

Foster Joseph Sayers Public Meeting (6 August 2020)

Five Minutes Before Call	<p>We will begin soon/ Please stand by Welcome, you are dialed into the August 6th public teleconference to accept comments on the Draft Foster Joseph Sayers Dam and Reservoir Master Plan and environmental assessment. We will begin the meeting in five minutes.</p>	Facilitator
Call Start Time	<p>Welcome, meeting introduction Hello and welcome. My name is Michael Schuster and I will be your facilitator this evening.</p> <p>We have scheduled this teleconference to provide opportunities for you to submit verbal comments during the comment period for the draft Foster Joseph Sayers Dam and Reservoir Master Plan and environmental assessment. In a few minutes, I will review the admin rules for providing comment via telephone. This call is scheduled from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.</p> <p>First, I would like to introduce the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project team who will be listening to your remarks today:</p> <p>Andy Hofmann a Natural Resources Management Specialist.</p> <p>Jeffrey Meadows a Supervisor Civil Engineer.</p> <p>Brian Luprek an Operations Project Manager.</p> <p>Craig Eisenhower, Sayers Dam Operator.</p> <p>Kirk Wirth, Sayers Assistant Dam Operator.</p> <p>Cynthia Mitchell a Public Affairs Specialist.</p> <p>Christina Olson a Biologist.</p> <p>And myself Michael Schuster a Supervisor Community Planner.</p>	Facilitator
1	<p>I'd would like to start with explaining the comment procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All callers will be muted when you call in. Each caller will be addressed by their phone number, and you will be unmuted for 3 minutes with a 30 sec warning when your time is coming to an end. When your phone number is called upon, please state your name, affiliation, and contact information (phone and e-mail address). 2. If you do not wish to comment, please respond "no comment at this time". 3. The Corps of Engineers will review all comments and consider input as we develop the Final master plan and environmental assessment. The Final master plan and environmental assessment– including responses to comments – is targeted for completion by the end of September 2020. 4. If you did not finish your comment and you would like to provide more comments or if you have additional comments at a later date, comments can be submitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • via telephone at: 410-962-8160 • through e-mail to: Michael.j.schuster@usace.army.mil 	Facilitator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through the project’s website • or by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Subject: Foster Joseph Sayers Dam and Reservoir, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201 • The comment period ends August 21, 2020. <p>5. Contact information and relevant materials, including the draft master plan and environmental assessment, are posted on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Foster Joseph Sayers Dam and Reservoir website. You can find the website by typing Foster J. Sayers Dam into your web browser or by visiting the Baltimore District website at www.nab.usace.army.mil. Again...that is www.nab.usace.army.mil.</p>	
3	<p>We will now continue with a brief overview of the draft master plan and the environmental assessment</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As I mentioned earlier, my name is Michael Schuster and I am supporting the Army Corps of Engineers in this master plan and environmental assessment effort. The environmental assessment is being completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. • We appreciate you taking time to provide verbal comments on the draft master plan and environmental assessment over the phone. Please know that while you cannot see us, my colleagues and I will listen to all of your comments and consider all of them, whether verbal or written, as we proceed to the Final master plan and environmental assessment. <p>Notice of Availability and Virtual Public Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft master plan and environmental assessment is currently available for public, stakeholder, and regulatory review for a period of 30 days. The 30 days began on July 20, 2020 and the last day for comments is August 21, 2020. • The draft Master Plan, draft environmental assessment and other associated materials are available on the Foster J. Sayers Dam website, and comments can be submitted via the project website, phone, e-mail, mail, or can be given verbally during this call. <p>Purpose and Need for Proposed Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the environmental assessment is to evaluate the direct and indirect impacts associated with the implementation of the updated Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir Master Plan. The 2020 Master Plan is intended to serve as a comprehensive land management plan for the next 15 to 25 years, which reflects changes that have occurred in outdoor recreation trends, regional land use, population, legislative requirements, USACE management policy, and wildlife habitat at the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir since the 1974 Master Plan was prepared. • The <i>purpose</i> of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the conservation and sustainability of the land, water, and recreational resources at the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations and to maintain quality land for future use, including the Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals and management strategies, for restoring and maintaining the health of the watershed. The Proposed 	Facilitator

Action is *needed* to update the 1974 Master Plan in accordance with the January 2013 updates to the Army Corps of Engineers Regulations and Pamphlets.

- Alternatives considered within this environmental assessment focused on the proposed land use classifications as presented in the 2020 Master Plan. The environmental assessment does not consider implementation of any specific future projects at the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir. In accordance with the above regulations, the Army Corps of Engineers intends to use this environmental assessment to meet the regulatory requirements under NEPA and provide the Army Corps of Engineers with the information needed to make an informed decision about the potential effects to the natural and human environment from implementing the Proposed Action, which is the updated 2020 Master Plan.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

- The main purpose of the 2020 Master Plan update is to align the prior land classifications from the 1974 Master Plan with current land classifications as defined by the January 2013 updates to the Army Corps of Engineers Regulations and Pamphlets.
- Two alternatives were evaluated in this environmental assessment, the Proposed Action (or Preferred Alternative) and the No Action Alternative. For an alternative to be considered viable, it must be compatible with the primary project missions of the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir as well as meet management goals, objectives, and USACE Environmental Operating Principles, as described in Chapter 3 of the 2020 Master Plan.
- Under the No Action Alternative, USACE would take no action and would not adopt the 2020 Master Plan, thereby continuing the operation and management of Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir as outlined in the 1974 Master Plan, which does not meet current USACE guidance and regulations. No new land use classifications would occur at Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir under the No Action Alternative.

