

DRAFT FINAL PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
February 16, 2018 10:00 AM
90B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:

AECOM: Chris Rogers

Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Dave Heacock, Joy Heacock, Bill Haines, Norine Haines,
George Hansell, Sandy Stake, Steve Zawatski

Cecil Whig: Jake Owens

Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Christine Holmburg

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

Representative Andy Harris's Office: Mike Arentz

Sunset Pointe: Kathy McDonough

Town of Cecilton: Mary Cooper, Mayor Joe Zang

US Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District: Gavin Kaiser

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

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 draft December 2017 meeting summary and it was approved as written; the summary will be posted as final on the Pearce Creek outreach website (www.pearcecreekoutreach.com).

3.0 Philadelphia District Corps (CENAP) Update

Gavin Kaiser, CENAP

DMCF Inflow

Mr. Kaiser stated that due to the significant ice flow and off-loader engine failure, dredging activities have been delayed. The dredging is approximately 75%-85% complete, and inflow is expected to be completed before the end of March. No water has been discharged from the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) since reactivation.

Water Quality Certification Renewal

Mr. Kaiser stated that the Water Quality Certification (WQC) expires at the end of March and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District (CENAP) has submitted a request to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to extend the WQC. Only half of the cubic yardage allowance in the WQC has been placed at the site, so additional time is needed to complete the work; MDE is moving forward with the request. Ms. Keene asked for an estimate of the total cubic yards to be inflowed from this dredging cycle. Mr. Kaiser stated that a final survey will be taken of the channel to determine if the required depth of 36 feet has been met and to determine how much material has been dredged. Approximately 500,000 cubic yards will be dredged from the channel.

4.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress

**Chris Rogers, AECOM
Mayor Zang, Town of Cecilton**

Water System Construction Updates

Mr. Rogers stated that the Transmission Main and Distribution System projects are in the process of officially closing; both projects have entered into the warranty period. There are portions of the road in Bay View Estates (BVE) that have deteriorated and will be addressed via road restoration, which is included in the project warranty. Road restoration of these portions may require undercutting to replace the subgrade.

Status of In-home Connections

Mr. Rogers stated that currently 197 exterior installations and 152 interior connections have been completed. The contractor is currently behind schedule for well abandonment, but there have been 58 well abandonments completed. Exterior installations have begun in Sunset Pointe. AECOM will be in contact with residents to schedule internal connections, and as a reminder, someone must be home for the contractor to complete interior work. Flushing of the waterline continues in order to maintain water quality.

Ms. English asked if abandonment of wells included filling them with concrete. Mr. Rogers replied yes, and that filling the wells with concrete is a Cecil County Health Department requirement. Mr. Hansell asked for details regarding seasonal flushing. Mr. Rogers stated that currently, more flushing is required since not everyone is connected to the waterline. In the future the operator for the Town of Cecilton will be monitoring the chlorine residual and will set up a flushing protocol. Mr. Zawatski stated that the well pump was removed from his well, but the pipe remained. Mr. Rogers stated that the casing will be removed below grade, filled with concrete, and then re-graded and stabilized.

Water System Tour

Ms. Cooper stated that two responses were received showing interest in touring the Town of Cecilton water treatment facility. The plan is to schedule the tour sometime in May, at two separate times, once in the morning and once in the evening to accommodate different schedules. The date is still to be determined, and information will be provided to residents once the details have been finalized.

5.0 MPA Updates

Kristen Keene, MPA

Exterior Monitoring Update

Karin Olsen, Anchor QEA

Ms. Olsen reviewed the results of the spring exterior monitoring sampling, which was conducted in May 2017. Ms. Olsen stated that the sampling data is consistent with what has been seen in the past monitoring events. Sampling has occurred in the Pearce Creek Lake and Elk River since fall 2015. These sampling events have established the baseline environmental conditions surrounding the DMCF prior to the site receiving inflow and discharging water. Ms. Olsen noted that there is an expected difference in benthic (i.e. bottom-dwelling organisms) community characterization between the spring and the fall, due to seasonal change. Ms. Olsen reviewed the monitoring program, which includes surface water quality, sediment chemistry, sediment bioassays, and benthic community identification. There are seven monitoring locations in Pearce Creek Lake, which were selected based on the DMCF discharge location and includes a reference site located outside of any influence from the DMCF. In the Elk River, there are two set locations, one nearshore and one reference site located farther out in the channel.

Regarding the surface water results, turbidity was highly variable within Pearce Creek Lake due to possible factors including bank erosion, algae, storm events, etc. Sampling locations PCL-01 and PCL-05 had elevated turbidity levels, most likely from bank erosion, when compared to the reference location. For the chemical testing, metal and nutrient concentrations were low, which is consistent with past results.

