

Maryland Working Waterfronts Program



Kelly Collins Choi, Chesapeake and Coastal Service, DNR

Jim Klein, ASLA Principal, Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects

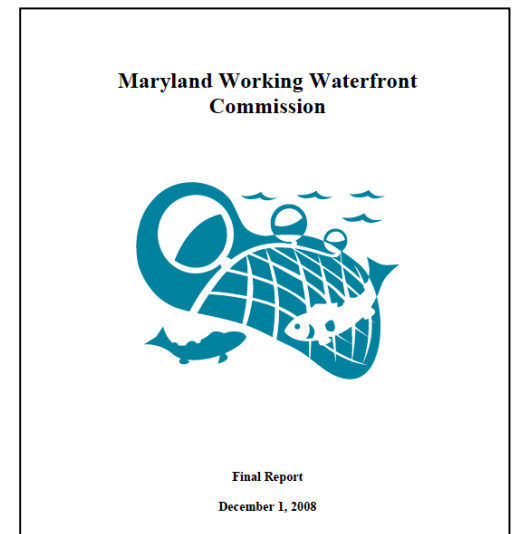
Maryland's Working Waterfronts



2007 Maryland WWF Commission – tasked with studying and making recommendations to protect and preserve Maryland's commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters

Definition of Working Waterfronts:

“The infrastructure and places where commercial fisherman, charter fishing captains, tour boat operators, recreational fishermen, boat builders, and other small businesses conduct their business.”

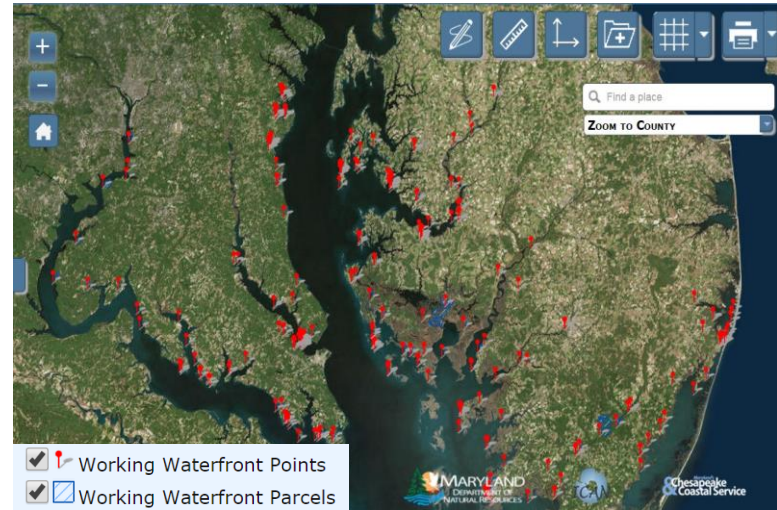


Working Waterfronts Program



Program Goals:

- Define working waterfront lands, infrastructure and activities
- Identify community needs
- Offer technical and financial assistance to ensure public access and support for water-dependent businesses and industries



WWF Enhancement Grants



- WHAT:** Funding for a one year project to support revitalization of working waterfront communities and economies.
- HOW MUCH:** Grant awards of up to \$60,000 per year.
- WHEN:** RFP Spring 2017, October 2017 start
- WHO:** Municipalities and counties in the coastal zone of Maryland.

Grant Conditions



Eligibility:

- Local government
- Partnership with community, non-profit, business entities
- Considers natural resources, coastal hazards, future conditions
- Land acquisition and construction projects are not eligible

Scope: Must result in a
“program change”
as defined by NOAA.



