



Rhodes Point, Somerset County, MD

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015

BUILDING STRONG®

Authorization: Continuing Authorities Program (CAP),
Section 107, River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended

Type of Project: Shallow Draft Navigation

Project Phase: Design and Implementation

Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Contributions:
Directly contributes to achieving protection and restoration goals established by the 2009 Executive Order 13508 and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement by increasing public access.

Congressional Interest: Senators **Mikulski** and **Cardin**
(MD); Congressman **Harris** (MD-01)



Non-Federal Sponsor: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Background: Rhodes Point is located along the southwestern shoreline of Smith Island in Somerset County, Maryland. Smith Island is located 12 miles west of Crisfield, Maryland and 95 miles south of Baltimore and straddles the Maryland and Virginia state line. Smith Island is actually a cluster of marsh areas, separated by shallow tidal guts (creeks or channels). The small pockets of uplands are used as residential portions of the three towns: Tylerton, Ewell and Rhodes Point. The area of interest during this study was Sheep Pen Gut, which connects Rhodes Point to the Chesapeake Bay. The current Federal navigation channel that serves Rhodes Point goes through Sheep Pen Gut.

The primary navigation problem being experienced by the waterman is the rapid shoaling in the existing Federal channel. The recommended plan is a twin jetty with a realigned channel combined with a spur or jetty extension and a sill. Material dredged as part of the channel realignment will be used to backfill behind the sill to create 2 acres of tidal wetlands. This alternative produced a benefit to cost ratio of 1.4 and is the recommended plan at an estimated cost of \$7.8 M.

Due to cost inflation, there were efforts in 2009 to reduce the size and length of the structures in the approved recommended plan. However, the costs to implement the project at the time exceed the Section 107 Federal limit of \$7M.

Images taken from aerial photos, digital mapping, and a comparison of previous surveys with the most recent surveys shows that the marsh island of Rhodes Point is disappearing at a rate of 10 feet per year. This erosion puts the existing marshes and SAV at risk if it is allowed to continue. The proposed breakwater/sill will reduce the erosive forces and help to maintain the existing marshes and SAV in the project area.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2014 now allows the federal limit within the Section 107 to \$10M per project. The design and implementation phase has been restarted in 2014, per request from DNR and Somerset County, MD.

Status: USACE received \$29K to scope the project in fiscal 2014, which will relook at the site conditions to finish design (2015) in order to award a construction contract (2016). An environmental assessment will also need to be completed due to the time that has passed. The potential of amending the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) exists due to project cost.

BUDGET (\$):

	<u>Construction</u>	
	<u>Feasibility</u>	<u>Design and Implementation</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	\$90,000	\$12,350,000
Federal Cost Estimate	\$90,000	\$10,000,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	\$0	\$2,350,000

<u>Federal Funds Data</u>		
Allocations thru FY 2013	\$90,000	\$757,113
Allocation for FY 2014	\$0	\$29,000
President Budget FY 2015 ¹	\$0	\$0
Allocation for FY 2015 ²	\$0	\$650,000
Balance to Complete	\$0	\$8,563,887

NOTES:

¹ The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works programs and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a Program Budget Press Book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

² The final FY 2015 allocation amounts will be made available upon final approval pursuant to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act's continuing funding requirements.

SCHEDULE:

FY 2014 Completed Work: Restarted the project at the request of MD DNR and Somerset County. The Baltimore District received \$29,000 to develop tasks and costs needed to complete an environmental assessment and design of the project.

FY 2015 Scheduled Work: Complete an environmental assessment and finalize the design in order to award a construction contract. The potential of amending the Project Cooperation Agreement exists due to project cost.

COMPLETION: With optimum funding this design and implementation phase can be completed in 2016.

