

**KENT COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC LANDINGS & FACILITIES**  
**June 24, 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 Monday, June 24, 2024. Those in attendance were Rick Morlock, Marc Castelli, Clay Larrimore, James Reihl, Chuckie White and Public Works Director Dan Mattson.

The minutes of March 20, 2023 were approved as submitted.

**II OLD BUSINESS**

**Bayside Landing Park – Project**

Mr. Mattson advised that the project is being finalized and will be bid this summer. Mr. Mattson asked the Board for their recommendation on the type of ladders that would be installed on the docks – metal stationery or retractable (so the lower portion of the ladder can be pulled up out of the water during the off season. After discussion, the Board agreed to the retractable ladder with ropes (1 on each side of the ladder) at the bottom of each ladder.

A Board member inquired about the requirement to always take the low bidder, referencing a recent project that has had some on-going issues with the construction. Mr. Mattson advised that the County does most of the time accept the low bid but that the qualifications can be increased to possibly prohibit unqualified bidders.

Mr. Mattson stated that the DNR funding for this project will expire December 31, 2024 but that if the work has started the County could be possibly be given extended time for completion.

## **Betterton –**

### **Fire damage repair**

Mr. Mattson stated that the fire damage on the pier has been repaired. He also stated that the contractor that performed the work is temporarily storing some pilings and equipment on the landing but that material will be moved by the end of the week.

### **Proposed Engineering Study**

Mr. Mattson stated the engineering study is not under contract yet but he expects that Davis, Bowen and Friedel (DBF), who is currently working on the Bayside Landing Park project, would be handling the study due to their knowledge of the area and experience in the field. He continued by reading the scope of work for the proposed project which consists of providing a site evaluation, stakeholder outreach, wave/wind analysis, sea level rise/frequency of flooding and construction cost estimates that will assist with providing recommended options for replacement, modification, or rehabilitation of the existing structures at the Betterton Public Landing.

Mr. Mattson advised that the guests in the audience were Betterton residents who would like to share their hopes are for the landing which included extending the jetty and adding an “L” at the end to reduce the amount of sediment/sand that piles up in the boat ramp, as well as, the possibility of adding ladders, electricity & water to the transient slips.

Mr. Mattson stated that the public will be kept up to date on the progress of the project and that there will be stakeholder meetings once the engineering study has been completed to include one at the design phase, one to update status and one for the final design reveal.

## **Turner’s Creek –**

### **Granary building**

Mr. Mattson advised that the Granary building was removed in early May. The county was paid for the lumber that was removed from the building by the company that removed it. He is working with them to get back some of the wood

to create a bench to be placed at the landing to honor the history of the Granary. He continued that due to a grant that was received for previous work on the Granary, the County is now required to spend approximately \$50,000 for additions or upgrades to the facility, which included the tar and chip work at the landing and along Turner's Creek Road. Some other work may include adding a slip proof surface to the on the metal cap along the bulkhead and possibly upgrading features in the permanent restrooms.

## **Bulkhead repair**

Mr. Mattson also stated that he has met with the design engineer for the bulkhead project regarding the section in the middle of the bulkhead that has buckled up. The repair for that will include cutting out a small portion and then welding the cap back on.

## **Rock Hall Entrance Channel Dredging**

Mr. Mattson has been in contact with the Corps of Engineers and they intend on moving forward with the dredging of the entrance channel once it is determined how much material the Bramble's Orem pit can accept.

A Board member asked if the entrance channel can be extended when it is dredged. Mr. Mattson will look into this possibility.

## **IV NEW BUSINESS**

### **Bogles – pier repair**

Mr. Mattson advised that the Bogles pier was damaged during several storms early this year. The cost of the repair project totaled \$12,744.20 - \$10,000 in DNR grants and the rest from county funding.

### **Service Contracts – portable toilet rental**

Mr. Mattson advised that, beginning in FY 2025, DNR will no longer fund the annual service contracts for the portable toilet rental on public landings. The Commissioners approved for this expense to added to the public landings budget for FY 2025

## **FY 2023 Annual Report**

Mr. Mattson stated the FY 2023 Public Landings & Facilities Annual report had been sent to all the board members prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments. The Board approved the FY 2023 Annual Report as submitted.

### **V BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS**

A Board member asked about the enforcement on the public landings and asked that staff continue to work with the watermen regarding equipment left on the landings, advising that they can make contact with owners of the equipment to have it moved prior to any type of violation enforcement. They advised that this worked with the previous Division Chief in the past. Mr. Mattson advised that his working with Sheriff's Office regarding enforcement issues but maybe utilizing Public Works staff for checking for and issuing warnings for certain violations.

A Board member was concerned about the vessel that has permanently been tied up at Sharp Street public landing. The main concern is the condition of the vessel and possibility of sinking.

A Board member asked if the pump-out station at Bayside Landing Park is free. When advised it was, they asked when the renovation project at the landing is completed if there could be a charge for the pump-out use. After discussion, motion was made, seconded and agreed to charge for the pump-out station use, if possible. Mr. Mattson will review the requirements of the grant to determine if charging for the service would be allowable.

A Board member inquired about the possibility of the installation of a breakwater near Long Cove public landing to "knock the sea down" coming into the landing. During the discussion it was determined that the breakwater would have to be located off of private property. There was discussion of the possibility of requesting a DNR engineering study to see what can be done.

## **VI ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fletcher