



MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: MPCPPAA
FROM: Lewie Lawrence, Dir of Regional Planning
DATE: December 7, 2004
RE: December PAA Meeting

This announcement serves as notice to call a meeting of the Public Access Authority on Friday, December 10, 2004 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the MPPDC Board Room. Lunch will be provided.

The agenda and related material follow. I have included a copy of the NOAA Fellowship application. NOAA has requested that the Authority prioritize work to be completed by the Fellow. Prioritization of work activities will assist with recruitment for the position. The October minutes will follow under a separate cover. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail. I can be reached at 804-758-2311

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of October minutes
3. Treasures Report
4. Public Comment
5. LOGO Design Award – February Meeting
6. Browne Tract-
 - a. Final Management Plan
 - b. Sign Installed
 - c. DOF Sign Not Installed
7. Land Acquisition CELP
8. Discussion of Middle Peninsula State Park
9. 2005 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program
 - a. Prioritizing Work Items
 - b. Revised Scope of Work
 - c. Time Line
10. Other Business
11. Chairman's Observations
12. Next Meeting
13. Adjourn

MEMBERS

Essex County

Mr. R. Gary Allen
Treasurer

Town of Tappahannock

Vacant

Gloucester County

Hon. Louise D. Theberge

King and Queen County

Mr. Ronald A. Hachey

King William County

Mr. Frank Pleva
Vice Chairman

Town of West Point

Mr. Trenton Funkhouser

Mathews County

Mr. Steve Whiteway
Chairman

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**MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

**October 6, 2004
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Saluda, Virginia**

1. Welcome and Introductions

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 October 6, 2004. Members present were Chairman, Stephen Whiteway, Treasurer, R. Gary Allen; Louise Theberge, Gloucester County Board of Supervisors; Ron Hachey, King and Queen County Administrator; and Trent Funkhouser, Town Manager of West Point. Also present were Dan Kavanagh, Executive Director MPPDC; Lewis Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning MPPDC; David Fuss, Program Director of Dragon Run Special Area Management Program MPPDC; and Josh Bateman, Regional Planner MPPDC.

Stephen Whiteway welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Election of Officers

It was the consensus of the Authority to re-elect the existing slate of officers.

3. Approval of August Minutes

Stephen Whiteway requested a motion to approve the August Minutes. Before approval of August Minutes, Ron Hachey suggested minor amendments to the Minutes. Gary Allen moved that the August Minutes be approved with amendments; Louise Theberge seconded the motion; motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Lewis Lawrence. The Authority has spent out Browne Tract dollars from DEQ grant. There is a balance from the BFI Fund of approximately \$35,000.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Town of West Point-Public Fishing-Bridge

Lewis said that Mayor Conklin of West Point would like to see a portion of the Pamunkey Bridge used as a public fishing pier. The mayor may look to the Authority for technical assistance.

Trent Funkhouser had a discussion with Billy Mills and staff from the Saluda VDOT concerning bridge abutments. New Kent is considering keeping a portion the abutment. King and Queen is not considering the abutment. Ron Hachey said that King and Queen County is not sure they want to because of a maintenance issue. VHB is doing a concept plan regarding boat launch, wetlands, interpretative trail near the abutment.

Trent Funkhouser spoke regarding liability of over water structure (old bridge) for fishing, concern about end of old road-just dead ending where there is no other structure or turnaround. Trent will discuss with Mayor Conklin and the Town Council, but does not have any funding or plan for it. There is a concern about attracting too many out-of-state visitors.

There was a discussion held regard preservation of bridge structure (pros and cons) regarding high value property once bridge is removed and merits of PAA pursuing access points up to first abutments.

Localities if interested will pursue up to first abutments and then bring back to the PAA for recommendations or possible management consideration. This discussion should continue at the next few Authority meetings

7. State Park Discussion

Lewis said that Debi Osborne, Trust for Public Lands has not found any new sites. No report from Mathews County landowner who resides in Europe—he is not responding to communications sent from Mathews County. One suggested strategy could be for Harvey Morgan to sponsor legislation to the General Assembly to direct DCR to consider smaller sites. Eagle Point is not interested anymore.

