

RICHMOND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2018

The Richmond County Wetlands Board held a meeting on February 22, 2018 in the Public Meeting Room, Warsaw, Virginia.

Wetlands Board Members Present: David Gallagher, Michael Sisson, Greg Gruner and Nancy Finnegan (Absent – Bobby Yeatman)

Others attending the meeting were: Richard English (Environmental Compliance Agent), Randy Owen (VMRC), Jerry Mayers, April Mayers and Hope Mothershead.

Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., welcomed members and guests, and read the opening statement.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, the Board unanimously voted to elect David Gallagher as Chairman of the Wetlands Board.”

“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, the Board unanimously voted to elect Michael Sisson as Vice-Chairman of the Wetlands Board.”

MINUTES

“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, the Board unanimously approved the November 30, 2017 meeting minutes as written.”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Jerry and April Mayers, 11267 Mayers Run Drive, Ashland, VA 23005, has applied for permission to construct multiple timber groins along their Rappahannock River shoreline, located at 330 Rappa Point Road and further identified as Parcel 7 of Tax Map 14B. (VMRC#18-0145)

Mr. Mayers advised the Wetland Board that his dock had been repaired several times within the last 20 years. He wishes to replace the existing dock and two groins. Mr. Mayers advised that the new dock would be 80 feet long, matching the length of the neighbors dock.

Mr. Mayers mentioned that he was concerned with the construction of the boat lift placement on the dock. He would prefer to have an open lift due to balance issues. Mr. Mayers added that the zoning ordinance reads *“Three low profile boat or personal watercraft lifts may be allowed on a pier or dock provided structural elements of the lift devices do not extend more than 6 feet above the surface of the pier or dock.”*

Chairman Gallagher inquired about the language from the zoning ordinance and Mr. English noted that any alteration to the language would have to go before the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Richard English read the staff report as follows:

The applicant proposes to construct two (2) new 33' and 23' long timber groins along his high energy shoreline of the Rappahannock River. The shoreline currently consists of multiple timber groins, a downriver concrete boat ramp, pier and a concrete bulkhead. The upland area is in a grass lawn mowed to the back edge of the existing bulkhead. The adjacent up- and downriver properties consist of the same shoreline and upland characteristics.

The proposed groins within the application are intended to trap sand and raise the near shore area to an elevation that would move the ordinary day-to-day wave energy off shore. The groins proposed may ultimately build a beach providing for enhanced erosion protection; however, the quantity of sand available in the river's system is limited for this area.

The proposed encroachment of the project is the minimum necessary required to enhance protection of the shoreline and, in regard to length and spacing, is reasonably consistent with the guidelines provided by DRC, VIMS and VRMC. If the proposed groins are considered justified and permitted, it is recommended that the groin be low-profile and artificially nourished. The material used for artificial nourishment should be clean sand of a particle size and composition similar to that currently existing on the beach. The proposed groins are consistent with the existing groin field that is present along this stretch of shoreline. With a goal of consistency in the permitting process for project sites of similar nature in this vicinity; I recommend approval of the proposed project.

Staff Recommendations and/or Proposed Permit Conditions:

1. The current application drawings do not propose the groins to be "low-profile". It is requested that should approval be granted, it should be granted in a modified form, with adequate drawings to be submitted for further review and ultimate approval by staff to ensure that the proposed groins will be constructed as low-profile which is consistent with guidelines provided by VIMS and VMRC.

Type of Activity	Permanent Loss/Fill Area (SF)	Impact Area (SF)
Groins (33' and 23' long, 2 Units)		
Intertidal Vegetative Wetlands	0	0
Intertidal Non-vegetative Wetlands	0	15
Beach and/or Dune	0	0

Chairman Gallagher asked Mr. Mayers if he had any problems making the groins low profile. Mr. Mayers noted that the low profile groins were acceptable to him.

Michael Sisson asked Mr. Mayers if any spurs were proposed. Mr. Mayers inquired if spurs would help. Mr. Sisson noted that there is not a great amount of sand in the area and asked if beach sand nourishment would take place. Mr. Mayers added that there would not be any beach nourishment.

Mr. English continued to explain that if sand was being brought in for placement, a spur would hold it closer to the shoreline over time. Mr. English noted that a revised drawing would be accepted, including spurs, if desired. Mr. English confirmed with Mr. Randy Owen that a revised drawing could be submitted to show the location of the proposed spurs.

Chairman Gallagher opened the floor to the public.

Chairman Gallagher closed the public comment period.

“On a motion made by Michael Sisson, seconded by Nancy Finnegan, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #18-0145 (including modified drawings to ensure low profile design for the groins and including any additional spurs that the applicant would request) with an expiration date of February 27, 2020.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Richard English advised the Wetlands Board that Lee Sanders had approached a candidate, Wayne Morris, that is willing to fill the remaining term of Bobby Yeatman.

Randy Owen announced to the Wetlands Board that this would be one of his last meetings with the Board as he had received a promotion within VMRC. The members of the Wetlands Board offered best wishes to Mr. Owen.

Nancy Finnegan inquired about VMRC project #12-1362 and asked if any additional notices to adjoining property owners needed to be filed after property ownership changes. Randy Owen noted that as long as the permit does not expire, it is valid without any additional notices to adjoining property owners. It was noted that the expiration date for VMRC project #12-1362 is January 28, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted as observed,
Hope Mothershead
Acting as Secretary