

AGENDA

MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS AUTHORITY

December 12 2003

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Middlesex County, Virginia

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of August minutes
3. Treasures Report
4. Public Comment
5. Update on a Coastal Program Land Purchase "Brown Tract"
6. Discussion of BFI Grant award to the Access Authority
7. Discussion of the potential for state funding support
8. Other Business
9. Chairman's Observations
10. Next Meeting
11. Adjourn

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority
Minutes
August 15, 2003

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 August 15, 2003. Members present were Gary Allen, Essex County Administrator; Ron Hachey, King and Queen County Administrator; Terri Hale, King William County Assistant Administrator; Chairman Stephen Whiteway, Mathews County Administrator; and Claire Jones, Zoning Administrator of Town of West Point. MPPDC staff present were Lewis Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning; Dan Kavanagh, Executive Director; David Fuss, Director of Dragon Run SAMP; and Rose Lewis, Secretary.

Chairman Whiteway welcomed everyone in attendance.

Chairman Whiteway requested a motion to approve the July minutes. Ron Hachey moved to approve the August minutes. Gary Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Whiteway requested Lewis to update the Board on the financial report of the MPCBPAA. DEQ Virginia Coastal Program awarded the MPCBPAA \$20,000 for administrative services and special consulting services. VHB was hired to conduct an alternative transportation study.

There was no public comment, but Lewis did acknowledge a visit from Mr. Robbie Walton of King and Queen County. Mr. Walton has expressed interest in acquiring Chain Ferry Landing. Lewis gave him an overall review of the Authority and VDOT's process of discontinuing road endings. Also discussed was the need for King and Queen's concurrence of any dispositions of VDOT holdings.

Update on a Coastal Program Land Purchase Opportunity

Lewis gave an update on the possible acquisition of a 274-acre tract of land known as the Brown Tract located within the Dragon Run Watershed. The parcel is located in both King and Queen and Essex County. The land purchase is funded match free by the Virginia Coastal Program. The land acquisition process is anticipated to be concluded by the end of September 2003.

David Fuss, Program Director of the Dragon Run SAMP, presented the Board with a video of the Brown tract.

Chairman Whiteway requested a motion to authorize PDC staff to continue to go forth with pursuing the acquisition of the Brown Tract-. Gary Allen moved; Ron Hachey seconded the motion; motion carried.

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National Parks Service-Chesapeake Bay Unit

Lewis reported that Congress requested the National Park Service (NPS) to explore the potential for a new unit of the National Park System focused on the Chesapeake Bay. NPS has developed several alternatives and options for how the Chesapeake Bay might be represented within the National Park System. These options may represent the national significance of the Chesapeake Bay. The Alternatives are based on analysis of existing efforts and feedback from the public workshops and comments last fall.

Chairman Whiteway with Board concurrence directed staff to submit comments to NPS.

Discussion of Draft Public Access Principles and Standards

Lewis reviewed MPCBPAA Principles and Standards. It is critical that the Middle Peninsula localities set aside access sites for all types of recreational activities, such as fishing, birding, hunting, boating, picnicking, and sight seeing. Current estimates from three Middle Peninsula localities show fishing, \$44,000,000 direct, indirect, and induced impacts generated by recreational fishing, \$12,000,000 generated in seafood landings, and \$120,000,000 in tourist traveler spending, totaling a conservative \$176,000,000 in annual economic impacts across the region. The member jurisdictions additionally recognize that by the creation of the MPCBPAA, it is expected to assess the current status of access across the region, develop recommendations, and initiate activities to expand access to the residents of the region.

The majority of public water access sites within the Middle Peninsula are acquired, developed, and managed by or with assistance from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Public Access Authority is working under the concept to "preserve and manage access to the water." Access is intended for general public use and for commercial purposes, provided that such commercial use does not exclude other uses by the general public. A consensus needs to be developed to determine the appropriate access standards for use in the development of a Comprehensive Access Plan.

Criteria for providing public access can be based on many factors. The following is some of the access standards used to assist other coastal communities with policy development: (a) one access site for every 16 miles of shoreline; (b) one access site for every 1.3 miles of coast line; (c) foot access for fishing clamming, nature study; (d) access sites based on relation to population centers; and (e) neighborhood access sites with 5-25 parking sites access site 40-50 feet wide. These access standards can be used in other coastal communities. Many coastal communities have instituted a management structure or management services to assist with the administrative activities associated with the provision of access. The following should be considered for future consideration: (1) fee based access system; (2) fee for non-regional users; (3) pass system for use of sites; (4) signage; (5) parking requirements; (6) non-regional residents charged a parking fee; and (7) provision for public services.

Discussion of Locality Submitted Local and Regional Public Access Projects

Lewis reviewed the access sites that were submitted for project consideration from Essex County, King and Queen County, and Mathews County. The local priority sites of Essex County are Route 680 (Lowery's Landing), Route 611 (Wares Landing), and Route 684 (Bowlers Landing). The Essex County regional priority site is the June Parker Marina. The local priority sites of King and Queen County are Route 605 (Chain Ferry Landing), Route 602 (Dragon Run Bridge Crossing) in which the exact location of VDOT property and potential for future use, Route 603 (Dragon Run Bridge Crossing) in which the exact location of VDOT property and potential for future use, Route 33 (Lord Delaware Bridge abutments), Route 602 (Melrose Landing), and Route 611 (Waterfence Landing). The Mathews County local priority sites are Route 643 (Haven Beach Road) Festival Beach, Route 633 (Tin Can Alley), Route 14 (North End Branch of the North River Bridge Cross Over. The regional priority site of Mathews County is New Point Lighthouse/Island.

Chairman Whiteway requested that staff request submittal of potential public access projects from all participating jurisdictions.

Development of Annual Work Plan

Chairman Whiteway directed staff to develop an annual work plan using locality submitted sites and regional submitted sites as the plan basis. These projects will serve as the framework for the development of an annual work plan. The plan shall also include sites to be submitted by localities still to submit sites.

Discussion of the Potential for State Funding Support

Lewis has discussed funding for staff support with Delegate Harvey Morgan.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting Date

The MPCBPAA will hold meetings every other month. The next meeting date will be October 10, 2003.

The following dates are scheduled dates: December 12, 2003, February 13, 2004, April 9, 2004, June 11, 2004, and August 13, 2004.

Adjourn

Chairman Whiteway adjourned the meeting.


Stephen K. Whiteway, Chairman