8. Brown Tract Management Plan and (#9 on agenda) Brown Tract Division

Survey to split property has been completed. The Attorneys General Office is reviewing the draft deed to gift a portion of Brown to the Department of Forestry. Grant close out will be complete when the Browne Tract Management Plan has been submitted to the Coastal Program at DEQ along with a posting of a sign on site.

9. CELP Acquisition

Lewis reported the following concerning CELP funds:

- \$1M earmark for acquisition of land in Dragon Run

- \$ split between DOF, DGIF, PAA

- meeting with Bob Foster regarding US17 parcel in Gloucester

 - bridge along US 17 north will be elevated in three years- changes access slope

- parcel is two parcels removed from water
- would likely need infrastructure to make canoe access
- design process for VDOT bridge just starting, so need to infuse ideas into design if desired
- Julie Bixby-timing issue with VDOT construction

Other options

Tina Tract

- 60 acres on King and Queen County side of 603 with main stem frontage
- Billy Mills as a real estate agent is discussing purchase considerations this—

TNC

TNC has four parcels available and will be providing site descriptions.

Ron indicated a definite need to involve other counties besides King and Queen and Essex in the CELP acquisition process. Lewie will contact other stakeholders to discuss possible acquisition opportunities.

10. NOAA Fellow

An application from the Coastal Program to NOAA for Coastal Management Fellow has been submitted. The proposal scope includes the following:

- 1) A state level effort to work on access issues and promoting nature-based tourism
- 2) Work with PAA to identify and manage access opportunities and develop access standards and methodologies
- 3) Implement the Brown Tract Management Plan

11. Hunt Club Stewardship—Brown Tract

Double-10 Hunt Club wants to know if they can hunt the property this year. Lewie advised the Double Ten that the Authority has not developed a hunting policy yet, but is working on it. The Club is supportive of the Brown Tract effort. The club offered to assist with establishing a maintenance relationship to act as site stewards.

12. New Point Project Update

- Lewie reported that work is nearing completion on a small fishing pier and security door at the New Point Comfort Light House.
- Closeout Grant close out is November 15th

13. Other Business

Lewis told the Authority that a six-month update concerning the PAA's activities will be developed and distributed to the local Boards and Councils.

Lewis reported that he presented the MPPDC Multi-Modal Alternative Transportation Study at the PDC dinner meeting in September. Lewis received a letter from Don Richwine, Town

Council of Urbanna and Commissioner of the MPPDC responding to his presentation. Mr. Richwine's concerns included access issues and would like to discuss these issues further.

Ron Hachey led a discussion regarding the Dragon Run Watershed Management Plan. He wanted to know the status of Gloucester and Middlesex counties. Louise Theberge and Gary Allen joined in the discussion.

Dan led the discussion of the community forum that will be held at St. Clare Walker Middle School in Locust Hill on November 30, 2004 with a presentation by Mr. Ed McMahon, Urban Land Institute.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is December 10, 2004 at noon.

15. Adjourn

Gary Allen motioned to adjourn, Louise Theberge seconded.

Stephen K. Whiteway, Chairman

Revenue and Expenditure Report by Project

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
 Fiscal Year: 2005
 Period 07/01/04 to 11/30/04

