

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

122 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8593
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2343

Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative Mark Born

Date: December 16, 2020

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on December 16, 2020.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Born** no later than **Friday, January 8, 2021**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

AD:MB:jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor
Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



DEC 16 2020

J. Finance

December 14, 2020

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 122 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 324 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Born:

Pursuant to s.23.0917 (6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance of the use of Stewardship program funds in excess of \$250,000. These funds will be provided through the Recreational Boating Facility (RBF) grant program, which has been funded with Stewardship program moneys since October 2007.

Iron County has requested grant funding totaling \$1,115,094 for the reconstruction of the Saxon Harbor facilities after the catastrophic 1500-year flood event of July 2016. The total grant award for this reconstruction project was previously \$663,001. All aspects of the Saxon Harbor facilities reconstruction project have now been completed and final costs have been submitted. The final costs for the project came in higher than originally estimated and has resulted in Iron County requesting an additional \$452,093 of RBF grant funds to help cover these additional costs.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

Todd Ambros
8793A7B449704CCE
Preston D. Cole
Secretary

C: Dave Siebert, Administrator, External Services Division
James Yach, Secretary Director, NOR
Roberta Winebar, Recreational Boating Grant Program Manager

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 14, 2020

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Preston Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF INCREASE TO RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITY GRANTS USING STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FUNDS GREATER THAN \$250,000

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you of a proposed Recreational Boating Facility (RBF) grant amendment in the amount of \$452,093 to Iron County, for the reconstruction of the Saxon Harbor boating facility. Since October 2007, RBF grants are funded with Stewardship program moneys. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Iron County

Project Name: Iron County Saxon Harbor Reconstruction

Grant sub-program: Recreational Boating Facilities (RBF)

Location: 10045 County Highway A, Town of Saxon, Iron County on the south shore of Lake Superior

Project Description: Reconstruction of the Saxon Harbor boating facilities after a severe storm completely destroyed the facilities. This request is for additional funds to cover the final total costs of the project. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission recommended approval of the increased grant amount of \$452,093 at their meeting on August 18, 2020.

Background: On March 16, 2017, the Joint Committee on Finance approved an RBF grant amount of \$326,453 based on initial cost estimates. On May 31, 2018, the Joint Committee on Finance approved an amendment, adding \$336,548 to the total RBF grant amount. This additional \$336,548 was due in large part to the delay and change in overall construction caused by a significant redesign and relocation for County Trunk Highway A and the bridge over Oronto Creek. These WisDOT transportation projects were associated with the Saxon Harbor reconstruction. The RBF grant funds were for replacing and repairing boat ramps, boarding docks, transient docking, parking areas, dredging, and bathroom facilities that were damaged or destroyed in the July 2016 storm.

The original grant award and the first cost amendment were based on the engineer's preliminary estimated costs. In 2020, Iron County completed the project and submitted an application for an additional \$452,093 of RBF grant funds to help cover the additional expenses reflected in the actual final total project costs. The extent of the destruction caused by the storm was much worse than the preliminary estimates took into account. Now that the project has been completed, the actual costs came in higher than projected. For example, the east boat launch repair was originally estimated at \$31,000. The actual final cost came in at \$127,000. The east wall fender repair was originally estimated at \$21,000. The actual final cost came in at \$64,000.

Project Goals: Iron County's Saxon Harbor boating facilities reconstruction project met the following goals:

- Restored Saxon Harbor to a safe and usable facility in a timely manner.
- Restored the harbor of safe refuge for boaters during inclement weather.

Public Uses: Saxon Harbor once again provides fishing, camping, swimming, boating, and is a destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

Ownership and Management: Iron County Forestry and Parks Department is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Saxon Harbor Facility.

Timetable: The reconstruction project was delayed for over a year due to WisDOT having to approve a new design and location for County Trunk Highway (CTH) A and the bridge over Oronto Creek. The harbor reconstruction project was completed in spring of 2020.

