

**THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS**  
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Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission  
Special Meeting: Community Input Session: San Domingo Creek Sea Level Rise and Flooding Study  
Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 5pm

**CALL TO ORDER** –Meeting opened at 5:00 pm.

Present: Roy Myers, Dennis Glackin, John Marrah, William Boicourt, Andrew Thaler, Jon Clarke, and Town Administrator, Rob Straebel, and Town Staff Steve Ball and Kris Kakabar. Public attendees: eleven via zoom, fourteen in person.

**Overview**

Mr. Myers opened the special community input meeting for San Domingo Creek Study, introduced Anna Johnson with BayLand Engineering, the company contracted via bid to perform this study to evaluate the sea level rise and potential flooding, nuisance flooding, and impact of rain events on this area and help us understand at risk areas and strategies for mitigation of sea level rise.

**Overview, Presentation, and Discussion**

*Anna Johnson, Coastal Engineer, Certified Climate Change Professional, and Project Engineer for this study with Bayland Engineering*

Ms. Johnson made a power point presentation of the San Domingo Creek Study with some of their current findings from their assessments. (See the presentation slides and survey on the Town’s website.) Final product of this study is to provide a mitigation plan and design one area to 30% for this project. BayLand engineers have performed an assessment and mapping of the area and storm drain system and obtained critical elevations to aid in the designing phase. Explanation of the following topics were provided: global and relative sea level rise (SLR) in reference to St. Michaels, projections for sea level rise to year 2100, and flood maps. The study areas and areas of concern will be assessed for vulnerability, followed by the risk evaluation, allowing them to be ranked in a decision matrix and subsequent mitigation strategies.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Langley Shook, Triceville Road- Asked: Would you consider use of impervious pavers and stormwater retention pond and rain garden by Chew Avenue as strategy implementation. This will reduce sediment flow. Mr. Myers clarified the area in reference by the Nature trail will be recommended to be included in this scope. He was intrigued by turning tidal pond into stormwater retention area; the tidal pond is tidal up to Grace St. and to the narrow parts of the headwaters of the creek. Environmental Concern, relative to this area, could possibly be available for a retention pond; would this be helpful for stormwater management.

Ms. Johnson response: Permeable pavement can store stormwater. They will discuss the Environmental Concern area for stormwater option in the report.

Resident @ West Chew and Nature Trail corner and Pat Zindulka, 503 Tilden St.: He has a perforated rain garden on his property (end of W. Chestnut/Tilden) which makes noticeable improvements. Water at end of West Chew is flooding and coming out of the manhole not down into it. All the time, no high tide only. Maintenance of these drains and structures showed improved flow.

Ms. Johnson response: Rain gardens and solutions to keep the area dryer in higher tides will be considered. Grants do not provide maintenance and upkeep to these structures, this needs to be considered in the final decision.

John Novak, West Chew Avenue- Stormwater should all go into the creek. Sea level rise – flood gardens and wild grass will not retard sea level rise, but he suggests use of bulkheads. Recommend to limit sea level rise encroachment over the long term to invest to 2050. Cost-benefit analysis to look at long-term solutions, not waste money on short-term solutions.

Mr. Myers referenced presentation by Anna Johnson and Mr. Boicourt referencing sea level rise projections for 50-100 years – relates to need to mitigate to 5-foot. We are looking for St. Michaels to be a viable community in 2075.

Mr. Glackin asked for explanation for community of hardscape vs. green infrastructure use. Culvert under the bridge – stormwater facility at the bridge will be assessed as a solution.

Ms. Johnson explained the design is permeable; gray areas which can be adjusted for future sea level rise mitigation to tolerance. Land acquisition is sometimes the most cost-effective solution.

Mr. Marrah acknowledged need for structures; and expressed need to assess dissipation concerns also. He confirmed we are projecting focus to 2050-2075.

Ms. Johnson said we can examine tide gate/tide valve options. The dredging option can be “tricky” to permit.

Susan Strasburg, 104 West Maple: Can the Environmental Concern area be considered as use in the plan.

CC/SLRC and Ms. Johnson response: it is private land; study goes to Boundary Lane. We will consider coastal flooding and low elevation assessments, but not propose solutions there.

Karen Wald- Commented that the water table under St. Michaels is very high, is this being taken into consideration?

Mr. Myers: Location being reviewed is land at edge along water and storm water. There are new rules for building elevations to prepare for future.

Ms. Johnson: Water table is not a controllable factor. Mr. Marrah clarified it will not impact structures (pilings) and there are workarounds.

Jon O'Connor, 208 West Chew- When digging down one foot, I hit water. He built his garage on 4 foot pilings for a “wet-environment”. Residents can take the maps provided by this committee to plan for flooding and building in these areas.

Ms. Johnson: What’s the next step.

Look at problematic areas.

Rank them scientifically for prioritization.

CC/SLRC will then adjust the ranking of these in relation to community priority.

## **Announcements**

March 30, 2023- GMB Community Input Session

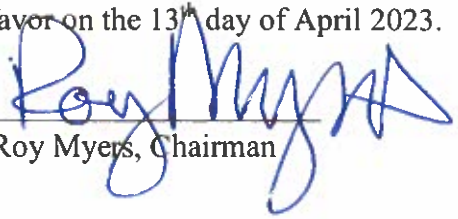
BayLand presentation and the survey will be placed on the website. Please return completed surveys to Anna Johnson by April 15, 2023.

**Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Minutes approved as submitted by <sup>4/6/0</sup>          vote in favor on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

  
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Roy Myers, Chairman