

**Critical Area Commission
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays**

June 25, 2025

Project Committee Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: *Conway (Chair), Gost, Grant, R. Hance, Marion, Morgan, Palma*

Guests: Nathan Thompson (MPA), David Ferguson (MES)

1. Call to Order and Quorum Verification

- Jennifer Esposito opened the meeting with a roll call and noted there was a quorum. She also noted that the meeting was being recorded.
- Commissioner Conway read the standard statement for virtual meetings, noting that the meeting was being streamed live to the public and that captioned minutes would be made available on the Commission's website.

2. Approval of May 21, 2025 Minutes

- Motion to Approve: Commissioner Palma
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gost
- Vote: The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. VOTE – APPROVAL REQUESTED: Maryland Department of Transportation
Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) – Masonville Dredge Material
Containment Facility Dike Raising to Elevation +42 Feet**

Presenter: Claudia Jones for Jamileh Soueidan. Recommend approval with conditions.

Ms. Jones presented for vote in accordance with the staff report, the contents of which are incorporated into and made part of the minutes. MDOT MPA is proposing to raise the perimeter of the Masonville Dredge Material Containment Facility (DMCF) from an elevation of +30 feet above Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to an elevation of +42 feet above MLLW in order to provide additional capacity for dredge material from the Baltimore Harbor. The project also entails the construction of a maintenance access road and ramps.

Discussion:

Ms. Esposito (on behalf of Commissioner Roberson): Asked Commission staff how mitigation monies are handled for a project that occurs within the Critical Area. Is there any verification or accounting of projects? Is Critical Area staff given accounting information to document finances of mitigation money?

Critical Area staff: This is accomplished through a three-party MOU that outlines how the grant money can be used and allows staff the chance to comment. The MOU sets out parameters for projects and does not limit projects to the Critical Area. The Port Administration provides annual reports regarding projects.

Commissioner Conway: Commented that the projected added longevity would be 20 years. Is there an increased chance for leakage in the area? Would guess that some dredge material could be toxic.

Nathan Thompson (MPA): Materials that are deemed toxic are not accepted for MPA projects. Meets MDE standards.

Commissioner Conway: Does the material get used as filler in other projects?

MPA: Yes. At our sister facility, Cox Creek, the adjacent Starr property. Used to create products such as concrete, reef balls, bricks, anything that requires soil.

Commissioner Hance: Asked for clarification about the reused material.

MES: Stated that the plan is for 180,000 cubic yards of material, plus a stockpile area for 30-40,000 cubic yards of dredge material.

Commissioner Hance: Asked about the vegetation used in the structure.

MES: The mechanically stabilized earthen walls have steel baskets on the exterior, which are filled with 9-12 inches of topsoil, seeded with grass. Within a growing season it will be a solid green wall that will help with runoff.

VOTE:

Commissioner Conway requested a motion for approval with conditions as recommended in the staff report. Commissioner Grant so moved. Commissioner Marion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting of Project Committee will be August 6.