

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

**Attendees:**

*AECOM:* Chris Rogers

*Bay View Estates (BVE) Residents:* Dave Heacock, Sandy Heacock, Joy Heacock, Ralph Shrom  
*Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA):* Kristen Keene, Dave Blazer

*Maryland Environmental Service (MES):* Christine Offerman

*Sunset Pointe Resident:* Kathy McDonough

*Town of Cecilton:* Mary Cooper, Tom Yeager, Mayor Joe Zang

*US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District:* Gavin Kaiser

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

**Action Items:**

- Once available, Pearce Creek Lake access and intermittent closure information can be placed on the Pearce Creek Outreach website, as well as passing along the information to the community leaders, and including details in the Pearce Creek e-newsletter.
- DNR will be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the details of Pearce Creek Lake access.
- Beginning in 2020, the sampling frequency for the voluntary Exterior Monitoring will be reduced to once a year in the fall; the frequency of sampling can be revisited if warranted by the sampling results.
- Beginning in 2020 the PCIC meetings will be held bi-annually (May 15, 2020 and November 20, 2020).

**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 August 2019 meeting summary. The summary was approved as written and will be made available as final on the Pearce Creek outreach website ([www.pearcecreekoutreach.com](http://www.pearcecreekoutreach.com)).

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

**Gavin Kaiser, CENAP**

***Pearce Creek DMCF Operations***

Mr. Kaiser stated that the US Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District (CENAP) has awarded the contract for the upcoming Chesapeake and Delaware (C&D) Canal approach channels dredging project, which will use the Pearce Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility (DMCF) for dredged material placement. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock (GLDD) has been awarded the contract and equipment mobilization is underway; dredging is expected to begin around the end of November.

Ms. Woodruff asked if the offshore barges were part of the mobilization efforts. Mr. Kaiser replied yes and stated that it will be the same process as the previous dredging and placement activities. The unloader

will be located just outside of the federal channel and a pipe will be extended from the unloader to the DMCF. The pipe will be well marked as safety is paramount to the project. Two bucket dredges will place material into a scow, and once the scow is full it will be barged to the unloader. The unloader then pumps the dredged material into the Pearce Creek DMCF.

Mr. Schrom asked if the dredged material could be reused. Mr. Kaiser stated that there is the possibility for eventual reuse of the material since material from other CENAP containment sites is mined and reused for various projects. Mr. Kaiser stated that CENAP wants to have a significant cover of material over the geotextile liner installed in the Pearce Creek DMCF before any mining of material were to occur to ensure the that the liner was protected.

### ***Pearce Creek Lake Access***

Mr. Kaiser stated that CENAP is still coordinating with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding Pearce Creek Lake access. A meeting was held on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the DNR Central Region Managers. CENAP is waiting for a Protection, Signage, and Enforcement Plan from DNR to ensure the area is being safely opened to the public while protecting the CENAP investment. Mr. Kaiser noted that when material placement is occurring at the Pearce Creek DMCF, no public access will be allowed at the Pearce Creek Lake. Mr. Blazer asked how long it takes to complete a typical dredging project in the C&D Canal approach channels. Mr. Kaiser replied that the dredging and placement itself usually takes approximately one month, with mobilization and demobilization the whole project usually takes about three months to complete.

Ms. McDonough asked if access to Pearce Creek Lake will be through the Stemmers Run gate. Ms. Kaiser replied yes and that access there should divert visitors to the lake rather than towards the Pearce Creek DMCF. A combination lock will be placed on the gate and the combination will be made available to those who request access. Ms. McDonough asked about signage and notification when the Pearce Creek Lake access will be restricted. Mr. Kaiser replied that there will be a sign on the gate and information on the DNR website notifying the public of the temporary closure due to dredging. Ms. Keene stated that Pearce Creek Lake access/closure information can also be placed on the Pearce Creek Outreach website, as well as passing along the information to the community leaders, and including details in the Pearce Creek e-newsletter.

Ms. Sandy Heacock asked if a permit would be needed to access the Pearce Creek Lake site. Mr. Kaiser stated that DNR would be the best entity to consult but believes that permits are only required for waterfowl hunting or fishing at the site. Ms. Keene stated that DNR can be asked to attend a future meeting to discuss the details of Pearce Creek Lake access. Ms. Kaiser mentioned that DNR will oversee patrolling the Pearce Creek Lake site as well.

## **4.0 Drinking Water Line Progress**

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

### ***Project Closeout Activities***

Mr. Rogers stated that AECOM will continue to work on addressing the three remaining homes that require adjustments to their expansion tank. Mr. Rogers reiterated that the initial improper calibration of the expansion tank does not pose a safety issue, but rather impacts the lifespan and manufacturer warranty of the equipment. AECOM will continue assembling and mailing the packets that include the as-built drawings and permits associated with the work completed at each house for the homeowners' records.

Mr. Rogers stated that the work at the Bay View Estates (BVE) boat ramp have been completed.

Ms. McDonough asked where the location of the shutoff valve was in the yard and if a tool was provided for the shutoff valve. Mr. Rogers stated that there is a valve located at the street which should not be turned off. There is another outside valve located in the yard, which is denoted in the as-built packet. A key or tool should have been provided to turn the valve nut to close the valve; anyone missing the tool to shutoff the valve should contact Mr. Rogers. There is also an interior shutoff for the water that should be used to winterize a house.

Mayor Zang commented that he attended the meeting regarding the State of Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and that the Pearce Creek project is still a line item in the State of Maryland budget. The MDOT MPA has kept its word on keeping funding available for the entirety of the project.