Supported Projects



- Scoping/visioning workshops
- Waterfront plans, maritime zoning, codes, ordinances
- Updating comprehensive plans
- New planning tools
- New programs supporting working waterfronts



Supported Projects



- Annapolis
- Talbot County
- Rock Hall
- St. Michaels
- Oxford
- Cambridge



Cambridge Explodes Future of Waterfront



Smith Island Community Visioning



Annapolis Working Waterfront Awareness



St. Michaels Waterfront Planning



Rock Hall Working Waterfront Action Plan



Tilghman Village Plans for the Future



Bellevue Tackles Lost Waterfront Businesses



Oxford Working Waterfront Strategic Plan



Watermen's Heritage Tourism Trainings

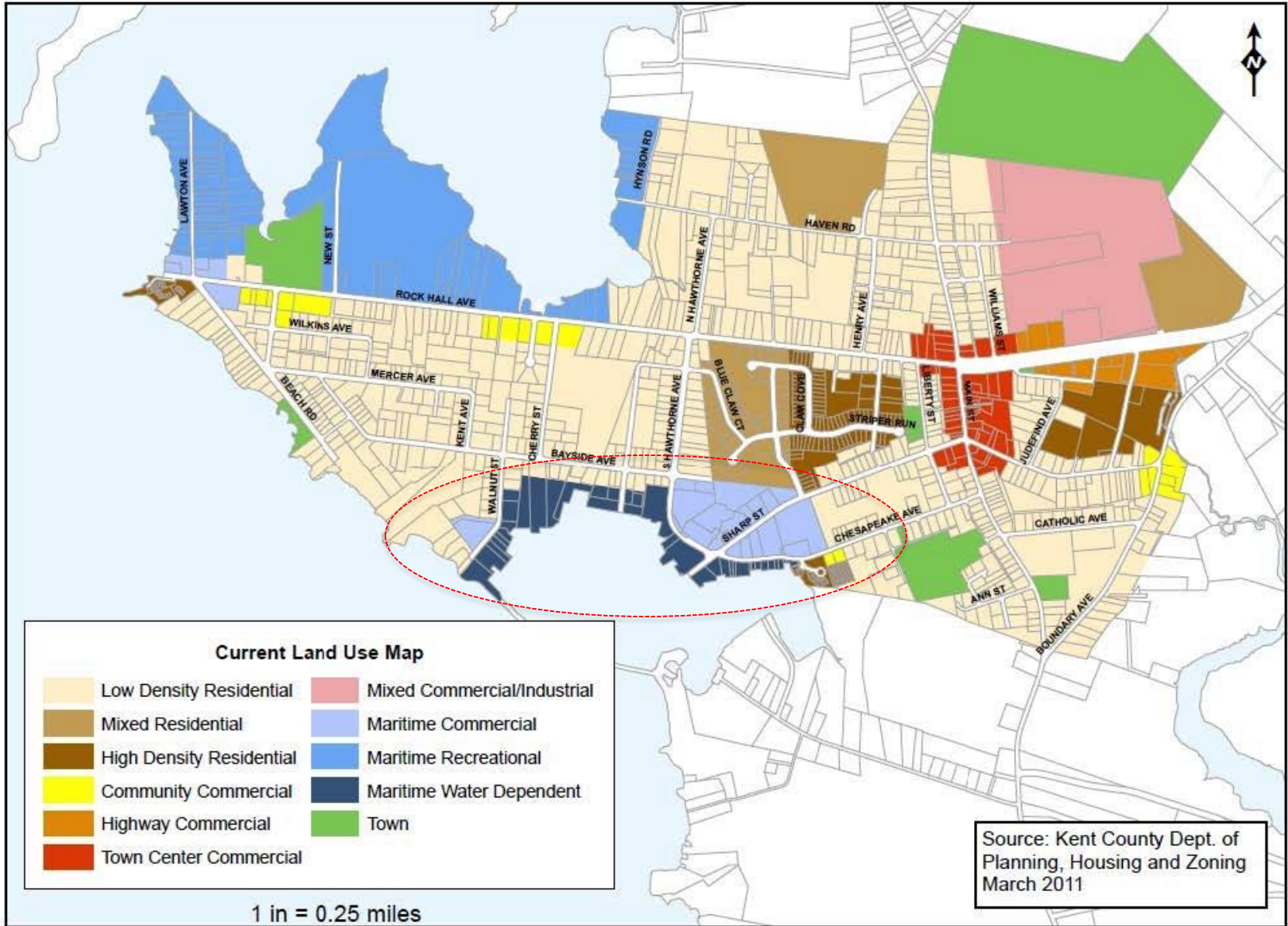


Rock Hall Waterfront Master Plan

Focus of Plan

- Keep working watermen and the businesses that support them operating
- Increase other business opportunities along the waterfront
- Increase the role that the waterfront plays in making Rock Hall an attractive place to live, work, play and visit
 - *(from 8-27 public meeting)*

Study Area



Key Issues: Definition of Working Waterfront

"Working Waterfronts are the waterfront lands, waterfront infrastructure, and waterways that are used for a water-dependent activity, such as ports, small recreational boat harbors, fishing docks, and hundreds of other places across the country where people use and access the water."

The National Working Waterfront Network states:

Rock Hall variation:

- Water dependent uses spelled out in zoning code



Definition of Working Waterfront

MARITIME WATER-DEPENDENT DISTRICT

... provide for and to preserve waterfront land in appropriate locations for commercial docking, waterfront sales, storage, and repairs of boats, including out- of-water repairs, and for seafood packing and processing establishments subject to applicable sanitation and pollution laws and ordinances.

Marinas and tourist-oriented services are permitted uses, but, in general, the District is intended for more intensive marine activities dependent upon a waterfront location.



Preserve Working Waterfront

Maintaining a stable infrastructure for watermen including:

- affordable slips and docking space
- water access (depth)
- freight vehicle access; loading; storage
- wharf conditions
- fuel availability; waste oil disposal
- maintenance and repair.



Increase economic opportunity

Identify potential waterfront enhancements to encourage and attract more users while protecting working waterfront assets.