Partnerships:

- Iron County Forestry & Parks Dept.: Responsible for renovation, operation and maintenance.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Provided financial assistance.
- DOA Coastal Management Program: Provided financial assistance.
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Provided financial assistance.
- Department of Natural Resources: Provided financial assistance.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Provided engineering and construction assistance.
- Federal Highways Administration: Provided financial assistance.
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation: Provided highway project administration.

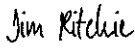
II. PROJECT FINANCES

The table below represents final contributions by each partner (pending approval by JFC of this request) for this reconstruction project.

Project Partners	Final Contribution Totals
Iron County	\$2,415,889.67
Insurance Payment	\$1,500,000.00
FEMA	\$6,038,000.00
WEM	\$1,006,000.00
DOA - Wisconsin Coastal Management Grants	\$36,500.00
USDA-NRCS - Land and Water Conservation Funding	\$42,000.00
DNR RBF Grants	\$1,115,094.00
Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)	\$183,832.69
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant enumeration*	\$1,000,000.00
Federal Highways Administration	\$1,454,685.00
Total Project Costs	\$14,792,001.36

*The 2017-2019 Biennial Budget included an enumeration of \$1 million from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Iron County.

I. RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:

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Jim Ritchie, Director
Bureau of Community Financial Assistance

12/15/2020 | 12:20 PM CST

Date

DocuSigned by:

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Dave Siebert, Administrator
External Services Division

12/15/2020 | 1:55 PM CST

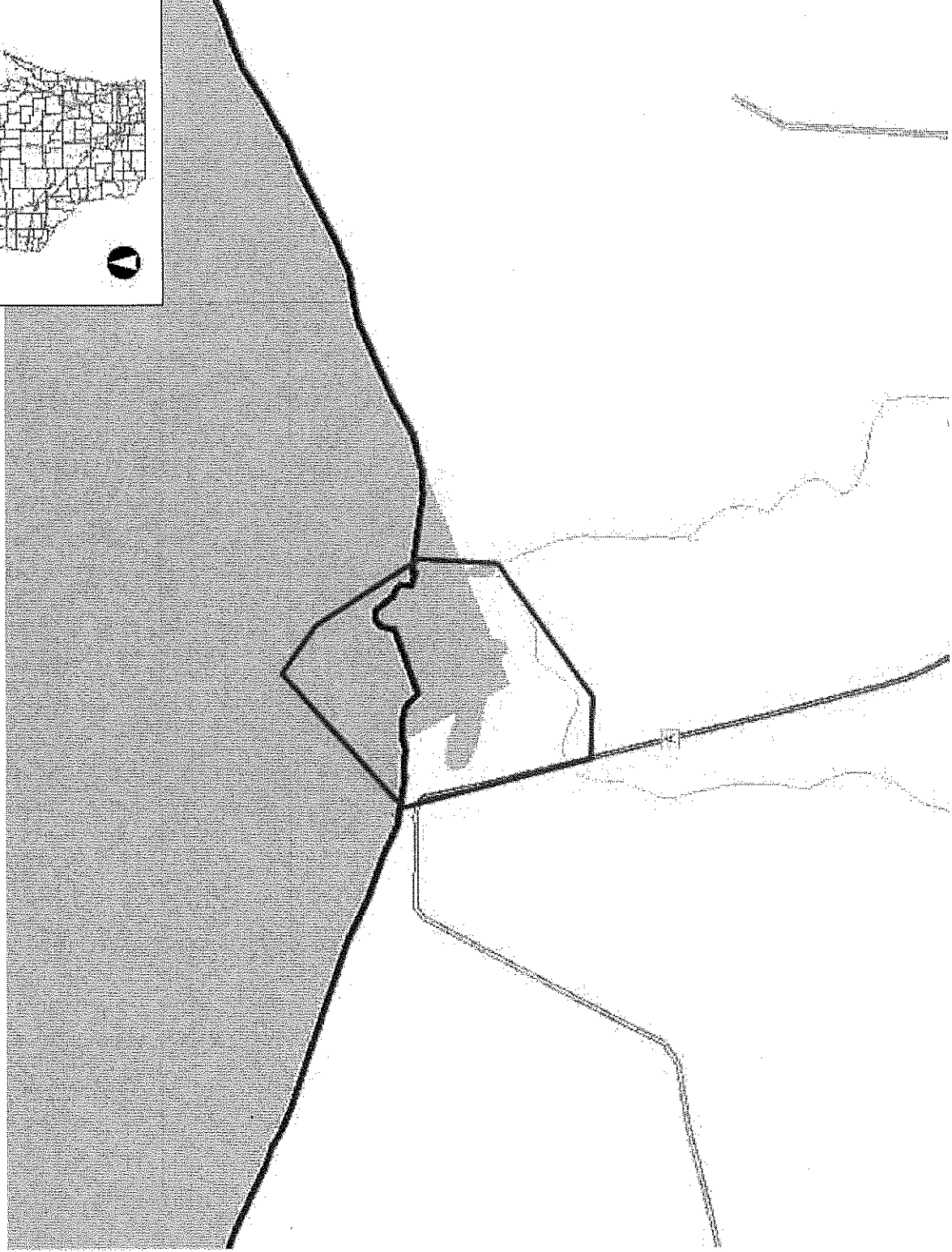
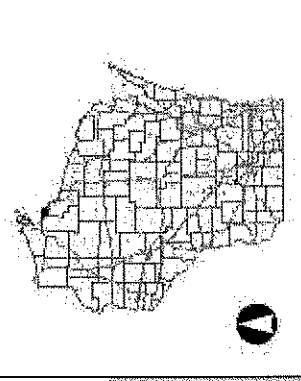
Date