Run Date: 12/02/2004
 Run Time: 3:08:13 pm
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Project Code & Description	Budget	Prior Year	Current	YTD	Proj Tot	Un/Ovr	% Bud
32000 PAA Brown Tract							
				Project Period	08/01/2003	to 09/30/2004	
Revenues							
41300 VDEQ	200,000.00	181,857.93	0.00	0.00	181,857.93	18,142.07	90.93%
Revenues	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>181,857.93</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>181,857.93</u>	<u>18,142.07</u>	<u>90.93%</u>
Expenses							
50000 SALARIES	3,925.00	2,519.96	0.00	2,109.30	4,629.26	-704.26	117.94%
50500 FRINGE BENEFITS	1,373.75	838.84	69.00	1,164.54	2,003.38	-629.63	145.83%
53100 Equipment	1,977.02	179.33	0.00	0.00	179.33	1,797.69	9.07%
54100 Private Mileage	5.84	5.84	0.00	0.00	5.84	0.00	100.00%
54500 Lodging/ Staff Expens	17.14	17.14	0.00	0.00	17.14	0.00	100.00%
56300 Legal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	808.00	808.00	-808.00	0.00%
56400 Consulting/Contractur	10,000.00	7,828.66	0.00	1,200.00	9,028.66	971.34	90.29%
56600 Construction	180,000.00	168,923.35	0.00	11,900.00	180,823.35	-823.35	100.46%
59700 INDIRECT COSTS	2,701.25	1,544.81	169.78	1,412.14	2,956.95	-255.70	109.47%
Expenses	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>181,857.93</u>	<u>238.78</u>	<u>18,593.98</u>	<u>200,451.91</u>	<u>-451.91</u>	<u>100.23%</u>
Project Revenues:	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>181,857.93</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>181,857.93</u>	<u>18,142.07</u>	<u>90.93%</u>
Project Expenses:	<u>200,000.00</u>	<u>181,857.93</u>	<u>238.78</u>	<u>18,593.98</u>	<u>200,451.91</u>	<u>-451.91</u>	<u>100.23%</u>
Project Balance:	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-238.78</u>	<u>-18,593.98</u>	<u>-18,593.98</u>		

Revenue and Expenditure Report by Project

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
 Fiscal Year: 2005
 Period 07/01/04 to 11/30/04

Run Date: 12/02/2004
 Run Time: 3:08:13 pm
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Project Code & Description	Budget	Prior Year	Current	YTD	Proj Tot	Un/Ovr	% Bud
32001 PAA Brown Tract							
				Project Period	07/31/2004	to 06/30/2005	
Revenues							
44010 MPLT/BFI Award	37,500.00	264.00	37,236.00	37,236.00	37,500.00	0.00	100.00%
44900 Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,661.00	0.00	0.00	1,661.00	-1,661.00	0.00%
Revenues	<u>37,500.00</u>	<u>1,925.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>39,161.00</u>	<u>-1,661.00</u>	<u>104.43%</u>
Expenses							
56400 Consulting/Contractur	37,236.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,236.00	0.00%
57400 Public Officials Insur	1,925.00	1,925.00	0.00	0.00	1,925.00	0.00	100.00%
Expenses	<u>39,161.00</u>	<u>1,925.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,925.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>4.92%</u>
Project Revenues:	<u>37,500.00</u>	<u>1,925.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>39,161.00</u>	<u>-1,661.00</u>	<u>104.43%</u>
Project Expenses:	<u>39,161.00</u>	<u>1,925.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,925.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>4.92%</u>
Project Balance:	<u>-1,661.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>	<u>37,236.00</u>		

Revenue and Expenditure Report by Project

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
 Fiscal Year: 2005
 Period 07/01/04 to 11/30/04

Run Date: 12/02/2004
 Run Time: 3:08:13 pm
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Project Code & Description	Budget	Prior Year	Current	YTD	Proj Tot	Un/Ovr	% Bud
32002 PAA New Pt Light							
				Project Period	05/01/2004	to 09/30/2004	
Revenues							
41300 VDEQ	10,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	1,000.00	90.00%
Revenues	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>90.00%</u>
Expenses							
50000 SALARIES	958.00	0.00	0.00	943.11	943.11	14.89	98.45%
50500 FRINGE BENEFITS	498.00	0.00	30.85	520.69	520.69	-22.69	104.56%
56400 Consulting/Contractur	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,075.00	8,075.00	-8,075.00	0.00%
56600 Construction	7,590.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,590.00	0.00%
59700 INDIRECT COSTS	631.00	0.00	75.91	631.40	631.40	-0.40	100.06%
Expenses	<u>9,677.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>106.76</u>	<u>10,170.20</u>	<u>10,170.20</u>	<u>-493.20</u>	<u>105.10%</u>
Project Revenues:	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>90.00%</u>
Project Expenses:	<u>9,677.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>106.76</u>	<u>10,170.20</u>	<u>10,170.20</u>	<u>-493.20</u>	<u>105.10%</u>
Project Balance:	<u>323.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,893.24</u>	<u>-1,170.20</u>	<u>-1,170.20</u>		

