



## MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS AUTHORITY

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MPCPPAA  
**FROM:** Lewie Lawrence, Dir of Regional Planning  
**DATE:** Feb 2, 2005  
**RE:** February PAA Meeting

This announcement serves as notice to call a meeting of the Public Access Authority on Friday, February 11, 2005 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. This meeting will include an awards presentation to Ben Willis, a senior at West Point School. Mr. Willis designed the PAA logo. The December minutes are attached below. 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. PAA LOGO Design Award Presentation
3. Lunch

#### **PAA Business Meeting**

4. Approval of December minutes
5. Treasures Report
6. Public Comment
7. Browne Tract-
  - a. Transfer to DOF
  - b. Leverage opportunity TNC and FDR
8. Land Acquisition CELP
  - a. Final List- pdf of proposed sites below
  - b. Next Step
9. Discussion of Middle Peninsula State Park
10. 2005 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program
  - a. Travel Funds
  - b. Review Schedule
11. Legislative Update
  - a. NN PAA Enabling comparison
  - b. Possible Budget Amendment for staff support
12. Liability Insurance Renewal
13. Chairman's Observations
14. Next Meeting
15. 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**

**December 10, 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 December 10, 2004. Members and Alternates present were Chairman, Stephen Whiteway; Vice Chairman, Frank Pleva; Treasurer, R. Gary Allen; Louise Theberge, Gloucester County Board of Supervisors; Ron Hachey, King and Queen County Administrator; and Terri Hale, King William Assistant County Administrator. Also present were Lewis Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning MPPDC; David Fuss, Program Director of Dragon Run Special Area Management Program MPPDC; and Tom Brockenbrough, Regional Planner MPPDC.

Chairman Whiteway welcomed everyone in attendance.

**2. Approval of October Minutes**

Chairman Whiteway requested a motion to approve the October Minutes. Frank Pleva moved that the October Minutes be approved; Ms. Theberge seconded the motion; motion carried by unanimous vote.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Lewis Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence noted the report has a new format which mirrors that used by MPPDC. The first project, the Public Access Authority Browne Tract, has been closed and was overspent by \$451.91. The second project, currently titled PAA Brown Tract, will be renamed to PAA/BFI Browne Tract to better reflect the project and source of funds. The third project, PAA New Point Light, has been closed with the completion of a sign for the site.

**4. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**5. Logo Design Award**

Mr. Lawrence informed the Authority the winner of the Logo Design Contest will be invited to the February meeting of the Public Access Authority. The student's teacher will be invited as well. A check will be presented to the winner and the event will be used to generate publicity for the Authority.

## **6. Browne Tract**

The comments from the November 17 meeting on the Browne Tract Management Plan have been incorporated into the Plan including the trails leading over onto the Department of Forestry property, areas for education and sampling, as well as a discussion of access for emergency services.

The PAA sign is up at the southern gate at Byrd's Bridge which finalizes the requirement for one of the grants. Discussion focused on whether or not the gate should be left locked or unlocked. The consensus of the Authority is to leave the gates locked until access can be properly managed.

There have been problems associated with the restrictive deed for the portion of the land to be taken over by the Virginia Department of Forestry. Until these issues are resolved with the Attorney General's Office the Authority retains ownership over the entire Browne Tract. The Department of Forestry sign for the site has been manufactured but will not be placed on site until the transfer of land has been finalized.

## **7. Land Acquisition - CELP**

Currently there is a Federal earmark of \$1,000,000 for land acquisition within the Dragon Run watershed. Mr. Whiteway, Mr. Hachey, and Mr. Lawrence have previously discussed obtaining some of these funds for the Authority.

The Authority reviewed known properties within the watershed which may be available for purchase. In addition to the sites previously known Mr. Allen informed the Hundley Tract, an 18 acre tract near the Browne Tract in Essex County, may be available as well.

The Coastal Program requested the Authority to indicate which sites the PAA would be interested in acquiring. Discussion ensued on acquisition strategies and what would suit the Authority best. The consensus was to focus on sites on a public road as well as abutting the Dragon Run.

One tract previously suggested for possible acquisition, the Tina Tract, is no longer available. Of the eleven tracts reviewed, four were discounted as they were not actually on the Dragon Run (Foster, Hamilton, Kerr, Rock Spring). The Kerns Tract was removed from consideration as it is located in a subdivision and there could be potential conflicts with adjoining landowners. The Lammermoor Tract was removed as it was identified as being

along part of the upper reaches of the Dragon Run Swamp that is not navigable by boat or canoe.

The remaining five tracts were divided along the upper, middle, and lower zones of the Dragon Run. The consensus of the Authority was that the lower zone was the top priority for sites. Two tracts in the lower zone were considered. Of these, the Haworth Tract was rated the top priority by the Authority and the Holmberg Tract consisting of three parcels was ranked second.

Within the middle zone two tracts were evaluated. The top rated tract in this zone is the Dragon Bridge Tract. The second choice is the Peter Tract. Only the Hundley Tract of two parcels was considered in the upper zone and will be the top priority in that zone. This information will be provided to the Coastal Program.

## **8. Middle Peninsula State Park**

On November 16 a meeting was held at the MPPDC offices to review progress on land acquisition for a state park site. At that time there were one possible site in each of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex Counties. The Middlesex County site is no longer under consideration. Representatives from the State are coming to the area on December 15 to examine the remaining sites.

## **9. 2005 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program**

The Public Access Authority application in conjunction with the Virginia Coastal Program has been approved to receive a Fellow. This will provide personnel for two years, most likely commencing in July, to be shared with the Coastal Program. NOAA indicated they thought the work plan was too heavy would like to the three work areas prioritized. As the match for the Fellow is coming from the BFI funds should be expended on the Browne Tract.

The consensus of the Authority was that the top priority would be the implementation of the Browne Tract Management Plan, followed with working with the Authority to develop acquisition methodology targeting neglected public landings and other sites for inclusion in the Regional Public Access Master Plan. The final objective would be to develop access standards with respect to type of access, density, uses, and management.

Mr. Lawrence noted issues still need to be negotiated with NOAA and the Virginia Coastal Program with respect to logistics and the timetable for the project.

## **10. Other Business**

Mr. Hachey indicated that as two of the potential CELP acquisitions is in the neighborhood of a member of the King and Queen Board of Supervisors, he would like an opportunity to

inform him and ensure he does not see the acquisition as a problem for the residents of the area.

### **11. Chairman's Observations**

Chairman Whiteway chose not to comment at this time.

### **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority will be February 11, 2005 at noon.

### **13. Adjourn**

Mr. Allen motioned to adjourn, Ms. Theberge seconded; meeting adjourned.

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Stephen K. Whiteway, Chairman