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Project Location Map
- Appendix B – Project Site Before and After Storm Aerials and Photos
- Appendix C – Conceptual Plan for Entire Reconstruction
- Appendix D – Drone Photo of Completed Project Area



Appendix A: Saxon Harbor Project Area



- Legend**
- Municipality
 - State Boundaries
 - County Boundaries
 - Major Roads
 - Interstate Highway
 - State Highway
 - US Highway
 - County and Local Roads
 - County HWY
 - Local Road
 - Railroads
 - Tribal Lands
 - Rivers and Streams
 - Intermittent Streams
 - Lakes and Open water

Notes

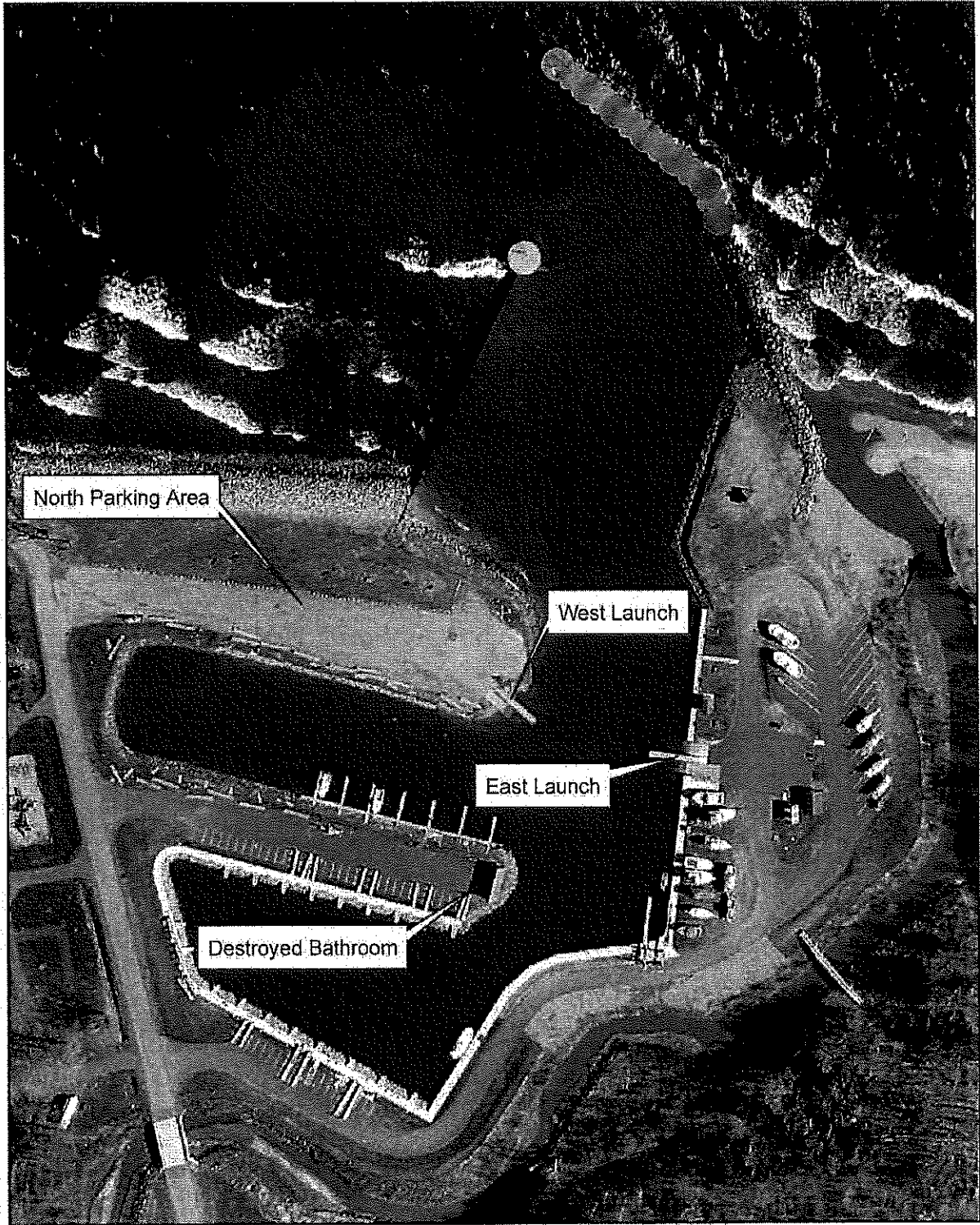
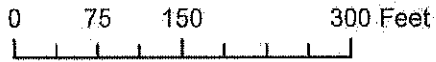
DISCLAIMER: The information shown on these maps has been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. These maps are not intended to be used for navigation, nor are these maps an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map. For more information, see the DNR Legal Notices web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/legal/>



