

# IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 30, 2015; 10:00 AM

215 East Main Street

Cecilton, MD

## *Attendees:*

*Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents:* Bill Haines, Norine Haines, Kathy Zawatski, Dave Heacock, Sandra Stake, Stephen Zawatski, Ken Cowley, George Hansell

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

*Cecil County Department of Planning and Zoning:* Eric Sennstrom

*Cecilton Mayor:* Joe Zang

*Cecilton Town Administrator:* Brenda Cochran

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

*Maryland Port Administration (MPA):* Dave Blazer

*MPA Consultant:* Fran Flanigan

*Plumbers & Steamer's 486:* Gerald Jackson

*URS Corporation:* Chris Rogers

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):* Anthony DePasquale, Timothy Kelly

*West View Shores (WVS) Resident:* Valerie Woodruff

## **1.0 Welcome & Introductions**

**Mr. Dave Blazer**

Mr. Blazer convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

## **2.0 Purpose of Implementation Committee**

**Committee**

- The purpose of the Pearce Creek Implementation Committee (PCIC) is to provide a forum for the citizens, government agencies, elected officials, and any other interested parties to be kept updated regarding the reactivation of the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) and construction of the community water system.
- The PCIC is projected to meet every other month, although meeting frequency can change based on project status.

## **Contact List and Information Distribution**

**Committee**

- There are many topics which will be discussed at the PCIC meetings (i.e. open house events, plans and updates of the liner and water system, budgets, monitoring, outreach, etc.), including discussions related to the issues, concerns and questions raised by the citizens; all meeting handouts/materials and summaries will be uploaded to the Pearce Creek outreach website.
- It was suggested that the contact list include the option for an alternate in the event that the President of the respective Homeowners' Associations (HOA) is unable to attend the meetings.

### **3.0 Overview of Next Steps in the Pearce Creek Project**

#### ***County Approvals***

***Mr. Eric Sennstrom***

- The Cecil County Council approved the Cecil County Master Water and Sewer Plan at the January 20<sup>th</sup> County Council meeting, which included 19 conditions. The Pearce Creek project is included in the amendments.
- The water system construction project could experience a slight delay due to the timeline required to complete the Master Water and Sewer Plan conditions; however, the project could be submitted to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) as a separate amendment in an effort to expedite the process.
- As a result of the new administration transition, MPA has been actively briefing the new secretaries at MDE and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) regarding the Pearce Creek project.
- The community's members requested that the project moves forward as quickly as possible; the Cecil County Executive shares the same level of urgency.

#### ***Site Preparation***

***Mr. Tim Kelly***

- Given the approval of the MDE Water Quality Certification (WQC), the initial step will involve well abandonment within the disposal area, which should be completed in March.
- Regarding the liner contract, an Alaskan company has been selected to complete the liner construction and work is anticipated to begin in May. USACE is coordinating with MDE regarding the approval of the liner construction plans. No material will be placed until October 2016, which will require an extension of the WQC that expires March 2016.
- Trees have been planted around the Pearce Creek DMCF and subsequent to the winter months, USACE will reevaluate and supplement the plantings, if needed. Residents expressed that they would like the berm to remain vegetated, rather than mowed down; USACE responded that the berm in question could possibly remain vegetated.
- In regards to community requests relative to mosquito spraying, USACE will evaluate the most effective spraying measures and frequency.
- New monitoring wells will be installed in clusters (three wells per cluster), which are screened at different elevations for monitoring purposes. USACE hopes to acquire an easement for access to the 3-4 monitoring wells that were drilled in the communities, if the citizens agree.
- MES, MPA, and USACE are discussing the development of an exterior monitoring plan to collect data relative to surrounding environmental conditions in an effort to track patterns and changes. Water discharged from the disposal area will be required to meet MDE water quality standards.
- Regarding concerns about the potability of the residential well water, USACE does not determine what qualifies as a health emergency. According to MDE, the current situation does not constitute as a health emergency. Since the water has not been declared unsafe to consume, there is no legal requirement to provide water, although that does not mean an arrangement cannot be configured. The Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) had conducted sampling, reviewed the results, and compiled a recommendation supporting a water system for the community, based on health concerns.
- Concern arose about empty lots, which are unable to be developed because well permits are being denied; MDE functions as the authoritative entity responsible for the approval of well permits.

