



CITY OF POQUOSON

Office of Economic Development
830 Poquoson Avenue, Poquoson, VA 23662

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MEMORANDUM

January 11, 2016

TO: City Council

FROM: Charity Gavaza, Economic Development Coordinator

THROUGH: City Manager

SUBJ: Aid to Ports Grant (2nd) for Messick Point Breakwater

In December, 2015, the City of Poquoson chose a successful bidder to construct a breakwater at Messick Point with the bulk of the funds provided by the VPA (Virginia Port Authority) Aid to Ports grant. As construction begins on this segment of the breakwater, consideration should be given to a Phase II project which would extend this protective barrier to the terminus of Messick Point itself. A portion of this funding could be applied for through the VA Port Authority "Aid to Ports" Grant, a program the City successfully engaged in 2015.

The issue being addressed is the wave action that can be damaging to boats, piers and commercial enterprises located in this area causing difficulties and hazards. Messick Point is a vital part of Poquoson's seafood and boating industry. The area contains a public boat ramp and pier facility, as well as privately-owned seafood, boating, and boat docking properties. These facilities are located in a direct path from the storms of the Chesapeake Bay and require protection to continue the growth of commerce, and to keep the area viable. The goal of locating an additional breakwater at Messick Point (Phase II) would be to provide more protection to the City of Poquoson pier, boat ramp facility, and adjacent commercial property along with privately-held commercial seafood, boating and docking operations. The additional breakwater should extend coverage to the "Point" as noted in the attached diagram. This enhanced breakwater coverage is expected to attract new boaters and commerce, encouraging greater use of the facilities. An additional breakwater would also help protect the marsh and shoreline from the damaging effects of waves and currents during storms and flooding.

At City Council's discretion, other items such as water and electric on the City Pier could also be considered. Cost estimates for these items can be procured and added to the proposed grant application budget.

This grant request is based on bid information received by City of Poquoson during the administration of its current Aid to Ports project. Last year the City received a grant to install two sections of breakwater at Messick Point, just west of the area covered by this grant request. Poquoson received five bids to construct two 160-foot long breakwaters. The bid prices ranged from \$192,100 to \$310,900 for construction. Engineering and permitting costs were \$13,900. Based on these bids, the City anticipates the next phase will cost \$270,000. The Aid to Ports grant administered by the VAP provides 75% funding on waterfront projects up to \$500,000. The City of Poquoson is therefore requesting VAP grant funds of \$202,500 to design, permit and construct the next breakwater phase at Messick Point.

At this time, staff seeks direction from City Council on pursuing the Aid to Ports Grant through the VA Port Authority. The Aid to Ports Grant timeline calls for a March 1, 2016 deadline submission with funds available for approved projects available July 1, 2016.

Staff is pleased to provide additional information as needed.



RED Lines denote funded breakwaters to be constructed Spring 2015

Grey Bubble denotes coverage area to be protected by additional breakwater