Location and Study Areas

As you are probably already aware, the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1954 and is located in Centre County along Bald Eagle Creek. Its primary purpose is to provide flood risk management for downstream reaches of Bald Eagle Creek and the West Branch Susquehanna River; while also providing recreational opportunities and improved downstream water quality. A figure showing the study area is included in the draft Master Plan in Appendix A. This figure is available for viewing on the project's website.

Purpose and Scope of Master plan

So, what is the purpose of 2020 Master Plan. The 2020 Master Plan replaces the 1974 Master Plan for the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir and describes in detail how all project lands, water surface, and recreational programs will be conserved, enhanced, developed, and managed and includes updated land classifications. Land classifications are fundamental to the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir management and provide for development and resource management consistent with authorized purposes and other Federal laws. Figures showing the existing land classifications and proposed land classification changes can be found in the draft

Master Plan in Appendix A. Again, these figures can be viewed on the project's website.

The main focus of this master plan update is to align the prior land classifications from the 1974 Master Plan with current land classifications in accordance with Engineering Regulation and corresponding Engineering Pamphlets. For example:

- Land classification titled Recreation – Intensive from the 1974 Master Plan is now called High Density Recreation in the 2020 Master Plan Update
- Land classification titled Recreation – Medium and Low Density from the 1974 Master Plan is now called Multiple Resource Managed Lands - Low Density Recreation in the 2020 Master Plan Update
- Land classification titled Wildlife Management from the 1974 Master Plan is now called Multiple Resource Managed Lands - Wildlife Management in the 2020 Master Plan Update...and lastly
- Land classification titled Historical Interpretation from the 1974 Master Plan is now called Environmentally Sensitive Areas in the 2020 Master Plan Update

These new land classifications in the 2020 Master Plan Update do not impact the current land use management processes and procedures that are currently in place at the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir.

Resource Categories Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

As required by law and previously stated, an Environmental Assessment was prepared in tandem with this updated Master Plan for the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir. The environmental assessment evaluated the impacts of the following natural and human resources as a result of the implementation of the 2020 master plan:

- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gasses and Climate
- Geology and Topography
- Water Resources
- Soils and Prime Farmland
- Biological Resources
- Noise
- Land Use and Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Utilities
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Traffic and Transportation

Summary of Effects of the Proposed Action

- The conclusion of the environmental assessment summarizes the determined impacts or effects potentially resulting from the Proposed Action, implementation of the 2020 Master Plan, and the No Action alternatives.

	<p>Environmental Assessment Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been concluded, based on the evaluation in the environmental assessment, that the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to the natural or human environment, and therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. • There would be no or negligible impacts to almost all of the resources evaluated in the environmental assessment. • Negligible and beneficial impacts are anticipated only to biological resources as a result of the updated master plan. The proposed new land classification definitions for High and Low density recreation, wildlife management, and environmentally sensitive areas would not change existing land uses at the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir and as a result current wildlife management practices would be preserved that are ultimately beneficial to biological resources. <p><i>Pause</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do recognize this is a very brief overview and encourage you to read and review the draft master plan and environmental assessment for more detailed information and to build greater understanding of this work and its outcomes. • We appreciate you taking the time to join us on the phone today and we look forward to receiving your input. 	
5	<p>Reiterate Comment Procedures</p> <p>So, we are now ready to begin hearing from those who have called in.</p> <p>Army Corps of Engineers participants will remain on the line for the entire call to hear your comments. Though we will not be responding to questions or comments today, or providing any additional presentations, the Army Corps of Engineers welcomes and will consider all comments in developing the final master plan and environmental assessment. The current plan is to release the final master plan and environmental assessment prior to 30 September 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All comments provided during this teleconference will be recorded, transcribed, and submitted to the record for the draft environmental assessment. Any personal information you share on the call will become public. Everyone listening on the call will be able to hear your remarks. • I will call on each phone number in the order in which they are listed. • When your number is called, please unmute your phone and each speaker will have three minutes to provide their comments. We will notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining. At that time, you will hear me say, "30 seconds." • If you do not wish to use your full three minutes, you may let us know how you would like to yield your remaining time. When three minutes have passed, I will interrupt, and the operator will mute your line to prepare for the next caller. • If you do not want to comment, please respond "no comment at this time". • If you are sharing a phone line with someone please let us know before you begin your comment so we can move to the 2nd speaker after the first is finished. 	Facilitator

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If we do not get a response from a phone number, we will make note and make one more attempt after all numbers have been given the opportunity to comment. <p>Currently, we have 1 callers on the line. And we are now ready for the first comment.</p>	
Remainder	<i>Facilitator will notify participants when it is their turn to speak:</i>	Facilitator
One hour in	<p>Welcome people who are new to the call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is your facilitator, Michael Schuster. For those who may have joined us, this is a public meeting for providing comments on the draft master plan and environmental assessment for the Foster J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir. Agency officials remain on the line to hear all your comments. Though we are not responding to questions or comments during this meeting, or providing additional presentations, the agencies welcome and will consider your comments in developing the final environmental assessment, which will be released early this Fall. If you provide a comment, you are welcome to remain on the line to hear from others. All comments provided during this teleconference are being recorded, transcribed and submitted to the record for the draft environmental assessment. Any personal information you share on the call will become public. Our facilitator will let you know when your line is open by calling out your phone number. Each speaker will have three minutes to provide their comments. I will notify you when you have 30 seconds remaining. If you do not wish to use your full three minutes, you may let us know that you would like to yield your remaining time. If you do not want to comment, you can respond “no comment at this time now have XX callers. We are ready for the next caller. 	Facilitator
Closing	<p>I would like to thank all of you for your interest, time, and flexibility to provide your input today. We encourage you to share any additional comments you have through one of the other methods described.</p> <p>Have a great evening! Good bye!</p>	Facilitator