

## **RICHMOND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

September 28, 2017

The Richmond County Wetlands Board held a meeting on September 28, 2017 in the Public Meeting Room, Warsaw, Virginia.

Wetlands Board Members Present: David Gallagher, Michael Sisson, Bobby Yeatman and Greg Gruner.

Absent: Nancy Finnegan

Others attending the meeting were: Richard English (Environmental Compliance Agent), Randy Owen (VMRC), James & Elizabeth Roberts, Vanelia Gallagher and Hope Mothershead.

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

### **MINUTES**

***“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, seconded by Bobby Yeatman, the Board unanimously approved the March 23, 2017 meeting minutes as written.”***

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- Charles M. Metzgar, 5964 Old Greenway Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23059, has applied for permission to construct a rip-rap revetment along the Rappahannock River shoreline, located at 139 & 123 Front Street and further identified as Parcels 48 & 49 of Tax Map 42. (VMRC#17-1462)

Mr. Roberts approached the members and noted that he and Mr. Metzgar decided to go together for a joint application to construct a total of 190 linear feet of rip-rap revetment (120' Metzgar and 70' Roberts) along properties located at 139 and 123 Front Street, and further identified as Parcels 48 and 49 of Tax Map 42 respectively. Mr. Roberts noted that he is in hopes that the rip-rap will help with the current erosion problem. Chairman Gallagher and Mr. Yeatman visited the site and noted that the rip-rap revetment would be the best solution for the area.

Mr. English read the staff report as follows:

*The applicant proposes to construct 190 linear feet of rip-rap revetment along their high energy, sandy shoreline of the Rappahannock River. The shoreline currently consists of a timber bulkhead (112' long), a rip-rap revetment (20' long), a 25' wide by 60' long sandy beach and a sparsely vegetated intertidal area at the project's most downriver limits. The upland is primarily a grass lawn maintained to the top of a 4' high timber bulkhead as well as a grass lawn maintained to the top edge of an 8'- 10' tall eroding shrubby bank. The down-river neighboring*

*shoreline consists of a rip-rap revetment and multiple timber groins. The up-river neighboring shoreline consists of a rip-rap sill and private pier.*

*The rip-rap revetment is proposed landward of all wetlands and would sever the connection between the upland and shoreline areas by changing the natural shoreline to rock. However, staff supports grading the bank back to a more stable slope and believes the proposed rip-rap revetment is justified for providing enhanced erosion protection of this shoreline. The proposed activity is consistent with construction guidelines provided by VIMS and VRMC. The proposed encroachment of the project is the minimum necessary required to enhance protection of the shoreline as presented and is consistent with previously permitted activities in the project's vicinity.*

*The proposed bank grading would achieve the removal of dead, diseased, dying and noxious vegetation along this stretch of shoreline. This will result in a reduction of shading along this sandy shoreline and promote the natural growth of wetlands vegetation. Furthermore, the application proposes planting native woody trees and shrubs within this riparian buffer area to mitigate impacts from the proposed activities.*

Mr. Sisson noted that the rip rap should be landward enough not to affect the wetland vegetation.

Mr. English advised that adding the rip-rap against the boardwalk would help absorb the force of the waves. Mr. Sisson added that the boardwalk currently looks like it is in good shape.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Roberts requested a permit that would be good for a period of two years.

Chairman Gallagher opened the floor to the public.

Chairman Gallagher closed the public comment period.

***“On a motion made by Michael Sisson, seconded by Greg Gruner, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #17-1462 with an expiration date of September 28, 2019.”***

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted as observed,  
Hope Mothershead  
Acting as Secretary