

**SUMMARY:  
JOINT PERMIT PROCESSING MEETING;  
AUGUST 16, 2012, 9:45-10:30 A.M.  
DOVER, DE**

**Attendees:**

John Brundage, Kevin Faust: US Army Corps of Engineers, Dover DE Field Office  
Scott Figurski: Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section, DNREC  
Edna Stetzar: Delaware Natural Heritage Program, DNREC  
Tricia Arndt: Delaware Coastal Management Program, DNREC  
Mike Mansolino: U.S. EPA, Philadelphia, PA  
Bob Zepp: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Annapolis MD  
Jim Baeurle, Dewey Beach Enterprises, Inc.  
Bill Lower, Harvey Hannah & Associates, Inc.  
Bill Mears, Dewey Beach Building Official  
Rob Whitford, Precision Marine Construction, Inc.  
Evelyn Maurmeyer, CER, Inc.

(Note: Craig Lukezic, Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, was leaving the previous session and did not stay for the DBE presentation, but I gave him a copy of the handout, as he will have to comment on impacts on historic and archaeological resources once the Corps permit application is submitted.)

**Presentation**

Evelyn Maurmeyer distributed the JP handout, and described the proposed project. Rob Whitford, Jim Baeurle, and Bill Lower also provided background information.

**Discussion**

Bob Zepp asked why the combined width of the existing walkway and proposed recreational access walkway could not be 16' total (rather than 6' + 16'). Rob Whitford responded that the two structures will be at different elevations; serve different purposes; and there also may be an ABC issue.

Scott Figurski noted that the DNREC Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section Guidance Document allows a maximum 6' to 8' width for the recreational access walkway.

Kevin Faust stated that 6' x 6' for the crabbing/fishing platform "bump-outs" seems small (more discussion followed later).

Scott Figurski asked if the section of the recreational access walkway on the south side of the building (over the beach) could be eliminated. Rob said the walkway would be located over a stone groin, and for safety purposes, a walkway should be located over the stone to prevent people from walking on the rocks.

Tricia Arndt asked how environmental impacts were reduced from the August 2011 JP presentation. Evelyn Maurmeyer stated that this proposal includes only 24 slips rather than 48 slips (although an additional 24 slips may be built at some time in the future), and that the beach nourishment project does not include the complex concrete armoring system; instead it is a "soft engineering" project consisting only of sand, the same procedure as DNREC-conducted beach renourishment projects.

Scott Figurski inquired about the Mutual Agreement between DBE and Dewey Beach. Jim Baeurle gave him a copy of the Agreement. Bill Mears confirmed that there were numerous public meetings relating to this matter.

Kevin Faust noted that the width of the recreational access walkway should be proportional to the number of people using it, and pointed out that there will be heavy use in the summer months and during holiday weekends. (NOTE: Unlike DNREC, the Corps does not have a restriction on the width of the structure.) Jim Baeurle stated that the proposed recreational access walkway would be for public use, not for restaurant access.

Mike Mansolino asked if dredging would be required for the marina; Evelyn Maurmeyer and Rob Whitford said no.

Jim Baeurle pointed out that there are over 90 new (metered) parking spaces at Van Dyke for bayshore beach parking, and the beach is now used extensively by families with small children, since it offers a safe swimming area (no rip currents, warmer water than the ocean).

Scott Figurski recommended varying the width of the recreational access walkway, depending on access needs, with wider bump-outs. Rob Whitford suggested an 8' wide walkway and 8' x 20' bump-outs (for a total width of 16' at the bump-outs).

John Brundage noted that NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) will have to comment on EFH (Essential Fish Habitat) concerns. (Note: NMFS is located in Sandy Hook, NJ; Brian May, NMFS, typically does not attend the JP meetings in Dover due to travel distance. Evelyn Maurmeyer will e-mail him a copy of the JP handout for his review and comments. He will also comment on the Corps permit application once it is submitted.)

Edna Stetzar stated that there may not be a time-of-year restrictions on the proposed activities (beach replenishment, etc.) since the area is already so heavily used by humans. She also noted that fish will be happy with the pilings supporting the recreational access walkway (new habitat), and that the DE Fish and Wildlife Section (DE Natural Heritage Program is part of F&WS) will be pleased with the opportunity for increased public access for crabbing and fishing activities. She also inquired how the bulkhead to the south will be reinforced. Rob Whitford stated that he plans to use vinyl sheeting (rocks would pose a safety hazard).

Tricia Arndt asked if there will be any floats for swimmers (denoting the limit of the swimming beach). Rob stated that there will not, but this area will be a "no boating zone".

John Brundage asked if there have been any public objections to the project. Jim Baeurle said that people support the expanded public access for recreational activities.