Regarding the sediment results, metal concentrations and sediment type were determined. The majority of the lake sediment is silts and clays, which are fine-grained material, and is expected for this type of system. The Elk River sediment was sandy with shells, which is also consistent with the sediment type observed in the past. Freshwater screening criteria were compared to the sample results. The screening criteria have been determined by a consensus among the scientific community to determine the effects of a constituent on an organism. There are two values that are identified for each constituent: the Threshold Effect Concentration (TEC) and the Probable Effect Concentration (PEC). Any concentration below the TEC indicates no effect on aquatic organisms. If results are above the PEC, there is likely to be an effect on an organism, but it does not mean mortality. If the concentration is between the TEC and PEC, the constituent is at a level that has the potential for affecting the organism. The metal concentrations in the sediment samples during this spring sampling event were consistent with past results, and overall, the concentrations were below the screening criteria values. At the Pearce Creek Lake monitoring locations there were five metal results that were between the TEC and PEC. Nickel exceeded the PEC, but that is consistent with results from throughout the Upper Chesapeake Bay region. For the Pearce Creek Lake reference site, there were three metals between the TEC and PEC and nickel exceeded the PEC. The Elk River nearshore location, which is composed of mostly sand, had no metal results that exceeded the TEC. The Elk River reference site had six metals that were between the TEC and PEC and two metals (nickel and zinc) that exceeded the PEC.

Bioassays are used to test the toxicity of the sediment samples on a freshwater amphipod. The survival for the amphipods was high in Pearce Creek Lake and Elk River sediment samples, which was consistent with the three previous baseline sampling results. The benthic community showed variability and abundance; however a consistent seasonal change was not observed, which is usually indicated by large changes in population levels. Mr. Hansell asked how long it took to collect the samples. Ms. Olsen replied that it usually takes about five days. Mr. Hansell asked if weather is noted during the sampling activities. Ms. Olsen replied yes, as that can have an effect on the system, such as for the spring 2016 sampling when there was a lot of rain the two weeks prior to sampling, which increased the freshwater inflow to the watershed. No changes were observed in the lake, but changes in turbidity and salinity were observed in the Elk River during spring 2016, which can impact the benthic community. Anchor QEA also looks at long-term weather that may impact the data. Mr. Hansell asked if there was any chance of high water backflow at the Elk River weir. Ms. Olsen noted there is a significant drop in elevation between the Pearce Creek Lake and the Elk River.

Regarding the Elk River beach sampling, Ms. Olsen mentioned that this was the third event and the two locations have the same sampling parameters as the exterior monitoring sampling. A sampling regime was enacted for the two nearshore beach locations at the request of the residents to determine if there would be any other impacts from the DMCF. At these two locations there is low salinity and low turbidity, and the locations are considered freshwater. The sediment is sandy with some shell, and there were no water quality criteria exceedances; the nutrients were variable and the metal concentrations

were low and consistent with the two previous sampling events. The bioassay was not designed to be used with coarse grained, sandy material because there is little to no carbon for organism consumption, therefore, the bioassay was not performed at either location due to the high sand content of the samples. The benthic community at the two beach locations is higher in abundance compared to the Elk River monitoring location and is consistent with the previous Elk River beach sampling events. The Elk River beach sampling will continue to be conducted to gather information and evaluate conditions near the beach area.

Website Update

Ms. Holmburg stated that the www.pearcecreekoutreach.com website language has been updated to reflect the ongoing project changes, such as the DMCF reactivation and homes being connected to the water system. The discharge monitoring plan is also available in the monitoring section. Ms. Holmburg requested any comments or questions regarding the website to provide the most up to date information on the Pearce Creek project.

MDOT Grant Agreement Timeline

Ms. Keene stated that the Grant Agreement timeline will be extended from the original term of December 2014 to April 30, 2018 to a new expiration date of June 30, 2019. The funding for connection to the water system still ends on September 8, 2018. A letter was sent to residents clarifying the last day to opt-in for connection to the water system using the MDOT MPA funding is July 8, 2018. AECOM needs to be notified by July 8, 2018 to allow the contractor 60 days to mobilize and complete the work associated with the on-lot connection before the September 8th deadline. The Grant Agreement extension has no impact to the available funding.

6.0 Citizen Comments

Community Representatives

Feedback from the Community Members

Ms. Woodruff stated that West View Shores would be emailing their residents reminding them to contact AECOM to connect to the waterline if they have not done so yet. Ms. McDonough asked if the Pearce Creek Lake was open to the public. Mr. Kaiser replied that the Pearce Creek Lake is owned by CENAP and is currently closed to the public because of the activity at the site. The agreement that CENAP has with Maryland Department of Natural Resources expires this year; a new agreement needs to be developed that would protect the integrity of the operating site while allowing access to the public, if possible.

Future Meeting Discussions

Kristen Keene, MPA

The next PCIC meeting will be held Friday, April 20, 2018 at 10 am.

2018 Meeting Schedule:

- June 15, 2018
- August 17, 2018
- October 19, 2018
- December 14, 2018

Adjourn - Noon

Kristen Keene, Chair