

**2022 Annual Report to the Board of Directors**  
**Environment & Natural Assets Advisory Committee**

**Section 1. Committee Member and Status of Terms:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Sharon Santacroce	2 <sup>nd</sup> term expires 10/16/23	Chair
Karen Krun Detter	2 <sup>nd</sup> term expires 11/20/23	
Anne O'Connell	2 <sup>nd</sup> term expires 11/20/23	
John Maziuk	1 <sup>st</sup> term expires 2/5/23	
Patricia Benner	1 <sup>st</sup> term expires 3/7/23	
Patricia Gamby	1 <sup>st</sup> term expires 7/27/25	
Patricia Garcia	1 <sup>st</sup> term expires 9/24/25	
Timothy Peck	1 <sup>st</sup> term expires 10/15/25	

**Section 2. Section of Major Activities during Reporting Period 2022:**

- Green Street articles were prepared and submitted for all OP newsletters.
- Informed Public Works about overgrowth of plants/weeds blocking culvert and shad could not swim back to the St. Martin River. Public Works cut back the plants freeing the area for migration.
- New KEEP WILDLIFE WILD educational signs were designed and Public Works installed them around South Pond.
- We raised the level of awareness on ghost gear left at South Pond after fishing events.
- We participated in Bay Day held by Maryland Coastal Bays on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A presentation was given to the Board on reasons for buffer zones at South Pond to prevent erosion and resident geese from nesting. Work continues on this project with hopes of finding a company to identify indigenous plants and vegetation to serve as buffers around the pond. A guest speaker from Assateague Coastal Trust gave a presentation to the committee and shared his expertise.
- Canada goose egg addling was recommended to Public Works along with name of professional agency to do the job in spring 2023. This action will greatly cut back on the growing goose population.
- A report was prepared and submitted to the Board outlining options our committee has performed over the past 10 years to control the Canada goose population.
- At our request, Maryland Coastal Bays surveyed the depth of our Route 90 Pond to help with future plans to optimize this natural gem into a more useful environmental asset.
- Plastic bag pollution in driveways specific to weekly/monthly OP newspapers was researched. If any practical option(s) to this process are discovered in the future, suggestions may be presented to the Board.
- Our committee researched the MD 90 corridor improvements and possible environmental impacts. We found MDOT is aware and preliminary studies indicate the environment won't be negatively affected.
- Fire pit rules and regulations were investigated and discussed after complaints were received from residents. This issue was referred to CPI Department for enforcement.

- We completed research on sewage tanks overflowing and found no recommendations necessary for the Board as no overflow was found during high rain events. We found maintenance is conducted by Worcester County who owns and budgets funds for replacement of up to 50 tanks annually.

### **Section 3. Problems Encountered and Assistance Required:**

No problems have been encountered. Our expectations are assistance will be rendered as needed on our future endeavors. We found the [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) a valuable resource.

### **Section 4. Request for items to be included in the next OPA budget:**

- Necessary dollars for the continuation of our wildlife management projects including the buffer zone plans and hopeful installation
- Costs to complete educational signs to be placed around the Route 90 pond trail
- Costs to purchase Goose/duck crossing placards for placement on specific roads

### **Section 5. Recommendations for Board Action:**

We look forward to the Board's support as we continue working cooperatively with Public Works and Parks & Rec OP personnel to help us complete several projects.

### **Section 6. Recommendations for committee work in 2022 - 2023:**

- Continue support of the annual Bay Days organized by Maryland Coastal Bays
- Continue work to optimize our environmental assets such as the Route 90 pond property
- Continue our projects surrounding the humane management of wildlife including buffer zones around the South Pond that will also help stop erosion issues
- Continue our efforts on saving the shad and keeping their migration route clear to the St. Martin River
- Potentially pursue clam propagation and seeding in local waterways. Good news is the Isle of Wight Bay clams are at a historic high because dredging stopped.
- Continue efforts to help stop the decline in water quality of our waterways with emphasis on the St. Martin River
- Participate in annual fishing events sharing educational materials on the importance of clearing fishing gear (hooks, monofilament lines, bobbers, et al) from the pond area
- Continue our relationship with the Assateague Coastal Trust and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program