

## Duval Creek Dredging Project

I attended the 8/26/2008 meeting of the Anne Arundel Waterway Restoration Alliance. Presentations were given by Bob Whitcomb (president of AAWRCA), Masoud Ghatineh (Engineer Manager, AA Co Dept. of Public Works DPW), and Keith Tate, president of Bay Land Consultants & Designers, Inc. This is the first meeting I have attended and will try my best to summarize the meeting as a novice to this. **If you use a boat on or live on Duval Creek or use HSIA marina facilities – this is very important to you.**

Bay Land, under direction of Co DPW, is managing 23 projects in the County. A typical dredge permit must include the retrofit projects which include improvement projects (silt/dirt source reduction projects, SAV monitoring, etc.). New requirement by the State Legislature went into effect July 1, 2008 regarding SAV mitigation. (SAV is submerged aquatic vegetation) Also new as of July 1 is a County dredging fee for anyone wanting a spur off the main channel that is being dredged of \$750 for a wetlands licensing fee (more on this later). Bay Land and County are developing a large data base on SAV status – the data base was begun in 1998.

Keith Tate showed an ariel view of the Magothy including its water shed and all the creeks feeding it and in particular Mill Creek. He presented a graph showing the % coverage of aquatic plants on the water bottoms of the waterways for the period 1998-2006 as well as the species of plant life. As part of all dredging projects, they must identify problems (silt/dirt sources) and solutions that would improve the creeks/waterways that will help aquatic plant life and increase the longevity of the dredging projects.

The retrofit projects for the water shed are financed separately by the County. Water and SAV monitoring is a federal requirement for all dredging projects. The annual County budget for waterway restoration projects is typically between 2 and 4 million dollars. 5 County projects are to be permitted in 2008/2009FY (started July 1, 2008). The 5 projects have 69 private spurs. Spurs are financed by the private property owner. A major concern is that dredging projects are funded by boat sales and boat sales have been plummeting lately because of soft economy and the banking credit crisis.

### Waterway Improvement Program Grant Funding Priority Project list FY2010

(begins 7/1/09) These are the **requested** priorities for the coming year.

	<b><u>Requested Funding</u></b>	<b><u>Total Project Cost</u></b>
1. Rochhold Creek Federal Channel	\$1,239,000	\$1,239,000
2. Fort Smallwood Park Boat Ramp	99,000	118,338
3. DMP Site Management	150,000	300,000
4. SAV Monitoring	50,000	100,000
5. Mill Creek Entrance Channel	586,000	586,000
6. Brady Cove	147,000	294,000
7. Old Glory Cove	88,700	177,400
8. <b>Duval Creek</b>	<b>1,266,500</b>	<b>1,266,500</b>

9. Severn River Headwaters	668,000	668,000
10. Pocahontas Creek Headwaters	N/A	203,585
11. Upper West River	N/A	639,125
12. Saltworks Creek	N/A	547,250
13. Stephens Creek	N/A	269,000
14. Weems Creek	N/A	557,750
15. Church Creek	N/A	486,350

The total costs **do not** include spurs. A spur is a dredged channel off of the main channel that the County is dredging, at the request of a private land owner. Agreements to dredge spurs off of the main channel are made by the private owner with the dredger – **however, all the spurs to be dredged must be included in the main channel dredging project permit.** Typical dredging fees are \$40 to \$80 per cubic yard and there is the \$750 wetlands licensing fee. Groups of owners could negotiate with the dredger. The price of the dredging depend on how far the dredge must be taken to the dump site and other dredging site parameters. Typically, channel dredged in rivers/creeks are 50 feet wide and channels for spurs are 20 feet wide.

**Timeline for Duvall Creek Dredging Project O463600**

Project Formulation	7/11/2008 to 12/31/2008
SAV Surveys	5/1/2008 to 9/30/2008
Permit Application	1/1/2009 to 3/31/2009
Permit Acquisition	4/1/2009 to 9/30/2009
Design	12/1/2009 to 5/31/2010
Construction Procurement	6/1/2010 to 10/15/2010
Construction (dredging)	10/15/2010 to 2/15/2011

Jay Phillips of Quay Harbor is the Duval Creek focal point for Bay Land and DPW. Bob Emmet and Jay Phillips formed DCET (Duvall Creek Environmental Trust) and have been spearheading the Duvall Creek waterway restoration projects for more than 5 years.

If you are interested in having a spur off of the Duvall Creek Channel, **you will need to act this fall** in making sure that your spur is included in the project formulation. We will need a champion for the overall Hillsmere Community to work with Jay as well as a champion for HSIA to address the needs of our Piers and Harbors facilities. Hopefully, these individuals will be identified soon. They will be your contacts as the list of requested spurs is created. We will get the names of these people posted on the HSIA web site as soon as they are identified. Those wishing to volunteer may call me.

Bruce Walker  
 HSIA Treasurer  
 8/27/2008