



Living Shoreline Waiver Request
Maryland Department of the Environment
Water Management Administration



INSTRUCTIONS

Shore erosion control projects must consist of nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures that preserve the natural environment (i.e. Living Shorelines or marsh creation) unless:

- A waiver is obtained from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); or
- The project shoreline has been mapped by MDE as an area appropriate for structural shoreline stabilization measures (i.e., revetment, groin, bulkhead, etc.) These maps are available on [MDE's website](#).

In addition to the areas already mapped by MDE, certain sites will not be suitable for nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures due to site-specific characteristics. For example, at sites with excessive erosion, severe high energy conditions, extreme water depths, or a narrow waterway, a living shoreline may not be feasible and a property owner may be eligible for a waiver from the requirement to construct a nonstructural shoreline stabilization measure.

To determine if your site meets these criteria and is eligible for a waiver:

1. Complete this Waiver Request Form.
2. Mail photographs of the project site along with the completed Waiver Request Form to:
Maryland Department of the Environment
Tidal Wetlands Division
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230
Attn: ([Name of County Planner if Known](#))
3. Complete a [Pre-Application Meeting Request Form](#) and submit the form by email or by mail with the completed Waiver Request Form and project site photographs to the above address.
4. After receiving all of the required information, MDE will contact the property owner or primary contact, if one is designated, to arrange a site visit. After the site visit, MDE will notify the property owner or primary contact, if one is designated, whether the Living Shoreline Waiver Request was approved.

Please be advised that for ALL shore erosion control projects, a property owner must obtain a State tidal wetlands authorization and all other applicable Federal, State, or local authorizations before beginning construction. A completed Living Shoreline Waiver Request Form is not authorization of your proposed project or authorization to begin work.

To obtain a State tidal wetlands authorization to construct a shore erosion control project, a property owner must complete the following documents and submit them to MDE:

- a) A [Joint Federal/State Application for the Alteration of any Tidal Wetland in Maryland](#);
- b) A proposed [Critical Area Buffer Management Plan](#);
- c) A [Critical Area Buffer Notification Form](#); and
- d) If applicable, a [Living Shoreline Waiver](#) approved by MDE.

