**KENT COUNTY**

 **PUBLIC LANDINGS & FACILITIES**

**December 4, 2024**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Kent County Board of Public Landings & Facilities was called to order by Chairman Rick Morlock, at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Those in attendance were Rick Morlock, Marc Castelli, Clay Larrimore, James Reihl, Chuckie White and Public Works Deputy Director Carrie Klein.

The minutes of June 24, 2024 were approved as submitted.

**II OLD BUSINESS**

**Bayside Landing Park – Project**

Ms. Klein stated that the project contract was awarded this week to Sweitzer Marine LLC for $1,794,520. Half of the project funding will be covered by Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement grant and half will be the County’s responsibility. The work is planned to begin the end of December or the beginning of January (2025) and is expected to be completed within three (3) months.

A Board member asked if the layout of the new construction would be the same as what is currently there. There will be no change to the layout other than required additional bulkhead area which will cause the loss of one (1) slip on D pier.

Ms. Klein stated that at the last meeting the question about charging for the pump-out station use was asked by a board member. Mr. Klein advised that since the pump-out station was paid for by a DNR grant, only $5.00 can be charged for the se of it. There was some discussion about the charge being worth the effort to be able to charge for it. No decision on charging for the pump-out station was made.

**Betterton –**

**Engineering Study**

Ms. Klein advised that the County has been coordinating with the engineering design firm Davis Bowen & Friedel, Inc. to finalize the proposal for this project.  Due to the substantial public interest in the project various means of outreach is being considered including website postings, email surveys and social media posts.  The scope of the project is to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Study (PES) including a site evaluation, stakeholder outreach, wave/wind analysis, sea level rise/frequency of flooding and construction cost estimates that will assist with providing recommended option for replacement, modification or rehabilitation of the existing structures at Betterton Public Landing.  This is the first step of the project.  After completion of the PES, we will then explore funding options for full design and permitting services associated with improvements recommended in the report.  Once the final design phase has been completed, we will then pursue funding for the project.

**Turner’s Creek – Bulkhead repair**

Ms. Klein advised that Granary building has been removed, the area where the building once was located has been resurfaced and the bulkhead (areas that had buckled) has been repaired.

A Board member advised that the “No Parking” signs added to the bulkhead has helped keep the area open for loading/unloading.

**Rock Hall Harbor Channel Dredging**

Ms. Klein introduced Mr. Doug Greene, with the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the proposed Rock Hall harbor dredging. Mr. Green provided the Board members with a handout on the project that included the project background and the 2024 survey channel depths. Mr. Greene stated that the channel dredging project is federally funded and the county would is responsible for securing a spoils site. Mr. Greene stated there is not enough funding to do the entire area and asked the Board to prioritize the areas to be completed. The Board agreed that the harbor entrance would be the first priority and along the Bayside Landing Park bulkhead would be the second. The next area of the channel (past the bulkhead) would be third. Mr. Greene advised that the entire dredging project would be contingent on the County obtaining access to a spoils site.

A Board member inquired about the possibility of installing a “dog leg” off the jetty directed towards Swan Point (or similar direction) that would possibly alleviate the need to dredge the harbor so often? Mr. Greene advised that the only funding he has right now is for dredging the harbor. He recommended the County make contact with Representative Harris’ office to address the possibility of the addition of a “dog leg” to the current jetty to possibly reduce the need for dredging the Rock Hall Harbor as frequently. Mr. Greene also stated that the Corps of Engineers Public Affairs office could be helpful with pursuing the jetty “dog leg” option, if the County decided to move forward with option.

Ms. Klein advised that she and/or the Public Works Director would discuss the jetty “dog leg” option with the County Administrator.

The Board thanked Mr. Greene for providing the dredging information and taking their prioritization recommendations.

**Long Cove – No Wake Buoy**

Ms. Klein advised that at the last meeting there was discussion about a “No Wake” buoy/area around the entrance of Long Cove. She provided an aerial photo of the area and asked the Board to mark where the “No Wake” buoy should be located. After some discussion, the Board agreed where the buoy should be located and marked it on the aerial photo. Ms. Klein advised that the formal process can now proceed with the Commissioners and DNR to request the “No Wake” buoy be installed.

**III NEW BUSINESS**

**Landings violations – warning/citations**

Ms. Klein advised that in the last several months the County has once again started issuing warnings and/or citations for public landing violations. To date, 109 warnings and 13 citations have been issued.

**IV ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Tina Fletcher