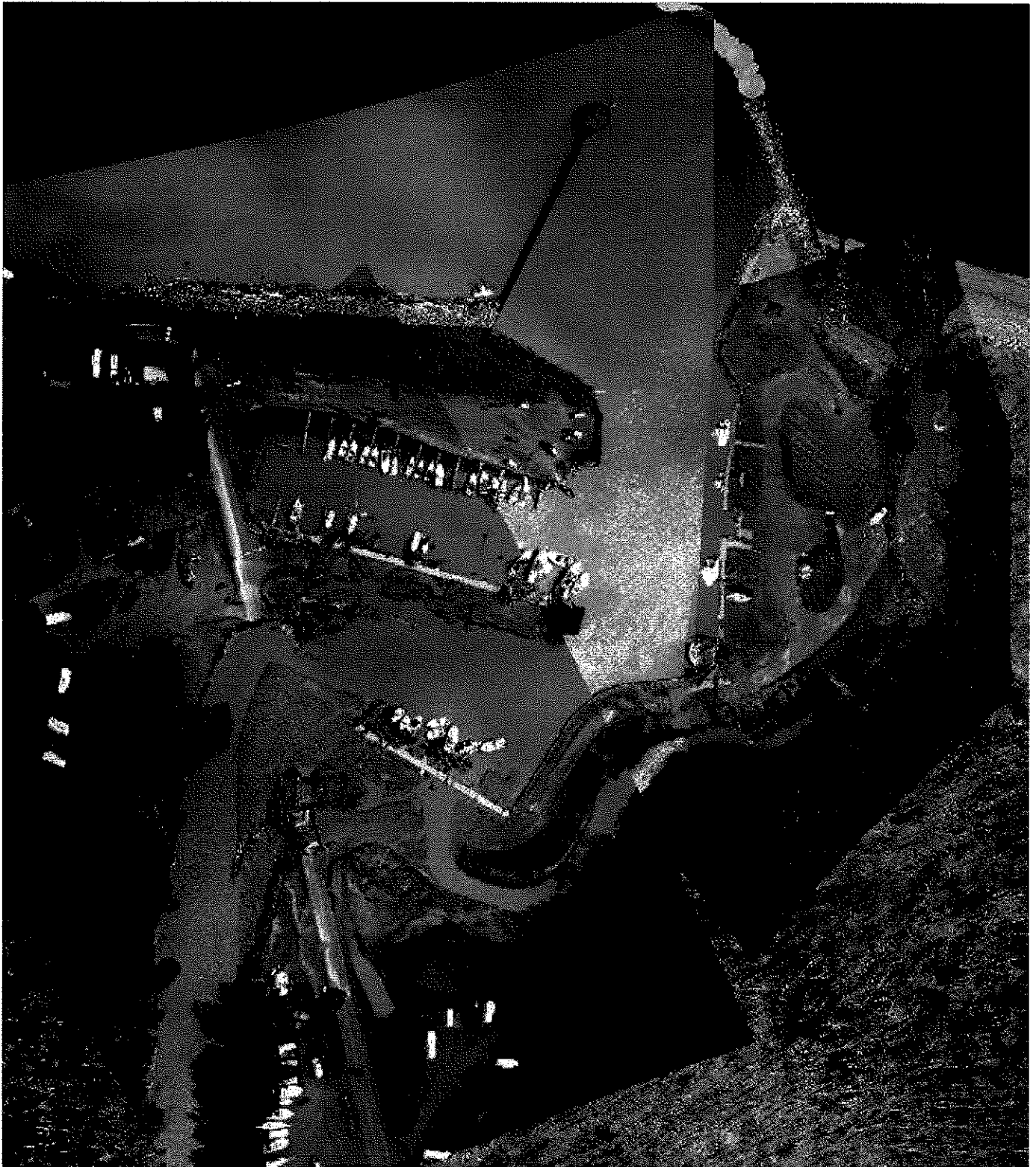
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Appendix B