Opening the Door to Virginia's Coastal Resources
A Coastal-Zone Wide and Regional Perspective on Public Access Needs



Submitted by:
Virginia Coastal Program
Department of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219



Laura B. McKay, Coastal Program Manager

In partnership with:



Section 1: Background/Introduction

Virginia's beaches, fishing piers, lighthouses, boat ramps, canoe and kayak trails, greenways and natural areas are all critical to providing meaningful public access opportunities and to supporting the coastal economy. Virginians have repeatedly supported programs to enhance public access, open space and nature-based tourism activities.

Defined by the boundaries of counties, cities and towns adjacent to tidal waters of the Commonwealth, Virginia's coastal zone covers 8,950 square miles or approximately one quarter of the state. According to recent measurements, the interface between open water and land in the coastal zone extends along more than 10,000 miles of tidal shoreline. Land in the coastal plain extends from the flat sandy soils of the Eastern Shore and southeastern Virginia, to the gently rolling forests and farmlands of the Peninsula, Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck.

In this tremendously diverse coastal area, only 1% of the shoreline is publicly owned. It is no wonder that providing the residents of Virginia, and its visitors, with sufficient access to our natural resources is challenging. It is important not only to provide points of access, through public land ownership but to give the public meaningful coastal experiences that draw upon the Commonwealth's maritime heritage and natural wonder.

The most recent Virginia Outdoors Plan and the Virginia Coastal Program Section 309 Needs Assessment both identified several issues related to public access planning in the Commonwealth that need improvement.

a. Acquisition – Use conflicts, habitat protection needs and issues relating to underserved populations can all be addressed partially through acquisition of additional sites. For example, through the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, Virginia has committed to provide 60 new access points by 2010. In addition, the Virginia Outdoors Plan generally identifies new public access needs of all types throughout Virginia.

b. Maintenance and Management of Existing Holdings – With tight state budgets, government entities often lack the necessary resources and staff to manage current holdings. Many of the grant programs that provide significant funding for land acquisition do not provide for costs associated with management of the acquisition. While management plans are often developed for sites, implementation of those plans (i.e. facility improvements, habitat restoration etc.) does not always occur.

c. Public Information – Virginia has hundreds of public access areas and places to take in the beauty of the coastal zone. The guides produced for the public have focused on a type of use (i.e. hiking guides) or have been very general (i.e. natural area designations on a paper map). Easily-accessible, comprehensive materials that give the visitor detailed enough information for all types of public access are still lacking.

Working with the Virginia Coastal Program and its extensive network of partners, this project is designed to address public access information needs throughout the coastal zone and to also work on specific regional issues of acquisition and management. This project will provide the NOAA Coastal Management Fellow with exposure to the many natural resource, economic development and tourism agencies in Virginia in developing strategies to improve our current public access programs. One of the main goals of the Virginia Coastal Program is to coordinate

activities that cut across traditional agency jurisdictions and to promote both environmentally and economically sustainable practices. Enhancement of public access sites, management programs and resources is a perfect example of how Virginia's Coastal Program can work to serve the Commonwealth.

Section 2. Goals and Objectives of this Project

This project has been designed as two parts, with each addressing a different public access issue. One part of the project will be primarily working at the state level on improving public access information resources and encouraging nature-based tourism. The second part of the project is working directly with a regional entity dedicated to the acquisition and management of specific public access sites.

