FINAL DRAFT PEARCE CREEK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
October 19, 2018 10:00 AM
90B North Center Street
Cecilton, MD 21919

Attendees:
AECOM: Chris Rogers
Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents: Dave Heacock, Joy Heacock, Sandy Stake
Maryland Department of the Environment: Elder Ghigiarelli
Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA): Dave Bibo, Chris Correale, Kristen Keene
Maryland Environmental Service (MES): Christine Offerman
US Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District: Gavin Kaiser
West View Shores (WVS) Residents: Marion Bowman

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 April and June 2018 meeting summaries. Both summaries were 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**
Mr. Kaiser stated that mowing and grubbing has been completed along swale of the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF). Ms. Heacock stated that the area looked beautiful. The US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP) is looking forward to keeping an open dialogue with the residents to continue to meet community needs.

Dredging & Inflow Status
Mr. Kaiser stated that Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company (Great Lakes) has been awarded a $7.2 million contract, which will include dredging approximately 400,000 cubic yards from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal southern approach channel. Great Lakes completed the previous year's dredging project and will use a bucket dredge and offloader, similar to the previous dredging project. The start date for dredging is anticipated in late winter or early spring. The US Coast Guard (USCG) standards will be used to clearly mark the floating pipeline carrying the dredged material into the Pearce Creek DMCF. Mr. Bibo asked for a copy of the bid abstract. Mr. Kaiser will provide the bid abstract to Mr. Bibo. CENAP has applied for a new Water Quality Certification (WQC) for 2019/2020 dredging; the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is reviewing the application. The current WQC expires in March 2019.

Mr. Bibo asked if CENAP had received a response from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding opening the site to the public for recreational use. Mr. Kaiser replied that no response has been received. Mr. Kaiser reminded the group that the Pearce Creek DMCF is a federal navigation project and does not have a recreation mission attached to the project, which means that no funds are available for recreational use. CENAP will continue to work with DNR to provide access to Pearce Creek

Lake while ensuring that no damage will occur to the DMCF liner. In the past, DNR managed the site, but that does not include plans to patrol the area. There have been concerns from residents regarding unlawful activities occurring at the site if public access is granted.

Ms. Bowman stated that there used to be an access point to Pearce Creek Lake by Stemmers Run Road bridge, which could provide another option if the parking lot was reestablished. Mr. Kaiser stated that CENAP would not be able to fund reopening the parking lot. Ms. Bowman asked if DNR would be interested in the alternate site access location. Mr. Kaiser stated that DNR has expressed general interest in public access. Ms. Keene asked for clarification of the location of the closed parking lot. Ms. Bowman stated that a small parking lot was located off Stemmers Run Road on the right side (coming from Crystal Beach Road) by Pearce Creek Lake. The parking lot was closed due to the dumping that occurred there. Ms. Keene asked what type of water access was available (i.e. soft launch, etc.). Ms. Bowman was unsure of the type of water access available from that location. Ms. Keene stated that Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) could follow up with DNR regarding authority and the potential reopening of the area. Mr. Rogers suggested coordination with the Cecil County roads department. Ms. Correale asked who constructed the parking lot. Mr. Kaiser replied that either Maryland or CENAP constructed the parking lot; Mr. Kaiser will check the CENAP construction records. Mr. Heacock asked how long the parking lot has been closed. Ms. Bowman replied approximately 12 years. Mr. Kaiser reiterated concerns from residents regarding unlawful activities occurring at the site if public access is granted.

4.0 Drinking Water Line Planning Progress **Chris Rogers, AECOM**

Water System Completion

Mr. Rogers stated that the water system project is nearly complete; AECOM is in the process of creating a punch list that includes minor road restoration and on-lot issues. One issue involves a spring that has begun to flow across Basin Road in West View Shores; a solution should be completed by next month. There are seven properties that have not connected to the waterline. Of the seven, four properties are refusals; one property whose resident is deceased; a property whose resident is in a medical care facility; and a property whose home is not ready to connect. AECOM is working to connect the three remaining homes.

