



# BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF



*Breaking down the Board of Public Works*

## Meeting Date

January 31, 2024

## WETLANDS LICENSE

The BPW approved a recommendation from the Board's Wetlands Administrator to grant the Smithsonian Institution's Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Anne Arundel County a **State Tidal Wetlands license**. The SERC plans to **construct a living shoreline to prevent and reduce erosion** using low-profile stone containment structures, submerged reef balls, sand, plant marsh vegetation, and more. The project will result in the creation of 101,426 square feet of marsh.

## GLEN BURNIE MAINTENANCE FACILITY HVAC MODERNIZATION

The Board approved a request from the State Highway Administration to award J. F. Fischer, Inc. (Linthicum, MD) a contract to upgrade the HVAC system at the Glen Burnie Maintenance Facility. The 27 month contract was awarded at a cost of \$1.93 million.

The HVAC systems were designed for compliance with the International Energy Conservation Code, and Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Upgrades will reduce the electrical consumption of the facility and reliance on fossil fuels, and the fuel-fired heat system is being replaced with variable refrigerant flow equipment.

## Summary Figures

The BPW approved 78 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$663 million including:

- 6 items awarding \$20 million to prime certified small businesses.
- 2 items awarding \$19 million to prime Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs).
- 8 items awarded with established participation goals for MBEs.
- 2 items awarded with established participation goals for Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprises.

## EXPEDITED PROCUREMENT

The BPW approved a request from the Department of Budget & Management (DBM) to use the **expedited procurement method** to acquire Medicare Prescription Drug Exchange and Health Reimbursement services for Medicare-eligible state retirees and their dependents. This is the first occurrence of an expedited procurement since the Comptroller started serving on the BPW.

A contractor (to be determined) will **support Medicare-eligible participants in the state's Pharmacy Benefit Plan as they transition to the federal Medicare Part D** program at the close of 2024 (as per a 2011 state law). The contractor is required to begin administering an exchange for the 2025 Plan Year.

Given the impending deadline, DBM determined that, in this case, the importance of ensuring continuity of care and access to prescription drugs for retirees justified the need for this special procurement method.