

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 8, 2024  
**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Brian P. Fuller, Deputy County Administrator   
**SUBJECT:** Piers

The piers at Yorktown were designed and built by S. F. Marina of Goteborg, Sweden and were installed by Coastal Design & Construction in 2005. Since then, the County has scheduled yearly inspections of the piers. These inspections include having divers inspect the 62 anchor chains near the surface, the bridles, shackles and other hardware. The inspections have been conducted by Coastal Design & Construction, the same firm that installed the piers and the only company in the United States that builds and services this type of floating pier. Coastal Design and Construction is also the only U.S. representative for S.F. Marina. The latest inspection took place on June 28, 2023.

During this inspection, it was determined that while the chains, near the surface were in good condition, the bridles (the connection points between the chains and the pier) were showing significant wear. The constant movement of the piers has caused the thickness of the bridles to thin substantially. Due to the critical nature of these connection points, Coastal Design and Construction has recommended that the County proceed with repairs. These repairs would also include diving the full length of the chains for inspection to a depth of 90 feet.

While the County was considering the best course of action and timing for these repairs; Coastal Design and Construction staff discovered that a similar pier in a neighboring state had experienced a failure where the bridles broke, leaving the chains to drop to the bottom of the river and the piers unsecured. Given that this occurred in a river with significantly less current and tidal action than ours, it highlighted the urgent need to address the issue with our piers immediately.

As a result, staff has obtained an estimate for the repairs in the amount of \$804,090.30. We hope to begin repairs by the end of July depending on material availability.

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