

(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] WATERWAY 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; and

(7) To provide matching grants to local governments for the construction of marine facilities for marine firefighting, marine police or medical services, and for the acquisition of vessels, and equipment for vessels for marine firefighting, police, medical, and communication equipment for promoting safety of life and property and general service to the boating public utilizing the waters of the State. The ownership, operation, and maintenance of any equipment acquired under this subtitle shall be the responsibility of the local governing body.

8-708.

(a) Projects for dredging and marking channels and harbors, construction of jetties and breakwaters, and clearing debris, aquatic vegetation, and obstructions in navigable waters as well as construction of marine facilities located within lands owned by the state Department of Natural Resources shall be financed solely by the [Waterways] WATERWAY Improvement Fund. Any funds available from the federal government, any governing body, or any gift also may be used for these purposes.

(b) The governing body and the [Waterways] WATERWAY Improvement Fund jointly shall finance projects to construct marine facilities beneficial to the boating public. The contribution of the [Waterways] WATERWAY Improvement Fund shall be limited to not more than 50 percent of the cost of each project. However, the [Waterways] WATERWAY Improvement Fund may finance completely any construction project beneficial to the boating public which costs less than \$25,000 regardless of its location.

(c) (1) The governing body shall pay its share of matching projects under subsection (b), or shall repay the Waterway Improvement Fund for any loan authorized under subsection (d) either by:

(i) Means of appropriations from general funds;
or