

**Critical Area Commission  
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays  
Meeting at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland**

**July 6, 2022**

~ **Approved** ~

**Project Implementation Subcommittee**

*Attendees: Hertz (Chair), Beulah, Eames, Grant, Mahoney, Mangum, McCall, Parker, Roberson, Varney-Alvarado*

**Item 1. May Project Subcommittee Minutes.**

Commissioner Varney-Alvarado moved to approve the Project Subcommittee meeting minutes from the May 4 meeting. Commissioner Beulah seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 2. Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Point Lookout State Park Water and Sewer System Rehabilitation**

Presented by Annie Sekerak

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is proposing improvements to the water and sewer network for the north and south systems within Point Lookout State Park located on the southern tip of St. Mary's County. Given the entire limit of disturbance is located within the Critical Area Buffer, and given the overall scope of the proposed improvements, this project exceeds the parameters of the MOU between DNR and the Critical Area Commission, and review and approval by the CAC is required.

Discussion: Commissioner Eames asked for clarification about the time of year restrictions when no work would be done. Staff clarified that the time of year restrictions relate to the presence of a heron rookery and Forest Interior Dwelling Species habitat and are recommended by DNR Wildlife and Heritage.

Commissioner McCall made a motion to approve the project as proposed. Commissioner Beulah seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Item 3. Maryland Department of Transportation – State Highway Administration: MD 322 at Glenwood Avenue Intersection Improvements (Talbot County)**

Presented by Alex DeWeese

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA) is proposing traffic and safety improvements along Maryland 322 at Glenwood Avenue in Talbot County. The purpose of the project is to provide additional safety capacity at the intersection. The left turn lane will eliminate queuing of vehicles and buses turning onto

Glenwood Avenue, while the wider shoulders are a needed safety feature for cars and bicycles. Staff recommend approval with conditions.

There were no questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Mahoney moved to approve with the condition as outlined in the staff report. Commissioner Beulah seconded the motion. Commissioner Mangum abstained. All others voted in favor. Motion passed.

**Item 4. Maryland Department of Transportation – State Highway Administration: Replacement of Bridge No. 2200400 on US 13 Business over East Branch of Wicomico River (Phase 2).**

Presented by Charlotte Shearin

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is proposing to replace Bridge No. 2200400 over East Branch of Wicomico River on US 13 Business (South Salisbury Boulevard) in Wicomico County, Maryland. Staff recommend approval with conditions.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Hertz stated she had a few questions/comments related to the vulnerability assessment for the project.

- What resiliency measures are incorporated into the bridge design?
- Is SHA using current 100-year flood projections or future flood projections in its design?
- Is the bioswale located in an area that is likely to face future inundation?

Commissioner Mahoney stated he had similar concerns about the bioswale. After reviewing plans, representatives from SHA stated that they believed it would be located outside the 1-2 foot sea level rise inundation zone.

Commissioner Grant asked a question about the bridge's status in the historical registry, and whether that status allowed the bridge to be removed. SHA stated that due to the bridge's condition it could be removed, despite the registry.

After further discussion, it was agreed that the conditions of approval would be amended as follows: Prior to start of construction, or within 30 days, whichever comes first, MDOT SHA shall submit a copy of all final plans, permits, and approvals, including stormwater management, sediment and erosion control, and NPDES authorizations, to Commission staff. Second, "to further incorporate climate resiliency measures for the project, SHA shall locate proposed stormwater management features, including the bioswale, outside the 1-2 foot inundation zone."

Commissioner Hertz noted that the bioswale would have to be sized appropriately to take in the additional runoff from the additional impervious surface to handle the flow.

Commissioner Grant moved to approve with the updated conditions as discussed, Commissioner Roberson seconded. Commissioner Hertz abstained from voting, all others voted in favor.

**Item 5. St. Mary's College of Maryland: Maryland Heritage Interpretive Center Building Construction (St. Mary's County)**

Presented by Susan Makhoul

St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) proposes to construct a new facility, the Maryland Heritage Interpretive Center building, on the SMCM campus. The facility will be located south of Anne Arundel Hall between Old State House Road and Point Lookout Road (MD 5). The MHIC will serve as a focal point for both SMCM and Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) visitors and will include a visitor center, exhibit galleries, a multifunctional room for films and meetings, and an outdoor plaza and garden. Recommended approval as proposed in the staff report.

Discussion: Commissioner Hertz asked about the archaeological recovery that is outstanding per MHT, and a representative from SMC stated that a St. Mary's City archaeologist has to document and report the findings.

Commissioner Alvarado asked about projections used for climate resiliency, and Susan provided clarification.

Commissioner Eames moved to approve, and Commissioner Mahoney seconded. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

**Item 6. Climate Resiliency for State Projects – Discussion Only**

Presented by Kate Charbonneau

The current State Project Checklist was distributed to those present. Ms. Charbonneau reviewed the structure of the checklist and how it asks for state agencies to address the climate resiliency provisions within COMAR 27.02.05. Ms. Charbonneau stated that since those regulations were first promulgated in 2015, there have been a number of advancements, including with other state priorities and with mapping technology. The purpose of the discussion today was to reflect on whether coastal resiliency assessment's provided with state projects that are presented to the Commission could be improved. Commissioner Hertz stated that she would like to see a workgroup formed to propose changes or identify areas for change.

Discussion: Commissioner Hertz started by stating that, from an MDOT standpoint, there is a need for guidelines, details about what can and can't be done that they can keep in mind when they're planning projects and working with engineers. She also stated that resiliency measures should be related to the life cycle of the project.

Commissioner Grant asked how we determine the legitimate sources of resiliency information, and also, what is the process of project submittal, and the procedure that is gone through each time to ensure requirements are being met. Kate explained that it is a combination of guidance from the Commission staff, as well as referring to COMAR guidelines for coastal resiliency.

Commissioner Alvarado asked about Coast Smart guidelines, whether they are for all state and local projects. Emily provided some clarification as to the Coast Smart Council and the application of the Coast Smart Program to state structures.

Commissioner Hertz asked who would be willing to participate with the workgroup. Ultimately, it was decided the workgroup would consist of Commissioner Hertz and Commissioners Grant, Roberson, McCall, Varney-Alvarado and Commissioner Herr-Cornwell.