

KENT COUNTY PUBLIC LANDINGS & FACILITIES December 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

I CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kent County Board of Public Landings & Facilities was called to order by Chairman James Reihl, at 6:00pm on Monday, December 8, 2025. Those in attendance were James Reihl, Marc Castelli, Clay Larrimore, Chuckie White and Public Works Deputy Director Carrie Klein.

The minutes of June 23, 2025 were approved as submitted.

II OLD BUSINESS

Bayside Landing Park – Project

Ms. Klein stated that the Bayside Landing Park project (\$1.7 million) is near completion. She advised there is a punch list of items that need to be completed including the final electric work that is scheduled for the week of December 22, 2025, if not sooner and the grate at the new inlet (bulkhead side of facility) still needs to be bolted down. In the Spring 2026, repaving of areas, treating of new lumber and installation of the new pump-out station will take place. Ms. Klein advised that due to the delays, the contractor will owe the county \$17,560.05.

A Board member asked about ladders at each slip. Ms. Klein advised that the County policy is now that if a slip holder wishes to have a ladder installed at their slip, the Environmental Operations division can provide the (aluminum only) ladder options that they would purchase for County staff to install. When the slip holder permanently vacates the slip, they can take the ladder with them. If they do not take the ladder, it then becomes county property.

A Board member asked if all the pilings would be capped. Ms. Klein confirmed that all pilings (if not already) would be capped.

Betterton – Engineering Study

Ms. Klein stated that this project is still in the planning phase with publicly available site data and mapping being compiled. And coordinating with the Department of Natural Resources to obtain a bathymetric survey of the ramp and pier areas (unknown timeline). This step will provide valuable baseline data but may slow the progress.

Ms. Klein continued that the next step will be to schedule public outreach meetings after the data collection and bathymetric survey are complete. If everything is completed in time, grant funding could be applied for the final engineering and construction of the ramp and/or jetty modifications as early as the Fall of 2026.

Long Cove – No Wake Buoy

Ms. Klein stated that a “You are responsible for your wake buoy” was not placed there this year but was advised to contact DNR next year to get on the list to have one placed in the area.

She continued that we received a “You are responsible for your wake” sign but the only location to install it is at the public landing and it is doubtful that would be helpful and may even be in the way. She stated that staff tried to place the sign on an old piling out off-shore, but the piling didn’t appear to be stable enough to hold the sign.

A Board member stated that they would make contact with Long Cove Marina and asked if they would be willing to go out & post the sign. Ms. Klein asked the Board member to advise our office if they are agreeable to the request and, if so, we will have staff drop off the sign to them.

Ms. Klein advised that a request for a formal speed zone (considered a regulation change) will be submitted and that the deadline to submit the request for the 2026 survey season is April 15, 2026. She stated that she will complete the request online but needs as much information as possible including GPS coordinates. A Board member asked that the request form be emailed to them and advised that they would assist in providing the necessary information.

Ms. Klein informed the Board that if the request is approved the change would be instated for 2027 season.

Long Cove – possible breakwater installation

A Board member asked, again, about the possibility of getting a breakwater/jetty installed. The Board member stated that Long Cove Marina has expressed great interest in this possibility and has spoken with a nearby property owner who seemed agreeable to having the breakwater installed off their property. The marina also stated that they are willing to assist with the cost. Ms. Klein asked the Board member to see if Long Cove Marina would be able to provide a “ballpark” estimate of the cost for this type of project.

There was some discussion of a previous breakwater project that was planned (off private property) in Turner’s Creek that unfortunately never happened.

Ms. Klein advised that she would look into the possibility of this type of project (DNR funding for installation of a structure on private property).

Landings violations – warning/citations

Ms. Klein informed the Board that during 2025 the following were issued – 402 warnings and 11 citations (5 have been paid, 6 will be going to District Court for disposition). Mr. Klein continued that moving forward it may be beneficial for Environmental Operations staff to issue citations, as well as, warnings. The County Attorney is currently looking into the possibility of deputizing staff to issue the civil citations.

III NEW BUSINESS

Long Cove & Sharp Street – piling replacements

Ms. Klein advised that several broken pilings were replaced recently. Two pilings were replaced on Sharp Street pier by Switzer (Bayside project contractor) and one piling at Long Cove by Deckelman’s Pile Driving. The cost of both projects were covered by DNR 5K grants.

Fairlee – Boat ramp repairs

Ms. Klein informed the Board that the hardware on the precast planks is failing and the best solution may be to remove the existing ramp, regrade and replace. Quotes have been requested and the repairs will be completed no later than Spring 2026.

Bogles – replacement project

Ms. Klein advised that the County Commissioners signed a letter of support on September 16, 2025 for the FY 2027 Waterway Improvement Funding grant application for replacing, modifying or rehabilitating existing structures at Bogles public landing. The project would include bulkhead stabilization and replacement, installation of a riprap perimeter, addition of a guard rail, full replacement of the finger pier and replacement of both fishing/docking piers. She continued that parking lot issues would also be addressed within the project.

IV ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fletcher