## **5.0 MDOT MPA Updates**

**Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA**

### ***Spring 2019 Exterior Monitoring Update***

Ms. Keene provided an update on the voluntary exterior monitoring conducted by MDOT MPA. Ms. Keene stated that the Spring 2019 post-placement exterior monitoring sampling event was completed from May 20 to 22, 2019. This is the third post-placement sampling event since inflow into the Pearce Creek DMCF was conducted for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 dredging cycles. Previously, four baseline sampling events were conducted from fall 2015 to spring 2017.

The post-placement monitoring consisted of collecting samples for surface water quality, sediment chemistry, sediment bioassays, and benthic (bottom-dwelling organisms) community identification. For the monitoring locations, seven samples were collected from Pearce Creek Lake and one from the Elk River. There were two reference site samples collected outside the influence of the Pearce Creek DMCF, including one sample from Pearce Creek Lake and one from the Elk River. The post-placement sampling results were comparable between the reference sites and all monitoring results were consistent with the baseline monitoring program, which has been observed for each of the post-placement sampling events. For more information, please visit: <https://pearcecreekoutreach.com/ExteriorMonitoringReports.html>.

Two River Beach samples (nearshore areas in the Elk River adjacent to community beaches) were also collected on May 22, 2019. These sample locations were added at the request of PCIC citizen members and are evaluated independently from the exterior monitoring data as they are outside the influence of the Pearce Creek DMCF. River Beach samples were evaluated using the same testing program as the exterior monitoring (i.e. surface water quality, sediment chemistry, sediment bioassays and benthic community identification). This was the sixth round of sampling at these locations and the third round since the Pearce Creek DMCF was reactivated in 2017. Results are consistent with previous River Beach sampling events. For more information on the River Beach sampling, please visit: <https://pearcecreekoutreach.com/ExteriorMonitoringReports.html>.

Ms. Keene stated that the exterior monitoring program uses adaptive management to determine sampling frequency based on previous sampling results. Based on the consistency of the baseline and post-placement results, MDOT MPA requested that the PCIC give their opinion regarding reducing the Exterior Monitoring Program sampling to once a year, in the fall. It was recommended that the fall sampling event be selected because the additional metrics of the Benthic Index of Biologic Integrity (B-IBI) can be tested

at that time. Ms. Woodruff replied that moving forward with a single yearly sampling event seemed reasonable; the other PCIC members confirmed that reducing the sampling frequency to once a year was appropriate considering the consistency of the past sampling results. Ms. Keene stated that based on PCIC consensus, beginning in 2020, the sampling frequency for Exterior Monitoring will be reduced to once a year in the fall but mentioned that the frequency of sampling can be revisited if warranted by the sampling results.

Ms. Keene stated that the CENAP sampling requirements (i.e. groundwater sampling and surface water discharge sampling) will remain unchanged as they are required to be performed as stated in the Water Quality Certification from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Ms. Woodruff asked when the CENAP sampling events occur. Mr. Kaiser replied that surface water discharge sampling is collected every time water is discharged from the Pearce Creek DMCF and the groundwater is sampled twice a year. Ms. Woodruff asked about the public availability of the surface water discharge and groundwater monitoring results. Mr. Kaiser stated that the results are publicly available on the Pearce Creek Outreach website (<https://pearcecreekoutreach.com/Monitoring.html>). Ms. Offerman reminded the PCIC that the results need to be reviewed by MDE before they are posted, which has caused a delay in public availability.

### ***DMMP Annual Meeting***

Ms. Keene stated that the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) Annual meeting was held on November 8 and was well attended. At the meeting, the 2019 DMMP Annual Report was presented, which outlines the 2020 recommendations (<http://mpadmmpannualreport.com/>). Ms. Keene also reminded the PCIC that the DMMP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) chairman is now Mr. Adam Lindquist. Mr. Blazer encouraged the PCIC members to reach out to Mr. Lindquist with any questions, comments and/or concerns.

## **6.0 Citizen Comments**

### **Community Representatives**

#### ***Feedback from the Community Members***

Mr. Heacock thanked AECOM and their subcontractor for the work on the BVE boat ramp, residents are very pleased with the improvements. Mr. Heacock asked if any progress had been made with the homes which were not connected due to no contact. Mr. Rogers replied that there has still been no contact with the owners and AECOM has been unable to enter the homes to complete the work. Ms. Keene reminded the PCIC that funding for connections is available until spring 2020 and if progress is made within that timeframe to contact the owners, then the homes will be able to be connected. Ms. Woodruff asked where the homes were located that had not been connected, including the homes whose owners had made contact but refused connection. Mr. Rogers stated that two homes in West View Shores, three homes in Bay View Estates, and one home in Sunset Pointe remain unconnected.

#### **Future Meeting Discussions**

### **Kristen Keene, MDOT MPA**

Ms. Keene stated that with the waterline project nearing completion, there have been less updates available to present to the PCIC. Ms. Keene asked the PCIC if they would be amenable to reducing the PCIC meeting frequency from quarterly meetings to bi-annual meetings. Ms. Woodruff stated that bi-annual meetings should be sufficient; PCIC members confirmed that bi-annual meetings would be sufficient to provide project updates.

It was determined that the next PCIC meeting will be held **Friday, May 15, 2020 at 10am.**

2020 Meeting Schedule:

- May 15, 2020
- November 20, 2020

**Adjourn - Noon**

**Kristen Keene, Chair**