Throughout this project the Fellow will have the opportunity to work with the coastal program network of partners (11 state agencies, 8 regional commissions and 88 localities)

Goal 1: Improve coastal zone wide public access information availability.

Objective 1: Create a detailed and searchable online resource of the more than 200 traditional public access sites in Virginia's coastal zone (i.e. natural areas, boat ramps, beaches, fishing piers etc.).

Objective 2: Develop a list of other types of sites that define a "coastal experience" (e.g. working waterfronts, local seafood restaurant and historic coastal towns).

Objective 3: Create an expanded public access and coastal experience online resource that serves as an education, outreach and tourism tool.

Goal 2. Develop and implement public access standards in the Middle Peninsula

Objective 1: Develop access standards for the Middle Peninsula of Virginia that address types of access, density, uses and management.

Objective 2: Develop acquisition methodology targeting neglected public landings for inclusion in the Regional Public Access Master Plan.

Objective 3: Implement the management plan for the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority's first acquisition (130 acre site).

Sections 3 and 4. Project Description/Milestones and Outcomes

In August 2005, the Fellow will meet with project partners for both tasks to get oriented, confirm timetables, discuss work programs and to lay out project responsibilities.

A. IMPROVE COASTAL ZONE WIDE PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

Several state agencies, regional authorities, local governments and NGOs are involved in public access, open space and land conservation efforts in Virginia. As technological capabilities increase, many of these organizations are also beginning to develop online guides to their sites. While these efforts are substantial and should not be duplicated, each organization's focus is often specific to their particular mission and needs. A comprehensive guide to public access and

coastal experiences is still needed. Throughout this entire project, stakeholders in the coastal program network and beyond, will be consulted for guidance on development of these tools.

Objective 1: Create a detailed and searchable online resource of the more than 200 traditional public access sites in Virginia's coastal zone (i.e. natural areas, boat ramps, beaches, fishing piers etc.). Working with partner agencies, determine what information is currently available on publicly owned access sites. Information needed could include: site descriptions, GPS location, driving directions, facilities, pictures and use restrictions. Fieldwork to collect missing information should be conducted to the greatest extent practicable.

October 2005 – Inventory existing and planned databases of public access information

January 2006 – Determine additional information needs of project partners

May 2006 – Establish a framework for online resource (data fields, presentation)

November 2006 – Populate the database using existing databases and collecting new information where appropriate.

Objective 2: Develop a list of other types of sites that define a “coastal experience” (e.g. working waterfronts, local seafood restaurant and historic coastal towns). An advisory committee comprised of coastal program partners, local governments, NGOs and tourism councils will be convened to develop criteria for sites that will be included as “coastal experiences”. Issues that should be considered include: feasibility of inclusion, legality of including private businesses, information availability and consistency with Virginia Coastal Program goals.

October 2005 – Develop potential criteria for defining a “coastal experience” for a stakeholder group presentation

February 2006 – Establish final criteria for a “coastal experience” based on stakeholder input

July 2006 – Complete an inventory of existing and planned databases of “coastal experience” information

Objective 3: Create an expanded public access and coastal experience online resource that serves as an education, outreach and tourism tool. Based on the sites identified under Objective 2, populate the online resource with information on these additional sites. Additional field work should also be conducted to the greatest extent practicable. Marketing of this site and demonstration of its capabilities and usefulness at meetings will also be necessary.

December 2006 – Populate online resource with “coastal experience” information

April 2007 – Develop an outreach and marketing strategy for this new database

July 2007 – Complete presentations and outreach activities to promote this new tool

B. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PUBLIC ACCESS STANDARDS IN THE MIDDLE PENINSULA

The Middle Peninsula of Virginia comprises 6 counties and 3 towns nestled between the Rappahannock and York Rivers. Mobjack Bay, the guinea marshes and the Dragon Run exemplify this area's vast natural resources and water dependent culture. Much of the public access to the water in this region has been provided informally through neglected public landings and road terminus points, many having served previously as steamboat landings. As population

and need increase in Virginia, it is necessary to create a more formal network of public access throughout the region.

