

AGENDA

MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS AUTHORITY

August 11, 2004

**Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Middlesex County, Virginia**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of June minutes
3. Treasures Report
4. Public Comment
5. Mobility Study- Final Product Complete
6. Brown tract
 - a. Survey Complete
 - b. Final Deed Work
 - c. Review Draft Management Plan
7. Land Acquisition CELP
 - a. CELP Strategy Meeting
 - b. Foster Tract
 - c. 602, 603, 608 King and Queen
8. Gloucester County Church Landing
9. Discussion of Middle Peninsula State Park
10. NOAA Fellow
11. Other Business
12. Chairman's Observations
13. Next Meeting
14. Adjourn

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority Minutes

June 11, 2004

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority held its meeting in the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission Regional Board Room at noon in Saluda, Virginia, on June 11, 2004. Members present were Chairman Steve Whiteway, Mathews County, Vice Chairman Frank Pleva, King William County Administrator, Terri Hale, King William County Assistant Administrator; Clair Jones, Town of West Point; Gary Allen Essex County Administrator County of Lewis Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning MPPDC; Dan Kavanagh, Executive Director MPPDC; and Janet Nestlerode and Rose Lewis Rose MPPDC.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Steve Whiteway called the meeting to order at 12:45

2. Approval of April Minutes:

Steve brought up an issue on the 2nd page, 5th paragraph down – change to “initiatives” With this edit, Frank moved to approve, seconded by Gary.

3. Treasurers Report:

Lewie reported that there has been no money going in and out since the last meeting except for a liability insurance payment

4. Public Comment

None of the public was present, so Steve moved to close the Public Comment Session.

5. Update on Brown Tract Liability Insurance

Lewie reported that the Liability Insurance Policy, offered through the Virginia Association of Counties Group Self-Insurance, will provide up to \$2 million in liability coverage. Rates have been prorated as \$300 for the next three (3) months and will cost \$1600 for the following 12 months.

No motion was necessary for this action because it was passed at the previous meeting. The only action required is to collect committee members' signatures before leaving the PDC office today.

6. Brown Tract Survey

Lewie reported that the survey is complete and 30 additional acres were picked up by the MPPAA as a result of this survey for Parcels A and B.

"Out-Parcel" issue was discussed. A 2.06 acre "out-parcel" was not surveyed in this last survey but will be addressed by the surveyors at a later date. The deed for this "out-parcel" will be transferred along with the rest of the property at the time of the deed transfer.

Each area (Areas A, B, and "out-parcel") will be covered by separate deeds and will be separate from the area purchased by the Department of Forestry (DOF; Area C).

Copies of the survey are available to committee members for review.

7. Brown Tract Management Plan Update

Lewie presented that a preliminary draft framework for the management plan was included in the meeting packet provided to each committee member.

Lewie asked for recommendations for which alternative outlined in the packet the MPPAA should follow. He suggested that scenario #3 or #4 be considered and that it is based on research completed on other management plans already in existence and published on the web.

Lewie reported that the next step in this process will involve Josh Bateman going out to the Brown Tract and collecting GPS data for the trail network.

Steve and Gary both mentioned that they had a difficult time detecting differences in the scenarios as presented in the meeting packet. Steve suggested that Lewie prepare a table to better present differences of the different scenarios visually and present this at the next meeting.

Gary brought up the point that he would like to see more emphasis on recreational uses and access for educational purposes. Terri agreed.

He suggested eliminating choices of "goals and objectives" and instead to simply state which scenario the MPPAA chooses to follow. The different uses will be considered by the MPPAA and prioritized.

The development of a conceptual trail network will hopefully eliminate conflicting uses.

8. CELP Report

Lewie reported that this Conservation Estuarine Land Protection is a public policy program that provides funds for land acquisition through the Coastal Program and there is \$1 million earmarked for the Dragon Run which has to be spent within 18 months.

Lewie reported that he went to Richmond yesterday and met with this group to discuss this available funding. He predicts that the \$1 million available will buy approximately 500-600 acres.

This initiative is designed to help preserve the rural character, but will cause a loss of tax base to localities and the traditional use of the land will be interrupted (will no longer be permitted to be leased by hunt clubs).

Lewie and Dan brought up the fact that the ownership pattern in the Dragon Run watershed is changing rapidly and it is likely that many landowners are unaware of this. Dan gave a brief overview of the history of John Hancock land ownership and the company's recent purchase by a Canadian company that has little or no history of owning natural resource land.

Lewie explained that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has a good grasp of what is and what is not available for purchase in the watershed and they are in the process of building a linear network of property along the Dragon. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) is also in the market for land on the Dragon.

There are a number of different entities that manage property in the region and each handle the details differently.

DOF - Local Revenue - 25% back timbering
DGIF - Limited Timbering - May give 25% back to local government
DCR - No \$ given back to local government
PAA - Local control - money back to local government
TNC - 3000 acres purchased
Local Government - ??

The Coastal Program asked Lewie to bring this information back to the MPPAA and decide which entity's approach is appropriate for their property. It was brought up that manpower for management could become a significant issue.

9. Review of Draft Logo Design

Lewis presented different letterhead designs with the PAA logo. The concept for the logo was designed by a student from West Point High. A graphic artist from Northern Virginia will turn the concept into a logo.

After careful consideration from the Board, a letterhead design was approved with several minor changes.

10. Discussion of Middle Peninsula State Park

Chairman Whiteway said that he attended the Special State Park meeting with representatives from Middlesex, Mathews, and Gloucester counties. Also attending were John Davy, Joe Maroon, Harvey Morgan, Mary Helen Morgan, and Debbie Osborne. Lewis said that there are some problems with property ownership in the Middle Peninsula for a State Park. Catlett Islands-no sale and Eagle Point-no sale.

Dan suggested that the localities keep the process of acquiring a State Park going.

11. Other Business

Lewis reminded the board that he MPCBPAA will not do business in the localities that are not members of the MPCBPAA without the approval of the local governing bodies. This may effect CELP acquisitions.

Chairman's Observations

There were no observations from Chairman Whiteway.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date is August 13, 2004 at noon.