

SUPPLEMENTAL

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
SECRETARY'S
ACTION AGENDA
AUGUST 5, 2026**



Contact: Bill Morgante 410-260-7791
bill.morgante@maryland.gov

10. BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

***Wetlands License -- #96-0728 (R4) – Maryland Port Administration
Modification***

Recommendation: The Board of Public Works Wetlands Administrator recommends that the Board approve a modification to Tidal Wetlands License No. 96-0728(R3) authorizing the construction of a dredged material containment facility at Poplar Island. The modifications:

1. Extend the wetland license for a 30-year period to August 14, 2056
2. Revise the planting parameters to require that the wetland habitat created by this project shall establish up to 80% (but not less than 50%) as low marsh and 20% (to a maximum of 50%) as high marsh.
3. Revise the plantings to require that marsh be planted primarily with *Spartina* species (salt tolerant grasses common in coastal ecosystems), specifying that the project be constructed at appropriate elevations to assure the successful establishment of the specified wetland plant, the success of the proposed hydrology, and that the project is managed through adaptive management.
4. Specify that project low marsh and high marsh may include wetland features that are not vegetated wetlands, such as ponds, mudflats, habitat islands, and hummocks; up to a maximum of 15% for low marsh allowed to exceed the mean high water elevation and 15% for high marsh allowed to lower than the mean high water elevation.
5. Include a new condition that details the 5-year monitoring requirements with specific milestones to be met for the wetland planting areas.

MDE: The Maryland Department of the Environment concurs with the recommendations.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Original application received | November 27, 1995 |
| • Public comment period ended | December 22, 1995 |
| • MDE Report and Recommendation | Summer, 1995 |

Authority: Section 16-202, Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland: “*The Board shall decide if issuance of the [tidal wetlands] license is in the best interest of the State, taking into account the varying ecological, economic, developmental, recreational, and aesthetic values [the] application presents.*” See also COMAR 23.02.04.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
SECRETARY'S
ACTION AGENDA
AUGUST 5, 2026**



SUPPLEMENTAL

10. BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS (continued)

TALBOT COUNTY

96-0728(R4) *MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION* – To amend the originally authorized wetland license project description (below) to identify targets for the establishment of high marsh and low marsh, provide monitoring parameters for wetland cells, and extend the period of the license.

Poplar Island, Chesapeake Bay

Special conditions: In addition to conditions specified in the original wetlands license (below) to provide specific targets and goals for the high and low marsh areas and to provide parameters for monitoring wetland cells.

Original Approval: Secretary's Agenda, Item 1 (8/14/1996) in which the Board authorized the following:

96-0728 *MARYLAND PORT ADMINISTRATION* – To construct a dredged material containment facility by constructing 39,000 feet of sand and stone dikes around 1100 acres of open water and remnant islands for the purpose of containing 38 million cubic yards of dredged material and creating 50% upland habitat and 50% wetland habitat.

Tracys Landing, Tracys Creek

Special conditions: Requirements for dredge material containment facility construction, project site development, water quality monitoring, stone dike construction, and geotextiles fabric removal and disposal. Restrictions on turbidity and on filling, dredging, or otherwise altering or destroying marsh.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

THIS ITEM WAS:

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

DEFERRED

WITHDRAWN

WITH DISCUSSION

WITHOUT DISCUSSION