

construction of jetties and breakwaters in cooperation with and as an extension of operations of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and

(4) Constructing marine facilities beneficial to the boating public; and

(5) Improvement, reconstruction, or removal of bridges, drawbridges, or similar structures over or across waters, if those structures delay, impede, or obstruct the boating public. With the approval of the board of public works, funds from another public or any private source may be received and used to supplement and increase the funds in the waterways improvement fund for the purpose of this subsection. Also, the board of public works may enter into an agreement with a private company or person which owns such a structure, for the improvement, reconstruction, or removal of the structure, in order to provide a sharing of the cost of the improvement, reconstruction, or removal.

(6) Evaluation of water-oriented recreation needs and recreational capacities of Maryland waterways, and development of comprehensive plans for waterways improvements.

8-1005.

(a) [The] THERE IS A "Shore Erosion Control Construction Loan Fund" [is created and continued]. The Department shall administer the Fund solely to provide interest-free loans to persons, municipalities, or counties for construction of shore erosion structures. The Fund shall be maintained by:

(1) Repayments of principal on loans made from the Fund, with the repayments made through a special real estate tax the State levies on privately owned property benefited by shore erosion control projects. The tax shall compensate the State for net project construction cost. The tax may be levied at a uniform rate over a period not exceeding 25 years, as the State and the property owner agree; and

(2) Annual appropriation of general funds to restore the Fund to a level sufficient to carry out an effective shore erosion control construction loan program during the succeeding year.

A property owner whose project is approved is eligible to receive an interest-free loan covering 100 percent of the first \$40,000 of project construction cost, 50 percent of the next \$20,000 of project construction cost, 25 percent of the next \$20,000 of project construction cost, and 10 percent of the part of construction cost exceeding \$80,000. However, where two or more property owners are included within a shore erosion control project, and project construction costs