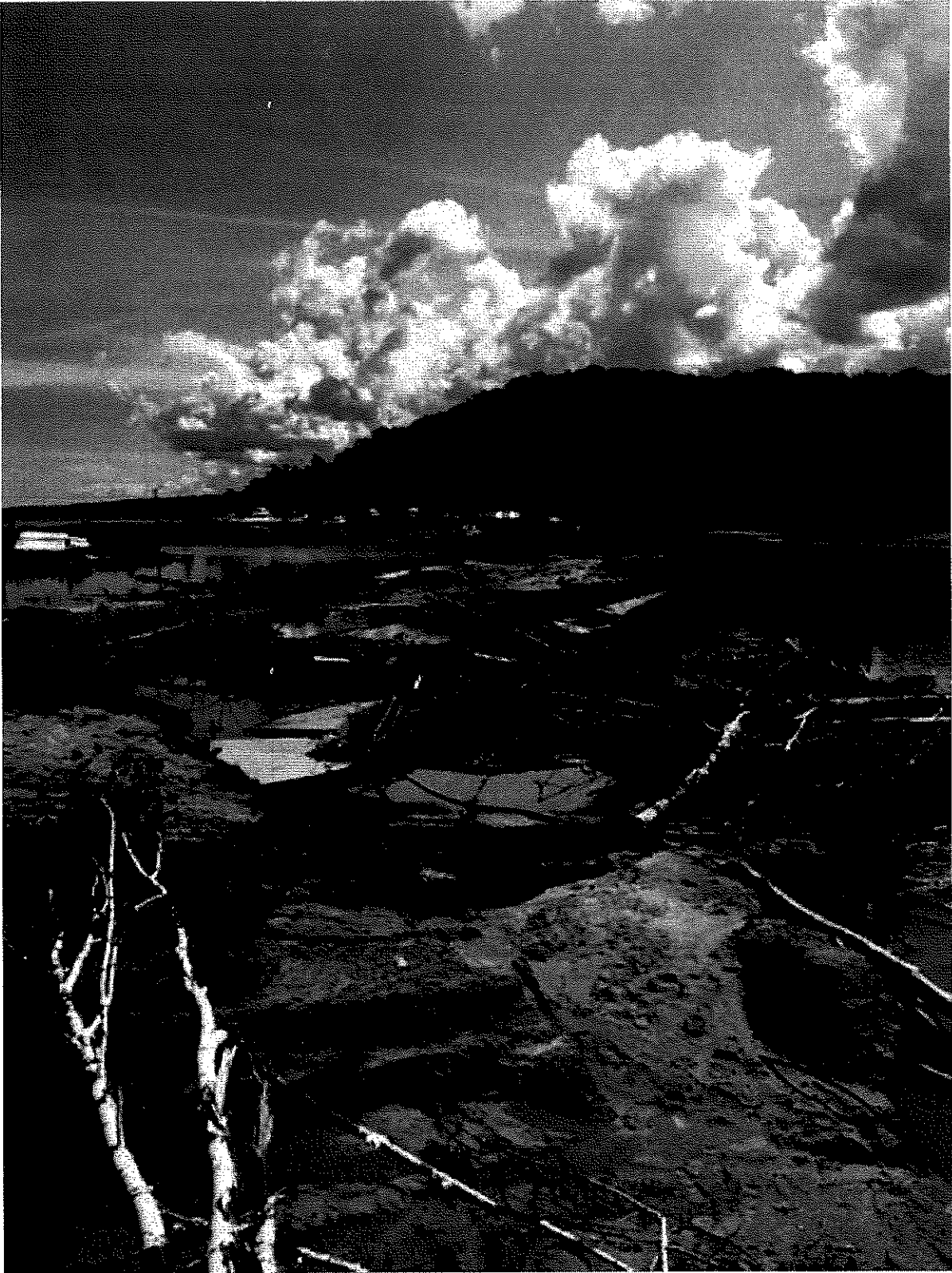
Saxon Harbor Facility (Pre-disaster) "Project Area"



