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Once MPA has a better idea of when the on-lot contract will be advertised another large meeting will be held regarding what to expect for on-lot work.

### **Adjourn**

### **Kristen Fidler**

<sup>1</sup>Huber, J. (2016). Caring for your septic system. Retrieved from <https://www.houselogic.com/organize-maintain/home-maintenance-tips/caring-for-your-septic-system/>

<sup>2</sup>InspectApedia. (2015). Chlorine in drinking water: Effects of water chlorinators on septic systems. Retrieved from [http://inspectapedia.com/septic/Chlorine\\_Impact\\_on\\_Septic.php](http://inspectapedia.com/septic/Chlorine_Impact_on_Septic.php)