LIVING SHORELINE WAIVER WORKSHEET

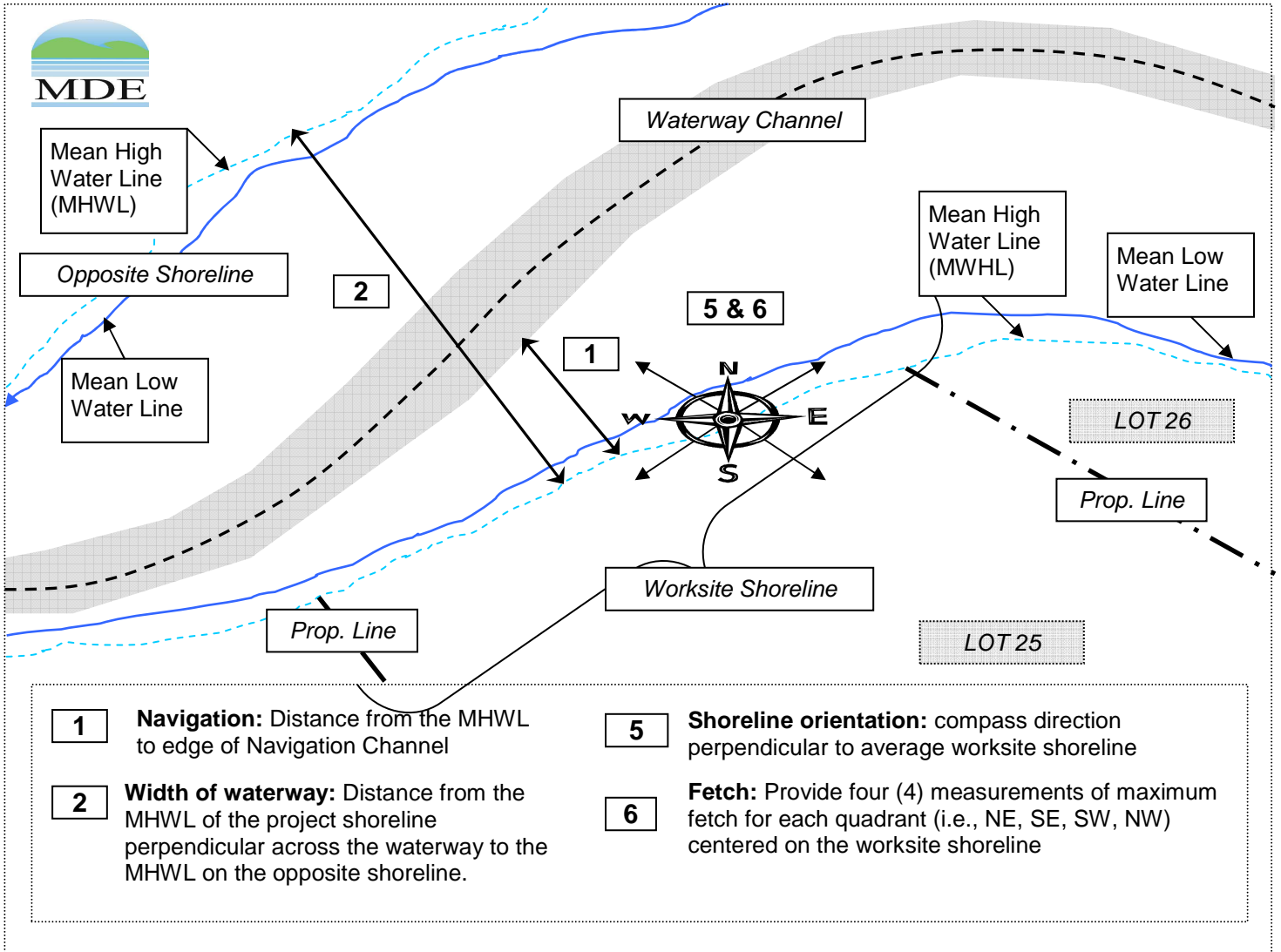
Project Site Address: _____				
City, State, Zip: _____				
1	Navigation	Distance from the Mean High Water Line to the center line of the closest mapped or unmapped channel		
2	Width of Waterway	Distance from the Mean High Water Line of the project Shoreline perpendicular across the waterway to the Mean High Water Line on the opposite shoreline.		
3	Depth at Toe of Bank	Depth of the water measured from the elevation of the Mean Low Water Line to the bottom at the shoreline bank.		
4	Depth of Waterway	Depth of the water relative to Mean Low Water at 20 feet and 40 feet channelward of the <b style="color: red;">Mean High Water Line	<u>At 20 ft</u>	<u>At 40 ft</u>
5	Fetch	Unobstructed distance over open water, within each compass quadrant from the project site (i.e., NE, SE, SW, NW)	<u>NW</u>	<u>NE</u>
			<u>SW</u>	<u>SE</u>
6	Shoreline Orientation	A. Compass direction perpendicular to the project shoreline. Direction can be given as N, S, etc. or as a compass heading (i.e., 45°, 225°, etc.)		
		B. Is bank grading or tree trimming required to provide at least six hours of daily sunlight?		
7	Bottom Material	A. Indicate the firmness of the bottom material in the project area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft
		B. Indicate the type of bottom material in the project area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Muck <input type="checkbox"/> Sand	<input type="checkbox"/> Silt <input type="checkbox"/> Clay
8	Sensitive Species	Will the project construction adversely impact fish, plant, underwater vegetation, marsh, shellfish, wildlife habitat, or the area within 100 feet landward of the project shoreline. -- If yes, provide explanation and attach to this form. -- If unknown, leave this section blank.		
9	Site Access	A. Can the project be constructed from the waterside of the project site?		
		B. Does site access require any grading or vegetation trimming?		
10	Mapped Shoreline	Is the project site mapped by MDE as an area appropriate for structural shoreline stabilization measures? If unknown, leave this section blank.		