At the end of September packets were sent to approximately 140 residents including information associated with the waterline connection (i.e. original plot plan, as-built plot plan, permits and closeouts, winterization process, etc.). Ms. Correale asked when the remaining packets will be sent out to the residents. Mr. Rogers replied that AECOM is currently working on compiling the remaining packets. Ms. Correale asked if the winterization process would be the same for all the homes; Mr. Rogers replied yes. Ms. Correale suggested posting winterization information on the Pearce Creek Outreach website. Mr. Rogers will provide winterization information to Maryland Environmental Service (MES) to be placed on the outreach website.

Road Restoration

Mr. Rogers stated that the Bay View Estates (BVE) roads have had the final layer of tar and chip applied. In addition, Old Barn Lane has been repaired and tar and chip applied. Regarding the fog coat application, discussions were held with BVE residents/Board members and it was agreed to forego the fog coat; the project will be credited once the exact cost is determined with Reybold.

5.0 MDOT MPA Updates

Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA
Karin Olsen, Anchor QEA

Spring 2018 Exterior Monitoring Results

Ms. Olsen stated that the spring 2018 sampling represents the first post-placement exterior monitoring event. Ms. Olsen reminded the PCIC that previously, baseline monitoring events were conducted from fall 2015 through spring 2017 to establish/understand the environmental conditions before dredged material inflow occurred at the Pearce Creek DMCF. Inflow at Pearce Creek DMCF was completed in March 2018; the spring 2018 exterior monitoring sampling was conducted in May 2018. Overall, the post-placement monitoring results were very similar to the baseline results. Ms. Olsen noted that due to the unseasonably wet spring, both the amount of freshwater in the system and the amount of suspended sediment in the water was increased; these increases have been observed throughout Maryland waterways.

Ms. Olsen stated that the post-placement monitoring followed the same testing program as the baseline monitoring to be able to directly compare the data. Using the baseline data, ranges have been established to identify typical results, which the post-placement data can be compared to. The testing program includes surface water quality, sediment chemistry, sediment bioassay, and benthic (bottom-dwelling) community identification. The sampling locations were also the same as for the baseline testing; seven monitoring locations and a reference site in Pearce Creek Lake, and one monitoring location and one reference site in the Elk River. Ms. Olsen reminded the PCIC that the reference sites represent areas that are outside the influence of the DMCF surface water discharge.

Regarding surface water quality results, Ms. Olsen stated that the spring 2018 data was within the range of baseline concentrations, except for aluminum. The elevated concentrations of aluminum were also observed in the reference site results. The turbidity was higher due to the recent rainfall events causing bank erosion, algae, and stormwater runoff. Overall, the chemical concentrations were generally low and consistent with results from the previous sampling events.

Regarding the sediment results, the spring 2018 post-placement data was comparable between the reference and the monitoring locations and was within the range of baseline concentrations. Pearce Creek Lake sediment was comprised of silts and clays, with some sand at PCL-07. The Elk River monitoring location and reference location sediment was comprised of silty clays, with a lot of shell material. The metal concentrations in the sediment are compared to freshwater sediment guidelines, which have a threshold effect concentration (TEC) and probable effect concentration (PEC). If results are below the TEC there will be no effect on aquatic organisms, if the results are between the TEC and PEC there is potential for effect on aquatic organisms, and results above the PEC have a probable effect on aquatic organisms. Concentrations were lower than those observed in spring 2017. Consistent with the baseline data, in Pearce Creek Lake there were three metals between the TEC and PEC, and nickel exceeded the PEC in the monitoring locations and the reference site. Ms. Olsen noted that nickel concentrations are generally consistent with sediment in the upper reaches of the Chesapeake Bay. In Elk River no metals exceeded the TEC.

The bioassay results were consistent with the baseline data. Survival of the freshwater amphipod, *Hyallela azteca*, used in the bioassay tests was high, which indicates that the sediment is not acutely toxic and supports benthic organisms.

