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June 26, 2025

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*Executive Committee Member

Maitland Bass
Department of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
Via email:
maitland.bass@dnr.ga.gov

RE: Public Notice for Seabrook Foundation Construction and Maintenance of a Living Shoreline and Fishing Pier

Dear Ms. Bass,

I am writing on behalf of the Georgia Conservancy to express our strong support for this project, and we urge the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee to approve issuance of a Coastal Marshlands Protection Act permit.


Seabrook Village Foundation has expended considerable resources to renovate their community center at Martha Randolph Stevens (MRS) Park to provide a gathering place for the community and to honor the history of this park and its importance to Seabrook Village. The community center is now under threat from significant coastal erosion that is rapidly progressing and threatening their community center building and site. The erosion is so severe, in fact, that Seabrook Village has had limited use of the site due to the dangerous conditions.

Seabrook Village Foundation members have worked diligently over the past year and half with Georgia Conservancy and the GA DNR-CRD staff to assess the erosion and design a solution that meets the communities needs and also improves habitat and restores coastal marshlands. The green infrastructure practices included in the design, i.e a living shoreline and bioretention, are recommended by the Georgia Coastal Management Program (GCMP). Seabrook Village has also used this opportunity to educate their community about coastal ecology and coastal marshland protection. Community members have volunteered their time to design this project and educate others about its benefits.

Savannah State University will be collecting data regarding the benefits of the various living shoreline treatments utilized in the design, which will provide valuable data for the GCMP's living shoreline program. This project also serves as a demonstration project for the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) coalition, spanning from North Carolina to Florida.

For these reasons and more, too numerous to list here, I urge the Committee to approve the permit for this project. If I can provide any additional information, please contact me a creich@georgiaconservancy.org. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Courtney Reich
Georgia Conservancy

10 July 2025

Sent via email to: maitland.bass@dnr.ga.gov

Ms. Maitland Bass
Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520



RE: Seabrook Village Foundation, Inc. C/O Kyrstal B. Hart, Construction and Maintenance of a Living Shoreline and Fishing Pier, 7162 Island Hwy, Carrs Neck Creek, Midway, Liberty County, GA

Dear Ms. Bass;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Georgia Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee on the permit application submitted by Seabrook Village Foundation for a living shoreline and pier in Liberty County. These comments are submitted in support of the project on behalf of One Hundred Miles (OHM), a conservation organization dedicated to the protection of Georgia's 100-mile coast through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

We are pleased that the Seabrook Village Foundation has chosen to install a living shoreline and not a bulkhead to control their eroding riverbank and protect their nearby structure. OHM has expressed our support for living shorelines to this committee on several occasions. Our position is that living shorelines are an excellent shore stabilization method that helps control erosion for the landowner and offers ecological benefits for the public marshlands as well. Sloping the eroding bank to a 2:1 or a 3:1 slope will allow the river to ebb and flow naturally and will not increase erosion on the surrounding property. Also, the installation of minimal amounts of rip-rap to secure the Flexamat at the river toe will encourage oyster recruitment over time. Lastly, installing native flora will establish a root system of plants that are well adapted to our coastal environment, providing stability in the Carrs Neck Creek system.

It is more important than ever that landowners consider living shorelines as a reliable method of bank stabilization. As coastal Georgia continues to experience more storm activity and flooding, residents will benefit from evaluating these and other nature-based methods to address eroding banks. Living shorelines allow marsh migration, the natural ability of salt marshes "to migrate upland and persist into the future."¹ Marsh migration relies on marsh "transgression zones" or "undeveloped uplands" that provide space for the marsh to move upland as sea levels rise.² Living shorelines are the perfect way to protect development and allow the natural plant/habitat migration needed for our coast to become more resilient to Georgia's changing environment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support this project. Contact me at any time if you have any questions or need additional information (susan@onehundredmiles.org or 321-331-0912).

Sincerely,

Susan Inman

Susan Inman
Mid-Coast Advocate
One Hundred Miles

¹ Sara Martin et al., The Effects of Large-Scale Breakwaters on Shoreline Vegetation, ECOLOGICAL ENG'G, 2021, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925857421001749>.

² Orenco Duran Vincent et al., Coastal Dynamics and Adaptation to Uncertain Sea Level Rise: Optimal Portfolios for Salt Marsh Migration, J. ENV'T ECON. & MGMT., 2019, at 2, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0095069618304248>