I certify that the information on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

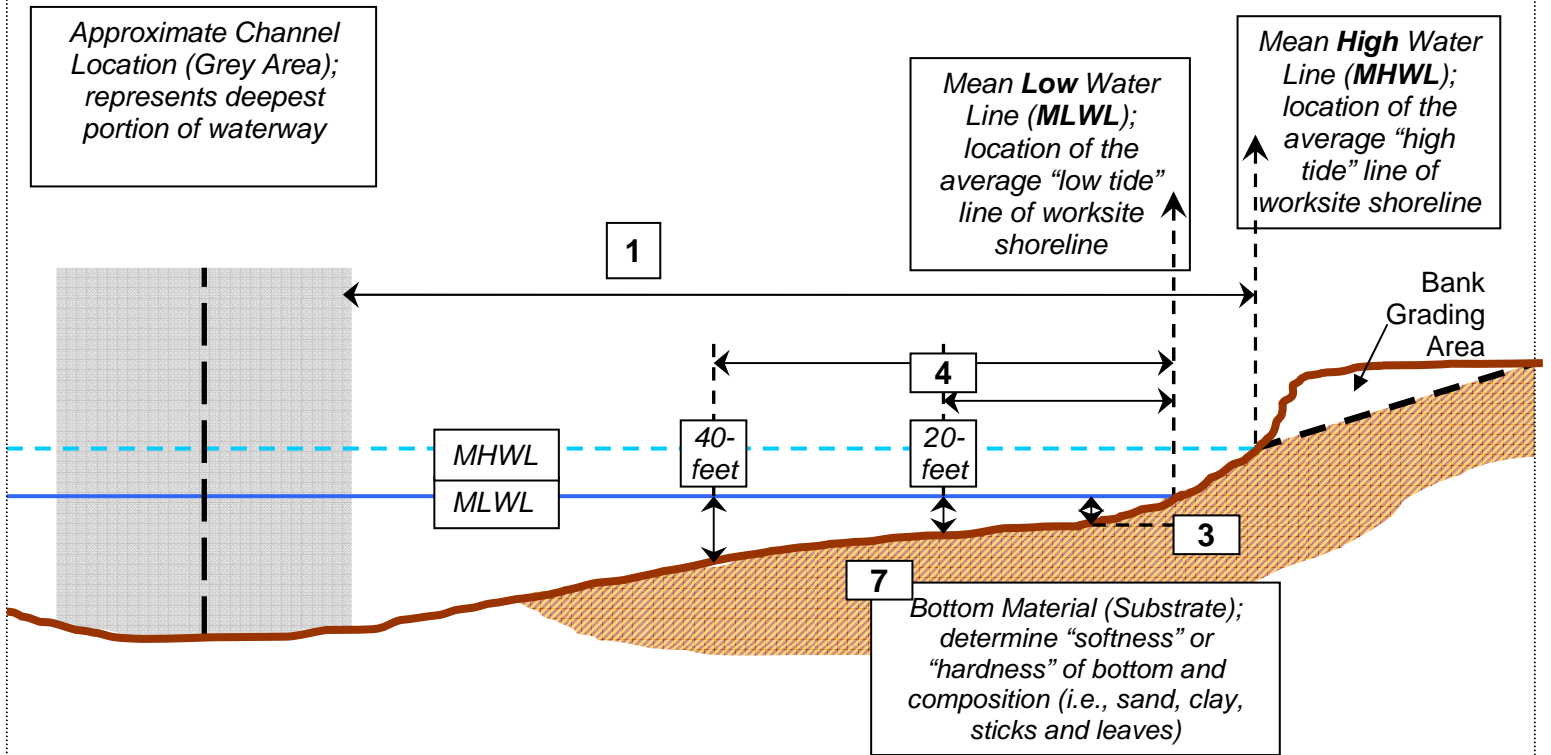
Property Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Property Owner Name (print): _____

MDE LIVING SHORELINE WAIVER REQUEST SAMPLE 1, PLAN VIEW



MDE LIVING SHORELINE WAIVER REQUEST SAMPLE 2 (CROSS SECTION)



MHWL Mean High Water Line
MLWL Mean Low Water Line; referenced to **0.0 ft.**

1 **Navigation:** Distance from the MHWL to edge of Navigation Channel

3 Depth of Water at toe or bottom of bank

4 Depth of water during low tide at approximately 20-feet channelward of the MLWL and at approximately 40-feet channelward of the MLWL

7 Bottom Material (Substrate); determine "softness" or "hardness" of bottom and composition (i.e., sand, clay, sticks and leaves)

