

"Protecting & Promoting the Marine Construction Industry Through Unity & Leadership."



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February 14, 2021

M.M.C.A. Members:

I know it's been quite some time since you've heard from us in a formal way. The last few years have been relatively slow on the legislative front, which provided an opportunity to work behind the scenes on industry policy, regulatory, and customer service improvements at the Army Corps, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and (even) Local levels. We affectionately refer to those efforts as trench-work because it's arduous and dirty. I'm pleased to report that we're seeing our commonsense approaches take root, even in hard-to-penetrate bureaucrat grounds.

Admittedly, what's been lacking from our end is consistent member updates and there are three main reasons for that: 1) a stretched thin all-volunteer staff focused on running their primary business, 2) negotiating with regulators is a one step forward / two step back process, and 3) cutting a path through red tape often takes multiple passes through already traveled territory. All of this is time consuming, frustrating to report, and often difficult to describe in a coherent way.

Here is a high-altitude look at what we've been working on over the last couple of years and is currently dominating our time:

1. Revised Industry-Friendly State Pier Regulations (M.M.C.A. Initiative).
2. Maryland Board of Public Works Revised Tidal Wetland Regulations (BPW Initiative).
3. MDGPSP-6 Renewal (Army Corps Initiative).

In addition to that, here is a partial list of topics that require our attention in 2021...

1. MDE Permit Review Turn-around Times (i.e. COVID-19 Staffing Issues, Hiring Freeze, etc.).
2. MD Marine Contractor Licensing Board Strengthening.
3. 2021 MD General Assembly Legislative Oversight.

Your continued support through membership, and participation in issue discussions, is still very much needed and appreciated. Our focus on maintaining membership rolls and collecting membership dues has also been unintentionally lax. Association expenditures have largely been paid out of reserve funds, but that obviously can't continue in perpetuity. If you are receiving this update, then you are on the active membership list despite due payment history.

2021 Membership Renewal Ltr.

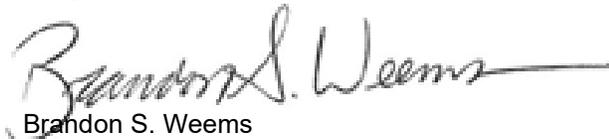
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A fresh reboot of our support system is essential in keeping up with the ebb and flow of regulatory issues and protecting and promoting the marine construction industry in Maryland. With that, enclosed is your 2021 membership renewal notification / membership dues statement.

Our largest annual payout is to our governmental relations and advocacy counsel (lobbyist), Evans & Associates. Gerry, Hayley, and team are essential to our policy and regulatory endeavors. They literally open doors for us that we'd otherwise never have access to. Please help us continue our work through membership renewal. Thank you in advance for entrusting us with a portion of your hard-earned dollars. Please be assured that we don't take that for granted. Unity is key in defending our mutual interests – thank you in advance for your backing.

Sincerely,

Maryland Marine Contractors Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon S. Weems" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brandon S. Weems
M.M.C.A. President & a Founding Member

BSW / bmw