With Coastal Program funding assistance over the years, the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission has taken a very innovative and unique approach to addressing their public access needs. In 2003, the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA), a new regional governmental entity, was created for the sole purpose of addressing public access issues in its member localities (5 counties and 2 towns).

The Authority members recognize that shorelines are high priority natural areas and that, as population density increases, it is critical that they set aside recreational access sites for all types of recreational activities, such as birding, hunting, fishing, boating, picnicking and sight seeing. These activities are important to both the economy and to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

A key component for this part of the project will be to identify opportunities to leverage additional resources to support these objectives and future activities of the PAA.

Objective 1: Develop access standards for the Middle Peninsula of Virginia that address types of access, density, uses and management. In developing access standards for the Middle Peninsula the type of users, use restrictions, appropriate fee systems, public service provisions, parking requirements should be addressed. These standards should also address whether access should be: **Geographic Based** (i.e. regional, local, or community sites); **Use Based** (i.e. boating with trailer, paddling- car top limited parking, paddling – car top no parking, walking and birding limited parking or walking and birding no parking); **Natural Feature Based** (i.e. tidal marshes, freshwater); or **Density and Infrastructure Based** (i.e. access site every “X” miles of road, access site every “X” miles of shoreline or access site based on diversity of opportunities)

January 2006 – Present draft access standards to the Access Authority Board of Directors

March 2006 – Finalize access standards serving the Middle Peninsula Region

Objective 2: Develop acquisition methodology targeting neglected public landings for inclusion in the Regional Public Access Master Plan. Prior to the 1930s, most commerce in the Middle Peninsula used a network of steamboat landings. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owned and managed all this access, however, with changes in the transportation structure these steamboat landing are no longer used. VDOT still owns these terminus points but no longer actively manages them. This effort seeks to reclaim key neglected public landings for local public access use. This process will be complex. Hundreds of potential sites have already been inventoried with Coastal Program funding. Administration and oversight of the reacquisition process will include right-of-way determination, functionality determination and development of conceptual use plan for inclusion in the Authority’s Public Access Master Plan.

December 2006 -Develop prioritization methodology for key neglected public landings for local public access use

February 2006-Establish a steering committee to facilitate the active management of sites and to streamline the bureaucratic process

June 2006 -Work with the members of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority to develop a hierarchy of use for sites to determine appropriate use. Issues to consider include proximity to existing access sites, usage type and levels at

existing sites, anticipated future demand, future land use, transportation and other planning issues.

July 2006 – Establish the process for management of neglected public landings.

September 2006 – Develop an anticipated acquisition cost estimate and timeline

October 2006-July 2007 – Initiate management process for sites and update the PAA Board regularly on the status of each project.

Objective 3: Implement the management plan for the Public Access Authority's first acquisition (130 acre site). In December 2003, the Public Access Authority acquired the 130 acre Browne tract using Coastal Program funds. As part of the acquisition requirement, a Browne tract management plan has been produced. All of the recommendations (e.g. trail development) are in need of implementation. The Authority is prepared to offer up to \$30,000 for leverage for implementation activities.

May 2006 - Develop implementation strategy to determine which activities should be undertaken first (e.g. habitat restoration, trail development and parking improvements)

July 2006 - Develop a timeline and budget for implementing the strategy

July 2007 - Develop a final report to be distributed to Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority documenting implementation successes and failures and future directions.

Section 5. Fellow Mentoring

The Fellow will be housed with the Virginia Coastal Program at the Department of Environmental Quality in Richmond under the direct supervision and guidance of the Coastal Program Manager, Laura McKay. Julie Bixby, Coastal Program Planner, will provide primary mentoring for this project.

There are six Coastal Program staff. The Fellow will have open access to all staff on a daily basis. Specialties within the program range widely from policy, planning and project management to outreach and GIS applications. There are also significant resources within the Department of Environmental Quality that can assist the Fellow in technical development (GIS applications, Arc IMS, web development). There are funds available to provide additional technical training opportunities throughout this project, if needed.

