



# BROOKE'S BPW BRIEF

✓ *Breaking down the Board of Public Works*

**Meeting Date**  
February 15, 2023

## **Summary Figures**

- The agenda included 99 items totaling \$155,939,336.90
- The BPW approved over \$9m in awards to prime MBE contractors and over \$18m in awards to prime small business contractors

## **OYSTER RESTORATION**



At the recommendation of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the BPW approved a **\$9m** expenditure of general obligation bonds for the **Chesapeake Appreciation/Oyster Recovery Partnership**. This contract is part of a project to construct and restore oyster reefs in five Maryland water bodies: Harris Creek, Little Choptank, Tred Avon, St. Mary's, and Manokin.

**DNR's Oyster Restoration Program** seeks to enhance native oyster populations by restoring their habitat. This is one of the strategies for re-establishing a self-sustaining oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay and supports the stated goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement 2014 and Maryland's Oyster Restoration and Aquaculture Development Plan. **According to DNR, this is the largest oyster restoration project in the world.**

## **BLACKWELL HALL - SALISBURY UNIVERSITY**



The BPW approved a \$3.5m contract to Whiting Turner Contracting Co. (MD) to provide design and pre-construction services as part of a project to **renovate and transform a former library (Blackwell Hall) into a one-stop-shop Student Services Center.**

The project will comply with the **Maryland State High Performance Green Building Program**. It will include energy efficient mechanical equipment, water saving plumbing fixtures, and more.

The University estimates that the project will cost approximately \$43m in total and has an **MBE participation goal** of 20%. The University is on track to meet this goal, with 13.4% participation currently.

## **CAPITAL GRANTS & LOANS**



The BPW provided \$13,841 in grant funding to 20 organizations (501(c)(3)s and local governments) across 7 counties as part of the Capital Grants program, including:

- **4MyCiTy, Inc** (Baltimore City) - \$245,000 for a community composting facility
- **Frostburg Fire Dept. No.1, Inc** (Allegany County) - \$500,000 for a ladder truck
- **United Communities Against Poverty** (Prince George's County) - \$500,000 for site improvements to the Historic Fairmount Heights Elementary School

*The BPW is the state's highest administrative body and consists of the Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer. The BPW approves expenditure of funds for capital improvements; sales, leases, and transfers of property; controls procurement, vendors, and contracts for state projects, etc.*