Regarding the benthic community results, most of the measured metrics were within the range of the baseline data. There were two locations (ER-01 and PCL-01) with a single dominant species, which skews the data, but the overall conditions at the individual locations did not change. Ms. Correale asked if there were any differences in the substrate. Ms. Olsen replied that lower diversity is seen at sandier locations; both locations ER-01 and PCL-1 are comprised of sandy substrate. Ms. Olsen reiterated that the results from all the testing was consistent with previous sampling events.

Ms. Olsen reviewed the results for the river beach samples, which are two sampling locations (RB-01 and RB-02) that are monitored at the request of the citizens and evaluated independently from the exterior monitoring data. This was the fourth round of sampling at the river beach locations; it was the first round since placement began at the Pearce Creek DMCF. The testing program is the same as the exterior monitoring program. Both river beach sample sites are very sandy and shelly, which generally does not support quality habitat for benthic organisms. For surface water results, the metal concentrations were very low and consistent with previous monitoring events. Aluminum was elevated in one location but is consistent to what was observed in the area. For sediments, the metal concentrations were generally low and well below the sediment quality criteria. The overall river beach results were consistent with previous sampling events. Regarding the river beach benthic community, the abundance was variable but consistent with results previously seen. For the bioassay results, survival was high at RB-01, indicating that the sediment is not acutely toxic; no sample was collected at RB-02 due to the sediment substrate being comprised of 84% sand and gravel.

Mr. Bibo asked if there any issues with zinc. Ms. Olsen replied that zinc is one of the metals that fall between the TEC and PEC in the sediment. The zinc concentrations in the exterior monitoring results are consistent with the background concentrations of zinc in the area. Ms. Keene stated that the exterior monitoring summary, river beach memo, and presentation will be available on the Pearce Creek Outreach website. Ms. Olsen noted that sampling was conducted for the fall 2018 exterior monitoring event in the first week of October.

DMMP Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Field Trip

The Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) held a meeting and site visit at Pearce Creek DMCF to discuss the project status. Ms. Keene reminded the PCIC that the CAC is part of the DMMP stakeholder advisory structure and they have been updated on the Pearce Creek project for its duration. The DMMP CAC is invested in the success of the project. Mr. Bibo asked how many people attended the Pearce Creek tour; Ms. Keene replied nine.

Ms. Keene also notified the PCIC that a presentation on the Pearce Creek project will be given by AECOM, MDOT MPA, CENAP, the Town of Cecilton, and Valerie Woodruff at the American Planning Association conference in Delaware on October 23. The feedback, questions and comments from the conference will be reported back to the PCIC.

6.0 Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Updates Elder Ghigiarelli, MDE

Mr. Ghigiarelli stated that MDE has reviewed the Pearce Creek DMCF surface water discharge monitoring results submitted by CENAP. Most of the discharge monitoring results were within the water quality criteria; ammonia and arsenic levels were elevated. Mr. Ghigiarelli stated that the turbidity results were measured and reported in milligrams per liter (mg/L) while the MDE standard is in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU); while difficult to convert accurately from mg/L to NTU, a rough calculation

showed turbidity to be a little higher than water quality criteria. MDE will provide an assessment of the results to CENAP along with a few recommendations. Mr. Ghigiarelli mentioned that the discharge samples were collected at the spillway in the DMCF. MDE's major concern involved potential impacts to the lake, and the exterior monitoring results alleviate those concerns.

7.0 Citizen Comments **Community Representatives**

Feedback from the Community Members

Mr. Heacock stated on behalf of the BVE community that there are no issues or concerns regarding the Pearce Creek project. One resident has a high water bill, which is currently being investigated by the Town of Cecilton. Mr. Heacock asked if mosquito control occurred at the Pearce Creek DMCF. Mr. Kaiser stated that it occurred throughout the summer but has since ceased.

Future Meeting Discussions **Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA**

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

MDOT MPA will be working with AECOM to get the winterization guidelines posted on the Pearce Creek website. MDOT MPA will also follow up with CENAP regarding the status of the closed parking lot by Stemmers Run Road.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

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

Adjourn - Noon **Kristen Keene, Chair**