In addition to expertise within the Coastal Program itself, the Fellow will work closely with representatives of other natural resource, public access, tourism and economic development agencies in Virginia. Members of the Virginia Coastal Policy Team (32 members and alternates) will be available to the Fellow throughout this project for assistance and guidance.

Lewis Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission in Saluda, VA, will provide mentoring to the Fellow to achieve Goal 2. The Public Access Authority Board members, county administrators and town managers of the member jurisdictions, will also be available to provide guidance and feedback on the project. The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission has strong ties in the region to citizens, businesses,

economic development partnerships, tourism councils and planning organizations. The full extent of these resources will be available to the Fellow in pursuing this project.

Section 6. Project Partners

There are several entities and agencies in Virginia whose efforts support the improvement of public access in the Commonwealth. While this project will be coordinated with many groups, below is a brief description of a few of the major players.

Virginia Coastal Program

The Virginia Coastal Program's mission (at the Department of Environmental Quality) is to protect and restore the Commonwealth's coastal ecosystems while also strengthening the coastal economy. Specifically, Goal #6 of the Program's Executive Order is "To promote sustainable ecotourism and to increase public access compatible with resource protection goals." With the cooperation of the agencies and localities that comprise the Virginia Coastal Program network, cross-cutting issues can be addressed comprehensively. The Coastal Program has funded land acquisition, developed management plans, constructed access sites and is currently supporting several efforts to improve coastal management information availability. For more information, <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/whatnew.html>

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA)

The MPCBPAA is focusing comprehensively on public access issues on a regional basis by:

- (1) Identifying land, either owned by the Commonwealth or private holdings, that can be secured for use by the general public as a public access site;
- (2) Researching and determining ownership of all identified sites;
- (3) Determining appropriate public use levels of identified access sites;
- (4) Developing appropriate mechanisms for transferring title of Commonwealth or private holdings to the Authority;
- (5) Developing appropriate acquisition and site management plans for public access usage;
- (6) Determining which holdings should be sold to advance the mission of the Authority.

For more information, <http://www.mppdc.com/project/access.shtml>

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

DCR's mission is to conserve, protect, enhance, and advocate the wise use of the Commonwealth's unique natural, historic, recreational, scenic and cultural resources. As a part of achieving this mission, DCR produced the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*, the state's official conservation, outdoor recreation and open space plan. This plan inventories public holdings and needs throughout the state. As DCR is not the only state agency with responsibility for public access, the *Virginia Outdoors Plan* is an important planning resource for the entire Commonwealth. For more information, <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/>

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)

DGIF is very involved in promoting ecotourism opportunities in the Commonwealth. In addition, DGIF owns and manages a network of boat ramps and wildlife management areas in the state. DGIF also developed the Virginia Birding and Wildlife trail, a network of sites that

provide a wildlife, natural resource or historic experience. For more information, <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/>

Destination Marketing Organizations

The Virginia Tourism Corporation's Vision Plan states that Virginia's goal is to be "Number One" in ecotourism in the United States. At the state, regional and local level, there are many destination marketing organizations that promote Virginia tourism. The focus of these organizations is primarily economic growth and in the coastal area of Virginia nature-based activities draw a significant amount of tourism. Virginia has over 240,000 registered boats. Boat-related activities such as fishing, sailing, and water-skiing, generated more than 15 million activity-days in the coastal zone. One of the main goals of these organizations is to mass market destination guides and information resources. For more information on the Virginia Tourism Corporation, (<http://www.vatc.org>).

Section 7. Cost Share Description

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority will be contributing \$7,500 per year towards the Fellow's salary. This contribution will be provided from their operating fund, which is an entirely private (non-federal) fund.

The Fellow will be housed in the offices of the Virginia Coastal Program at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in Richmond, Virginia and will have access to the services, hardware and software provided by the agency. Any additional needs (technical training, travel, and specialized software) will be supported through the Virginia Coastal Program's operating budget (federal funds).