

Thanks to residents, Little Magothy finally gets dredged

By PAMELA WOOD
Staff Writer

Back in 2002 and 2003, the Little Magothy River was a bit of a stressful place to live.

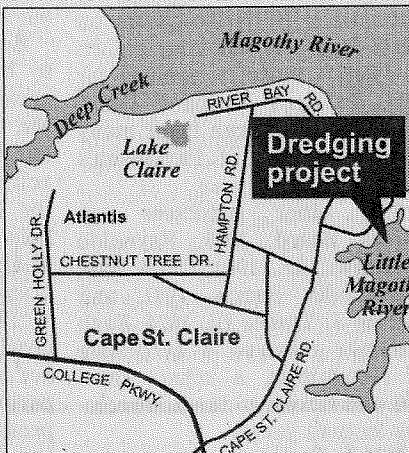
Sick of lobbying and pestering the state for hard-to-get dredging grants, a group of neighbors figured they might as well take care of the problem themselves.

They proposed voluntarily taxing themselves \$350 per lot each year to pay for future dredging. There are 100 lots altogether.

Not surprisingly, the tax was not universally popular in the little community on the Broadneck Peninsula.

There were presentations before the County Council, tense community meetings and impassioned letters to the editor in the newspaper.

In the end, the County Council ap-



Capital graphic

was dredged.

Though it's technically called a river, the Little Magothy is more of a creek. Some residents refer to it as a "cove."

Its waters are relatively placid and flow into the Magothy River, not far from where the Magothy empties into the Chesapeake Bay. A narrow, bulkheaded channel marks the transition from the Little Magothy to the Magothy.

Mrs. Kerr said periodic dredging is needed not only to allow boats to go in and out, but also to keep the narrow channel from filling in and turning the Little Magothy into a pond.

Parts of the Little Magothy have silted in to the point where there's only 3 feet of water. Those areas are being dredged to a depth of 6 feet, Mrs. Kerr said.

The community worked with BayLand Consultants & Designers of Hanover, who estimated the project would cost \$300,000.

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BROADNECK

proved what's called a "special benefit tax district" to collect the money.

Four years later, the Little Magothy is undergoing its first community-funded dredging.

"We're glad we did this," said Carol Kerr, a proponent of the tax and president of the association that was created to handle the dredging.

Amy Juras, another tax proponent and past president, said she likes the idea that residents are taking care of their own problems.

"We don't have to stick our hands out anymore," she said.

A team from Severna Park-based Anderson Marine Construction has been at work in the river for a few weeks now, pulling up sediment and muck from a channel that previously

DREDGE

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The residents were able to bring that cost down to about \$100,000 by shopping around for a dredging company and taking on day-to-day project management themselves.

Resident Steve Miller, who works with dredging in his day job, helped to hire Anderson. And resident Cliff Dean, recently retired from the construction business, is the project manager.

BayLand helped the community get through the permit process and offered to provide backup advice if needed, Mrs. Kerr said.

Though some still oppose the tax, Mrs. Kerr said she thinks the process has made many neighbors closer.

"I think we have created some sense of community just because we have a reason to get together a couple times a year," she said.

Because the association's sole legal purpose is to handle the dredging, there are just two meetings in most years. And now that the dredging is nearly complete, there won't be much work until dredging is needed again.

"Now we'll sit back and relax for hopefully five or six years," Mrs. Kerr said.

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LMRA NEWS

Monday, June 09, 2003

THE LMRA NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

HELP!!! There will be no assessment until 2004-2005 tax year. And the LMRA has no money! Each County Council Hearing costs us over \$200 because of the publication fee required. Each mailing costs approximately \$50. Before we collect a dime from the SCBD assessment we will have a minimum of 5 mailings, including this one. The other 4 will be meeting announcements, which, according to our bylaws must be made via first class mail. See the Summary below to understand our financial situation. Then PLEASE write a check today and send it to Treasurer Dick Shaker. May we suggest a contribution of \$20.00 to sustain us until the SCBD starts paying its own way. Thank you in advance for your support! **Make Checks Payable to LMRA and send to Richard Shaker, 1094 Magothy Circle, Annapolis MD 21401**

Budget Needs

Assets:	\$	160.00
Current Liabilities		
Owed to A. Juras for previous expenses	\$	100.00
Owed to Capital Newspaper for May 19 hearing publication		\$216.00
Balance:		-\$156.00
Minimum Anticipated expenses through Dec. 2004		
June 16 hearing publication		\$216.00
Mailings through Oct. 2004		\$250.00
Total Needed		\$622.00

SEND E-MAIL ADDRESS, STAY INFORMED

If you have not been getting LMRA e-mail updates, we do not have your e-mail address. Please send it to me at carolkerr@covad.net. Because of our budget constraints only those providing e-mail addresses will get LMRA communications other than meeting announcements in the future. What goes out on e-mail? Updates on the SCBD process, lost and found canoes, kayaks, etc. Thanks, Carol Kerr. President

Feedback welcome: Do you prefer letter format, or this Newsletter format for LMRA announcements?