Small business development and heritage tourism are two important assets that Rock Hall can use to increase economic activity.



Enhance Waterfront for Heritage-based Tourism

2.4 Establish Rock Hall's waterfront as a "digital harbor" by providing public wi-fi, solar charging, and a digital kiosk (as part of visitor information kiosk)



Enhance Waterfront for Heritage-based Tourism

2.6 Develop new and enhance existing destinations to provide more activities at the waterfront



Maryland Food Center Authority (MFCA) leases seven slips to working watermen right outside the Clam House

Link to Nearby Destinations

3.2 Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between the waterfront, downtown and the beach and other attractions



Priorities



GOAL 1: Preserve and maintain existing working waterfront areas for working waterfront uses

- 1.1 Identify and map working waterfront areas that support working waterfront uses as part of Master Plan (see Draft Working Waterfront Assets Map)
- 1.2 Work with Kent County and state agencies to pursue and invest in the general maintenance of working waterfront resources:
 - Maintain and repair existing waterfront access (piers, wharfs, ramps etc.)
 - Maintain and repair existing bulkhead
- 1.3 Seek public investments (state or federal) to make the waterfront more attractive to water dependent businesses: Maintain adequate channel depth (need to discuss recent dredging history and what the timing of harbor maintenance ideas would be); Identify economic development initiatives to encourage business development (e.g. USDA Rural Economic Development grants, loans and technical assistance)
- 1.4 Provide permitting assistance to make it easier for businesses to make improvements to water dependent businesses
- 1.5 Revise the zoning code to facilitate private business investment in working waterfront uses
- 1.6 Consider developing simplified code for targeted uses for Maritime Water Dependent (MWD) and Mixed Maritime (MC) districts (Determine if any incentives can be written into the code to encourage and support working waterfront uses)

STUDY HOW TO ADDRESS SEA-LEVEL RISE

1.5 NEED MORE SMALL ECLECTIC ETHNIC FAIR RESTAURANTS - NO CHAIRS Limit Size



State Agency Cooperation



MDP – Provides local grant application assistance

MDP/DBED/DHCD/MARBIDCO/RMC - Provide grant review assistance

Need Partners for Implementation

