

**THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS**  
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Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 3pm

**CALL TO ORDER** –Meeting opened at 3:00 pm.

Present: Roy Myers, Dennis Glackin, Doug Rollow, John Marrah, Jonathan Clarke, Andrew Thaler, Town Administrator Rob Straebel and Town Planner Steve Ball, and Town Staff Kris Kakabar. Guest speakers: Brent Jett, Project Manager with George, Miles & Buhr, LLC (GMB) and Karley and Kegan, Environmental Scientists on the Coastal Resiliency team with GMB (attended via zoom) and Sasha Land, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Twelve in-person public attendees and four via zoom.

**Kickoff meeting with GMB for West Harbor Road/East Chew Avenue Flood Mitigation Feasibility Assessment and Conceptual Design:**

Mr. Myers provided introduction, referencing the initial Harbor and Stormwater Infrastructure Study done in 2020. Brent Jett, with GMB was awarded the contract for this current project for West Harbor Road/East Chew Avenue Flood Mitigation Feasibility Assessment and Conceptual Design.

Task at hand: Increase resiliency, reduce flooding, and utilize green solutions, and improve the general vicinity.

Schedule: Quarterly updates with St. Michaels, kickoff today, in the process of completing the survey in the area, Conceptual design to the Council and Town Manager by beginning of October so by mid-December to have a final design to the Town.

Mr. Myers Questions included: Storm water down Talbot St. and Meadow analysis (which will be provided by Mr. Jett). He asked the consultant to provide an update on the modeling and analysis. Mr. Jett said, we will look at the current storm drain system and how overburdened it is in conjuncture with greening as much of the area. We can then evaluate if this alleviates the burden, then we can look at the sea level rise. Mr. Myers asked if a cistern is needed? Mr. Jett said they would need a pump station, and this is a high ticket and maintenance item which may not be appropriate for St. Michaels. Possibly look at an oversized pipe system after above adjustments made. Mr. Myers said may need to absorb water at the catch basin, and we need to evaluate other viable options. The Town is not going to replace all the stormwater/sewer system pipes. Town owns stormwater system and county owns the sewer pipes. Roy is acquiring the available St. Michaels Stormwater pipe layout information for GMB. We need to look at all options, including the recommendations for the bulkhead and the slips in the final analysis.

Mr. Jett said we may need to look at a tide gate structure.

Mr. Myers said we would like to perform a walk-around with the watermen, slip-holders, and residents to provide a better understanding of the area.

Outline of end-product GMB will provide.

30-60% soft engineering drawing showing improvements, elevation, and drainage patterns details will be provided. Report for critical area, FEMA designation, permits requirements, rough calculation on removal quantities and rough ballpark estimate will be provided to move forward. Mr. Glackin reminded him he was going to provide perspectives that the residents would see from the homes at the inlet area and what the Upland Shoal will look like.

Community Sessions Mr. Jett is looking more toward May-June. So, he can present viable options.

Mr. Myers said this is our first big design project to move toward funding and is looking to improve the picturesque appearance in West Harbor/East Chew.

The public discussion included a variety of topics.

Sasha Land, with DNR said the end product needs to be ready to go towards whatever future grant applications are out there. We must get this to 30-60% ready to go to design, funding, and then construction. Brent needs to lay out all areas that need to be done, which he will take into consideration. All three regulatory agencies need to understand what the competing goals are and if we can bring ideas to them to “hash” through now, so when we get to the phase for obtaining dollars to build, we can.

Mr. Myers said he will raise this project with Ray Clarke of the County Public Works Department.

Three key issues of concern were noted:

1. Challenge to Brent: relook at proposal if areas may be deficient come back and let us know so we can get them on the table and have a model to move forward with.
2. More public involvement and input areas in schedule.
3. A meeting to discuss how to enhance this grant.

Recap of issues include:

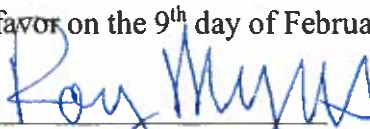
1. Brent will evaluate stormwater and rain modeling.
2. Cistern determination.
3. March 9 CC/SLRC meeting attendance with an update?
4. Provide CC/SLRC with updated schedule of events for this project on March 9 meeting.
5. Timeframe for walk-around with residents/watermen – need to be scheduled.
6. Mr. Myers will follow up with Mr. Clarke, Talbot County – Meadow and East Chew areas.
7. Have a product ready to go to construction and for approvals in 100-foot flood plan.
8. Discussions with Brent: more public involvement, more modeling, landscape design.
9. Docks and Bulkhead – keep Waterways and DNR up to date “in real time”. Ms. Land stated they are aware of the project but need to stay abreast early in the cycles.
10. Brent will need slip planning in the final document.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Myers/All members made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Marrah and carried through on a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Minutes approved as submitted by 60 vote in favor on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

  
Roy Myers, Chairman