SCBD: FINAL COUNCIL VOTE JUNE 16

The County Council Hearing on the proposed Little Magothy River SCBD was held May 19. Fourteen Little Magothy owners spoke in favor of the legislation and seven against. In response to concerns raised by some neighbors, those supporting the proposal suggested revised wording to clarify that SCBD funded dredging would only be undertaken in those areas dredged last year. An addendum to the petition was signed by owners of 56 properties that originally voted for the SCBD, affirming that they understood that the SCBD would maintain only the inlet--not the entire river. Given this, the council voted unanimously to amend the SCBD legislation. After a four week comment period, they will vote on final approval, which appears likely at this time. **The hearing will take place at 7:00 P.M. at 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis**

PARTY ANYONE?

The LMRA celebration of inlet repairs will take place on **July 19 from 2 to 5:00 PM at the Little Magothy Beach. Rain Date is July 20.** Please see the enclosed flier for full details. A pot luck picnic and a boat parade are planned.

Anyone who would like to help organize the party, please call Carol Kerr at 410 349 1998 or Amy Juras at 410 974 1373.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING: TUESDAY OCTOBER 14

The Next regularly scheduled **membership meeting will be held on Tuesday October 14 at 7:30 P.M.** An official announcement will be mailed no later than the first week of October. The October meeting is specifically designated for approval of the budget. Items of community concern may be addressed. If you want to have something added to the agenda, please notify Carol Kerr by mid September. Officers will meet sometime during the last part of September to plan the meeting. Officers meetings are open to the membership. However, if you want to attend, you will need to contact one of us in September for the date since we can not afford to send out notices.

A Note of Thanks From the President:

Thank you for the vote of confidence you awarded me by electing me to represent you as LMRA President at the May meeting. As we undertake the administration of the special benefit district, I hope to provide responsible service to the community, as well as an open mind and an appreciation for diversity of opinion. While it may be premature to write as if the SCBD is a "done deal", I am doing so, since we expect this to be our only mailing until the October meeting notice, and barring any major surprises, we do expect the SCBD to be approved. Once that happens, every property owner in the benefit district becomes a member of the LMRA. For some, this is not your choice, and I want to help make it as acceptable as possible. For those of you who have felt strongly that the SCBD was not a good idea, I invite you to join those who voted affirmatively to oversee the administration of the money you will ultimately contribute to inlet maintenance.

Some who opposed the SCBD did a great service to all of us by pointing out deficiencies in the original petition. The amendment to the final wording is a very positive outcome of your efforts. By-laws modifications guarantee that every owner—not only those attending meetings—can vote, and thus insure that assessments cannot be raised by a small quorum of voters. An additional amendment allows us to reduce or suspend the assessment if funds collected exceed funds needed for channel maintenance.

Without the interest and commitment of many neighbors with diverse points of view, our foundation would not be as strong as it is. The democratic process never results in all parties agreeing to each detail of a decision, but in this case, as in most, it has led to a better outcome than we would have had if we had not discussed our differences and found ways to address as many concerns as possible.

I have a great team of officers assisting me. Herb Elkin is our Vice President, Richard Shaker, Treasurer, Cliff Dean, Secretary, and Anne Rose, Corresponding Secretary. Like you, we love the Little Magothy River and are proud to be custodians of it. Please call me with any concerns or questions.
Carol Kerr 410-349-1998 (carolkerr@covad.net)

KNOW THE LMRA BYLAWS

As Members of the LMRA, you should know the rules under which we will operate. Here are the most important ones:

1. The only purpose of the LMRA is to collect, manage and oversee funds for future maintenance dredging and bulkhead maintenance of the Little Magothy River inlet.
2. The organization may engage in other activities (such as information sharing or planning a picnic), but may not use any funds collected under the SCBD to support any activities not related to administering the SCBD.
3. SCBD fees may only be increased by a membership vote: A simple majority (of those voting) is required to increase the amount by 4%, and a 75% majority to increase it by more than 4%, or to decrease or suspend collections for a year.
4. Votes may be made either in person or by proxy
5. All members will receive notification of meetings via first class mail.
6. Regular meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesdays of October and March each year.
7. The schedule of officers meetings will be announced to the membership in October and no further notice is mandated.

If you would like a copy of the by-laws or want to be informed of officers meetings, please call Carol Kerr.

CHANNEL SILTATION MONITORING COMMITTEE TO MEET

At the LMRA meeting held May 30, Little Magothy River resident Steve Miller volunteered to head the committee which will monitor the depth of our newly dredged channel. Mike Juras, Richard Gray, David Kerr, Marion Brushwood and Bob Rose offered to assist with this work. Steve has professional experience in this area, so we are very lucky to have him assist us with this part of the LMRA responsibilities. **The first meeting of the CSMT will be held on Monday June 23 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Stephen Miller, 1280**