For more information regarding the Rhodes Point project, contact Mr. Anthony A. Clark, CENAB-PL-P, (410) 962-3413, or e-mail anthony.a.clark@usace.army.mil.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BALTIMORE DISTRICT

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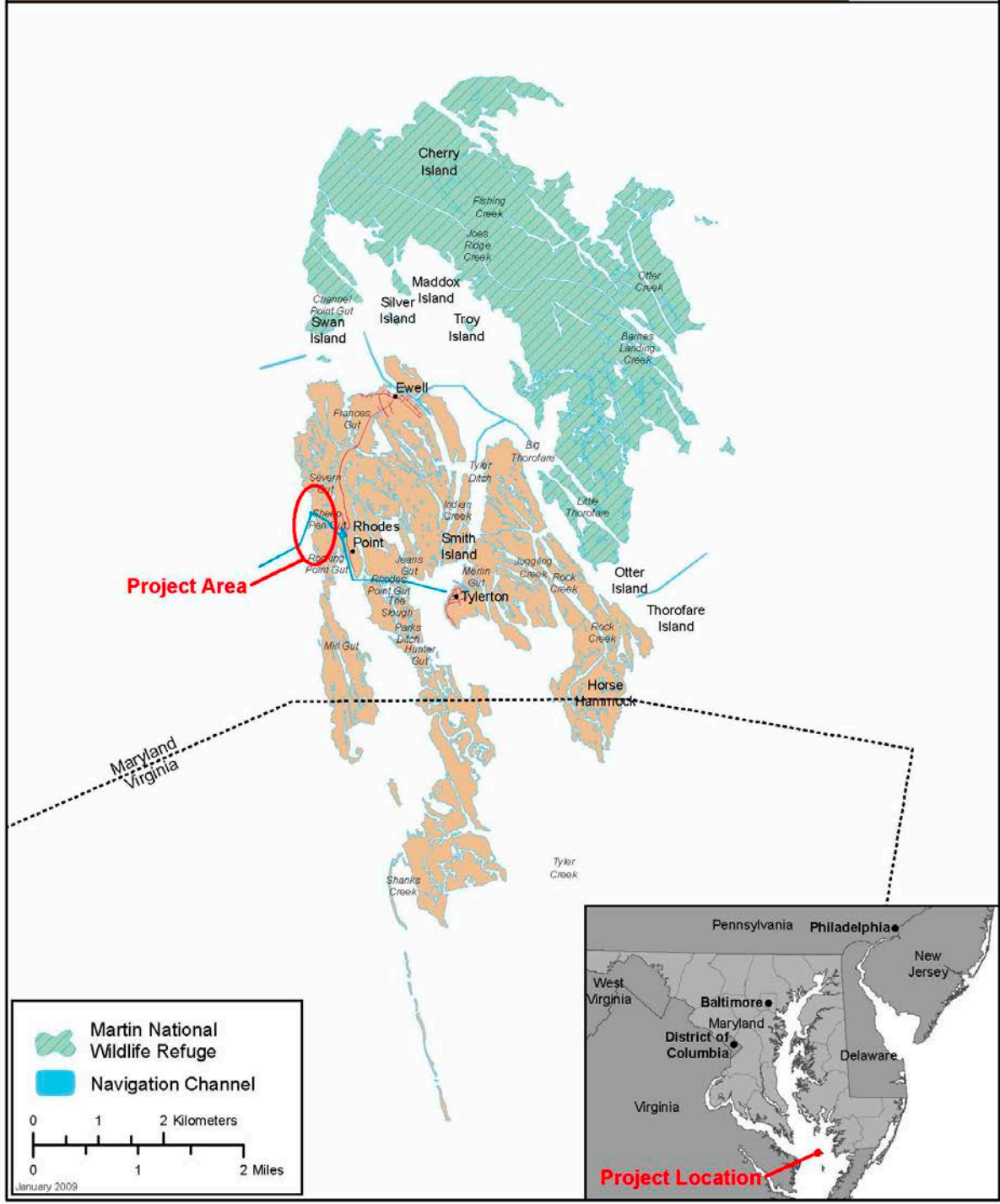
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US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



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