### ***Permits and Agreements***

***Mr. Dave Blazer***

- The WQC was issued in December 2014 with associated conditions.
- The grant agreement between MPA, MDOT, and the Town of Cecilton was recently signed and executed; MPA is still working out the logistics, although funding is available to start the project.
- The budget for water system construction has to be approved by the legislature and is currently located in the MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) 6-year budget; however, the legislature can reduce funds, although that is not anticipated.

### ***Construction of Water System***

***Mr. Chris Rogers***

- The plans and specifications for the final water system design will be finalized and submitted to various agencies for permits and review within the next couple of weeks. Necessary permits include Cecil County approvals for stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and a utility permit; State Highway Administration approval is needed to place the water line in Route 282; and MDE approval is needed for various aspects of the project. URS is available to review the plans with interested citizens.
- URS is seeking an increase to the Town of Ceciltons' Groundwater Appropriation Permit (GAP), and the associated hydrogeological study will be submitted to MDE next week. MDE will not take any action on the GAP until the Cecil County Master Water and Sewer Plan has officially been approved, as amended, to reflect the increase in the GAP.
- MDE construction permits are needed for two (2) chlorine booster stations. Temporary construction permits are also needed along the water main in areas of disturbance, outside of the Cecil County right-of-way (ROW). Easements will be required from WVS and BVE to install water distribution systems on private streets.
- URS has inspected over 200 homes, and about 35 homes have not responded to inspection requests. URS will continue to entertain requests to inspect residential lots.
- The water system plans will also include abandonment of wells via a licensed well-driller and according to state regulations and CCHD consultation. In most cases, the new water line will tie into the existing well line and the electric line will remain intact, although each situation is different and URS will attempt to minimize lot disturbance.
- URS met with the Cecil County Department of Public Works to review the stormwater management requirements and also met with the Cecil County Emergency Management Director to discuss the possible placement of fire hydrants. MPA will not fund the installation of hydrants because there is no established transportation link. The Town of Cecilton and URS are attempting to determine the possibilities for installing hydrants and are developing cost estimates to discuss with the communities; a single hydrant is estimated to cost \$4500. Hydrant locations have been tentatively determined, in accordance with the accepted American Water Works Association standards.

### ***Information and Outreach***

***Ms. Kristen Keene***

- Development of the Pearce Creek outreach website ([www.pearcecreekoutreach.com](http://www.pearcecreekoutreach.com)) is an ongoing process, which will require frequent updates considering the various project components.
- The website is organized by tabs, which include the following: Introduction, Water System, Pearce Creek DMCF, Public Events, and the Implementation Committee. The

Implementation Committee tab will host the agendas, meeting summaries, and handouts generated from the PCIC meetings.

- Other information contained on the outreach website includes, but is not limited to: a photo gallery, WQC documents, frequently asked questions, news media, contact information, and recent updates.

### ***Community Issues***

***Ms. Valerie Woodruff and Mr. Bill Haines***

- Concerns were raised about the need for additional pumping stations to ensure that water flow is adequate; URS can discuss the water system plans with interested residents.
- Concerns were raised about the degrading water quality near the beach areas, although not all of the water quality problems are affiliated with the DMCF. The Pearce Creek exterior monitoring plan will include sample collection in the Elk River and the Pearce Creek Lake.
- A concern was raised regarding material from behind the Conowingo Dam being placed in the Pearce Creek DMCF; USACE confirmed that only the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal material can go into the Pearce Creek DMCF.

### ***Questions and Discussion***

***Committee***

- There was concern raised regarding the bottled water issue, and it was suggested that a free water station could be set up in the Town of Cecilton as an interim solution; MPA confirmed that a water station is something that could be considered.
- A concern was expressed relative to funding availability for the construction of the water line; MPA responded that there are many safe guards included in the WQC to prevent any further degradation of water, and the purpose of the PCIC is to help determine how to proceed in the event of a funding issue. If there is not enough funding available to complete the construction of the water system, USACE will not be able to obtain an annual renewal of the WQC or conduct dredging activities.

### **4.0 Upcoming Meetings**

The next Pearce Creek Implementation Committee meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at 90B North Center Street, Cecilton, MD 21919.

### **5.0 Adjourn**