After Storm - July 2016



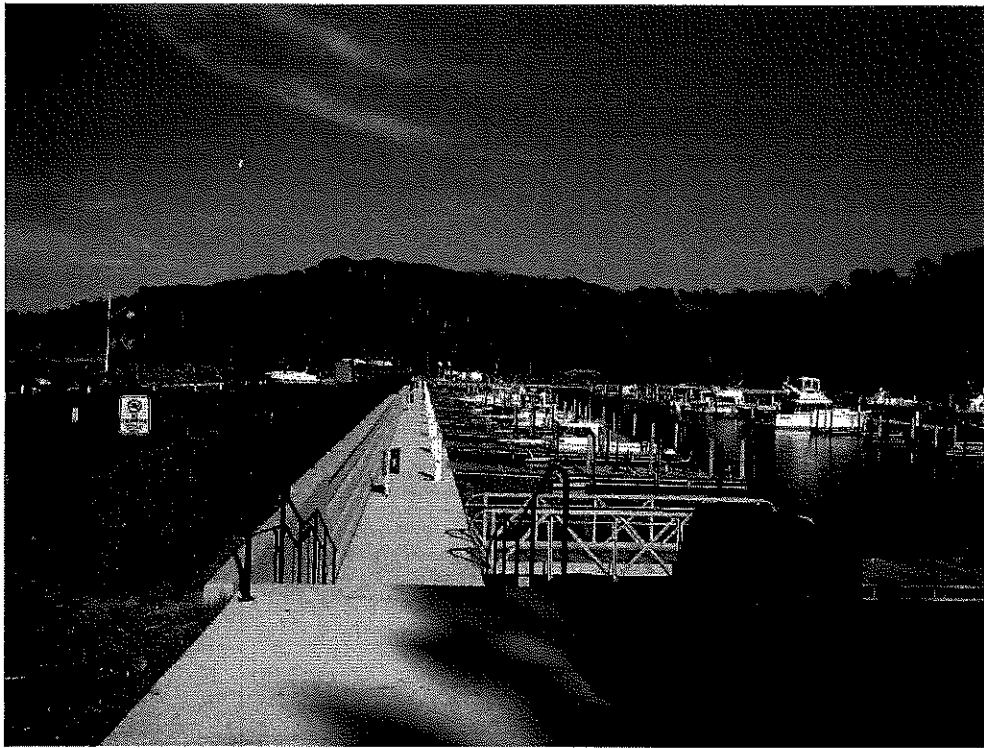
1,500 year flood destroys Saxon Harbor



August 2016 - View of marina area after storm



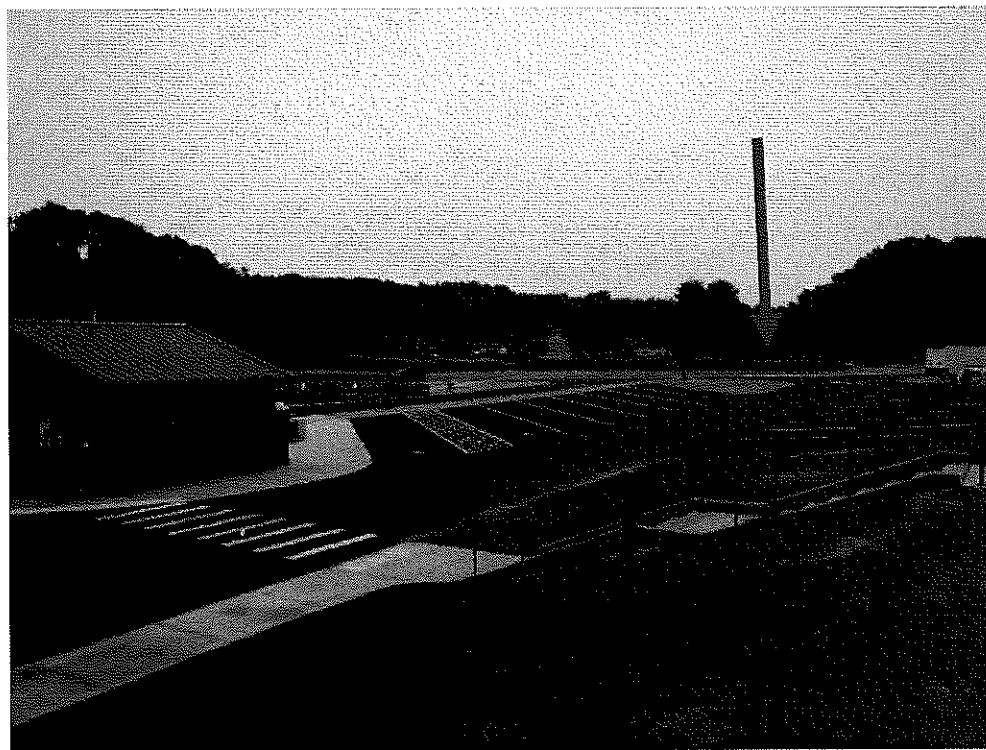
August 2016 - After storm, before rehabilitation



Fall 2020 – Project Completed



After storm where County Hwy A bridge was washed away.



New relocated bridge.

