

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS
300 MILL STREET
P.O. BOX 206
ST. MICHAELS, MD 21663

Settled 1670-1680
Incorporated 1804

Telephone: 410.745.9535
Facsimile: 410.745.3467

Climate Change/Sea Level Rise Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 5pm

CALL TO ORDER –Meeting opened at 5:00 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Roy Myers, Dennis Glackin, Dr. Andrew Thaler, John Marrah, Doug Rollow, Dr. William Boicourt (via zoom), Town Planner, Steve Ball, Rob Straebel, Town Administrator and Town Staff, Kris Kakabar. Waterway Advisory Board member: Jim Tapp. Public attendees: two in person and two via zoom.

Minutes

Mr. Myers requested to hold approving the August 10, 2023, minutes, to allow for additional review and corrections, until next meeting.

Public Comment:

Jim Tapp of the Waterway Advisory Board, no comments. No public comments.

Items from CC/SLR Commission for discussion:

FEMA Project DR-4491 Update:

We have received three bids for this project: BayLand, GMB, and RAUCH. A team consisting of Rob Straebel, Town Administrator, Steve Ball, Town Planner, Roy Myers, CC/SLRC Chair, Dennis Glackin, CC/SLRC Vice Chair and Dr. William Boicourt, CC/SLRC member, will meet on Monday, September 18, 2023, to review these bids.

Options for West Harbor Road/East Chew Avenue Flood Mitigation Project developed by Brent Jett, Engineer from GMB, Review of Summary for Town Commissioners and Update of Design Preferences Document:

Dennis Glackin has updated the Design Preference Document with the main two changes being: 1) The need for pervious pavers needs additional analysis based on the guidelines to meet the Critical Area Commission and state requirements. 2) Electric utility service at this point is not recommended and would need further studies. Minutes from the September 6, 2023, meeting with Brent Jett, are attached for reference. Mr. Jett's goal is to achieve results for 25-year rainfall storm events. The last question posed at the meeting on the 6th is still not finalized: "Are there considerations in case of a power outage for a backup system to run the pumps?" Considerations posed today by the CC/SLRC are: Discussion included that the power demands for the pump determine whether we need a backup generator or if a portable generator can manage it. We cannot predict the frequency of loss of electricity, in normal rain events it is not an issue, but this would be for storm events. Maintenance is an issue. It also must be in a location that would be completely dry and not obtrusive in appearance, it may be possible to place it down the road.

Mr. Jett will have his initial draft of the 60% design to the CC/SLRC by October 6th, 2023, for review prior to going before the CC/SLRC on October 12, 2023, and COSM meetings in November.

The DNR grants are due by December 14th, 2023.

DNR small boat ramp update - Carla Fleming Meeting on September 13, 2023:

Carla is with the DNR, who provide boat ramp/dock funding. We have received their permission to close off the small boat ramp but strongly encouraged replacement with a kayak launch. The end of the harbor is a preferable placement area to avoid harbor lines and is a safer location. Mr. Jett is aware of this and will plan into his design accordingly. There have been funding changes with DNR grants up to \$200,000 are funded at 100% coverage but >\$200,000 there is a 50% match required by the Town. Carla Fleming would like to meet with the Town/CC/SLRC for a walk around tour of the grant areas on October 3rd, along with Lisa Gutierrez, who is responsible for the DNR kayak funding/regulations. Dr. Andrew Thaler offered to join Roy Myers and Rob Straebel for this tour.

Options for San Domingo Creek Flood Mitigation Project, Review of Potential Add-on Projects, and Discussion of Area for 30% Concept Design: Summary of Special zoom with Anna Johnson from BayLand:

A couple items came out of their meeting. The stormwater retention ponds would be included in the Environmental Concern Property Master Plan and potential flooding of the Environmental Concern building needs further evaluation (as it could potentially be the new Town office), and the potential flood gate design at the Nature Trail Bridge also needs further analysis. Follow-up discussions were held with Anna Johnson and staff. We asked for two additional proposals from BayLand: Task 1) Additional flood mitigation around the Environmental Concern building, for \$7,000 request. This will be included as a part of the Boundary Lane Waterfront Park masterplan. Steve Ball may be able to allocate funding for the assessment process only. It should include possible mitigation strategies. A concept drawing with a berm and living shoreline design along that line along with the Back Creek Park is a preferred project to unite these two project areas was discussed and Task 2) Perform a very detailed analysis on how the flood tide gate design at the St. Michaels Nature Trail would work as the total cost of this was estimated at \$2,000,000. Out of the Town pocket cost would be for a 10% design= \$20,000. The Town will ask Ms. Johnson to make this the first step in her analysis report along with identifying grant funding sources to achieve these concept designs or to move the tide gate design to a long-term study. We still need to provide her with which design to go forward for the 30% construction design for the Back Creek Park area living shoreline. DNR has a grant option 3 which is due December 14th, 2023, which may be appropriate for this.

North Street Project:

We did fund this project. They are performing survey work in the community and have sent out several public notices. They are scheduled to do a presentation in the St. Michaels library October 18, for public input and presentation of their initial drawings.

Bristlemouth Pilot (Pioneer) Program update by Dr. Andrew Thaler:

Bristlemouth is an open standard delivering plug-and-play hardware interfaces from marine applications. It ushers in a new era of ocean innovation by accelerating the development of scalable ocean sensing systems and applications. By closing the ocean data gap at a rapid pace, it significantly impacts climate understanding, coastal resilience, and every major ocean industry. It is a buoy placed in the water and takes sea surface measurements coupled with a SMART mooring system to transmit the data.

We put in an application for this a few months ago and were approved for the program and will be receiving a \$11,000 solar data buoy in 1-2 weeks. Dr. Thaler will meet with Dr. Boicourt to determine the best location for buoy placement and will then be on our way for data collection.

SoFar Ocean - The Spotter Buoy – webpage displayed on overhead screen for CC/SLRC and public to view while Dr. Thaler explained the system and how it is used.

Public Comment

Steve Huntoon, 122 W. Chestnut commented on stormwater issue- water quality of San Domingo Creek relative to the other Broad Creek areas feeding into the Choptank. The San Domingo Creek has the highest quality rating of "c." The other 12 headwaters rated at "r" no harvesting of shellfish is permitted at any time.

Stormwater impoundment areas (rain gardens) were placed at the end of Thompson and corner of Chestnut and Tilden in 2017. We should not spend tax dollars in this area for stormwater mitigation due to high quality water ratings, but the money should be used elsewhere where there is lower water quality in St. Michaels. Mr. Myers acknowledged the documentation he shared and stated this will be further considered during the masterplan process.

Discussion Items

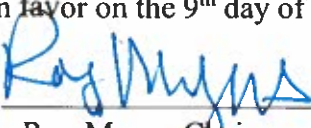
It was noted that the closest self-regulating tide gates are in Connecticut; however, Crisfield is in the process of installing a pair and may be worth reviewing for background information. Dr. Thaler will make this connection to schedule a meeting with them.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Minutes approved as submitted by 6-0 vote in favor on the 9th day of November 2023.



Roy Myers, Chairman