

RICHMOND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2019

The Richmond County Wetlands Board held a meeting on February 28, 2019 in the Public Meeting Room, Warsaw, Virginia.

Wetlands Board Members Present: David Gallagher, Michael Sisson, Greg Gruner, Nancy Finnegan and Wayne Morris

Others attending the meeting were: Richard English (Environmental Compliance Agent), Jay Woodward (VMRC), Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kukoski and Hope Mothershead.

Chairman Sisson 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 David Gallagher, the Board unanimously approved the January 24, 2019 meeting minutes as written.”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chairman Sisson read the public hearing notice as follows:

- Barbara E. Walker, 374 Bamboo Lane, Sharps, VA has applied for permission to construct a riprap revetment and multiple timber groins along her Rappahannock River shoreline, located at 374 Bamboo Lane, and further identified as Parcel A of Tax Map 42B(1). (VMRC#19-0077)

Chairman Sisson opened the floor to the public.

Mr. Kukoski addressed the Board members and advised that he was an adjacent land owner and was pleased that Mrs. Walker was taking steps towards restoring her shoreline.

Chairman Sisson closed the public comment period.

Richard English read the staff report as follows:

The applicant proposes to construct 200 linear feet of rip-rap revetment as well as seven low-profile timber groins (24 linear feet each) along her high energy shoreline of the Rappahannock River. The shoreline currently consists of a private pier, timber bulkhead and a 3-5' wide non-vegetated intertidal area. The upland is a grass lawn maintained to the top of a 5' high timber bulkhead. The down-river shoreline consists of a rip-rap revetment leading to tidal marsh embayment with a sandy intertidal area. The up-river neighboring shoreline consists of a timber bulkhead.

The rip-rap revetment is proposed channel ward of the existing bulkhead and would continue to sever the connection between the upland and shoreline areas by changing the natural shoreline to rock. However, staff 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 and is consistent with previously permitted activities.

Chairman Sisson noted that the Virginia Institute of Marine Science has not provided, and are no longer providing, their expert environmental review of proposed projects and that the Board will be acting to the best of their ability to protect the marine environment within their jurisdiction.

Mr. English advised the Board that the contractor of the project requested a three year permit period.

“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, seconded by David Gallagher, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #19-0077, as presented, with an expiration date of February 28, 2022.”

Chairman Sisson read the public hearing notice as follows:

- William L. Taliaferro Jr., 1043 Gates Avenue, Norfolk, VA has applied for permission to construct multiple timber groins along his Rappahannock River shoreline, located at 5965 Sharps Road, and further identified as Parcel 62 of Tax Map 42. (VMRC#19-0115)

Chairman Sisson opened the floor to the public.

With no comment from the public, Chairman Sisson closed the public comment period.

Richard English read the staff report as follows:

The applicant proposes to construct seven low-profile timber groins (48 linear feet each) along his high energy sandy shoreline of the Rappahannock River. The shoreline currently consists of a private pier, rip-rap revetment and an approximately 18’ wide non-vegetated intertidal area. The upland is a grass field maintained to the top of a 12-15’ bank. The down-river shoreline consists of a timber bulkhead. The up-river neighboring shoreline remains undefended.

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. The proposed encroachment of the project is the minimum necessary required to enhance protection of the shoreline as presented with the design, in regard to length and spacing, being reasonably consistent with the guidelines provided by VIMS and VRMC.

Chairman Sisson noted that the Virginia Institute of Marine Science has not provided, and are no longer providing, their expert environmental review of proposed projects and that the Board will be acting to the best of their ability to protect the marine environment with their jurisdiction.

Mr. English noted that the rip rap revetment on the subject property was done several years ago and was pulled outside of the Wetlands Board jurisdiction.

“On a motion made by David Gallagher, seconded by Greg Gruner, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #19-0115, as presented, with an expiration date of February 28, 2021.”

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted as observed,
Hope Mothershead
Acting as Secretary