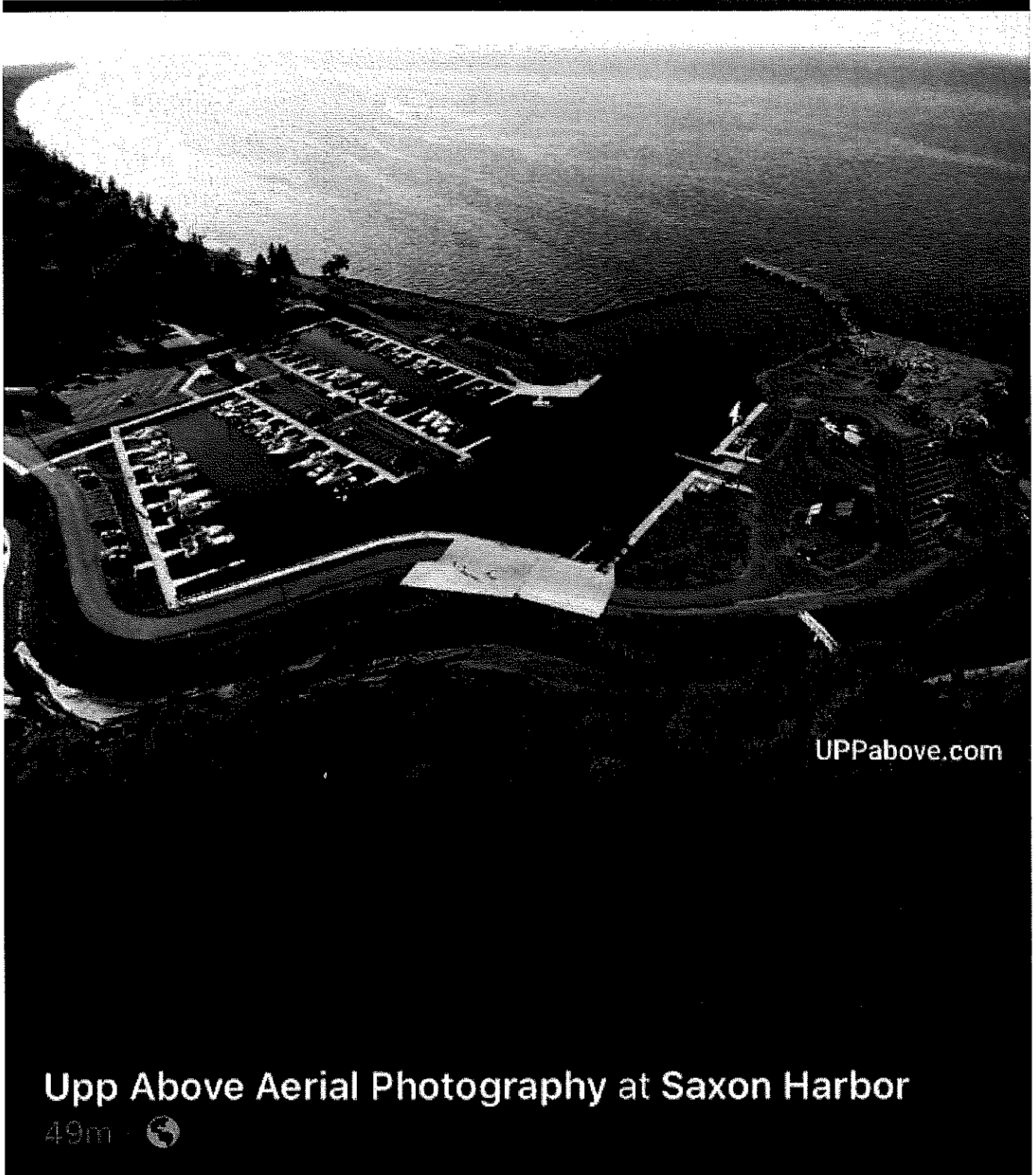
Appendix C

Conceptual Design Plan



Appendix D

Drone Photo of Completed Project - 2020



Upp Above Aerial Photography at Saxon Harbor

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