

RICHMOND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2019

The Richmond County Wetlands Board held a meeting on June 27, 2019 in the Public Meeting Room, Warsaw, Virginia.

Wetlands Board Members Present: David Gallagher, Greg Gruner, Wayne Morris, Tom Kiple, and Chris Bronner.

Others attending the meeting were: Richard English (Environmental Compliance Agent), Liz Hylan (Admin. Assistant), Jay Woodward (VMRC), Chris Self (K & B Marine Construction), Robert Lewis, and approximately 3 others.

Vice Chairman Gruner 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 February 28, 2019 meeting minutes as written.”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Vice Chairman Gruner read the public hearing notice as follows:

- Charlene Preston, 5900 Lake View Drive, Orange, VA 22960 has applied for permission to construct a riprap revetment along her Lancaster Creek Shoreline, located at 2803 Simonson Road, and further identified as Parcel A of tax Map 43(9). (VMRC#19-0750)

Mr. Lewis representing Ms. Preston proposed to the Board to construct 210 linear feet of rip-rap revetment along her Lancaster Creek shoreline.

Vice Chairman Gruner opened the floor to the public.

Vice Chairman Gruner closed the public comment period.

Richard English read the staff report as follows:

The applicant proposes to construct 210 linear feet of rip-rap revetment along her Lancaster Creek shoreline. The applicant’s upland consists of a house positioned 110 feet from the shoreline with a grass lawn mowed to the edge of scrubby bank 3-4 feet in height. The shoreline currently consists of a slightly eroding under-cut bank, a narrow area of non-vegetated intertidal zone and a vegetated fringe marsh 10-15 feet in width. The down-creek neighboring properties consist of similar upland characteristics with a rip-rap revetment and fringe marsh along the shoreline. The up-creek neighboring property has not deployed any erosion control structures and consists of a stable fringe marsh.

The rip-rap revetment is proposed landward of the vegetated wetlands and would sever the connection between the upland, shoreline and deeper water areas and change natural shoreline to rock. The result would be a loss in ability to filter upland runoff and a change in animals that can live along the shoreline. From an integrated marine environmental viewpoint it is recommended to construct a near- shore sill to provide protection of the existing marsh toe rather than the proposed rip-rap revetment. A near-shore sill would also improve the shoreline's ability to improve water quality and provide habitat.

Mr. English noted the proposed encroachment of the project is however the minimum necessary required to provide protection of the shoreline as presented.

Mr. English mentioned near shore sill is rock firm placed channel ward or near mean low water channel ward of the wetlands vegetation.

Vice Chairman Gruner asked Mr. Lewis thoughts on near shore sill. Mr. Lewis noted sills are great in certain places, but the sill would have to be high in order to protect the bank. Mr. Lewis also noted during storms the sills would not do any good with the tides rising so high.

“On a motion made by David Gallagher, seconded by Tom Kiple, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #19-0750, as presented, with an expiration date of June 27, 2021.”

Vice Chairman Gruner read the public hearing notice as follows:

- Paul and Rebecca Blackhurst, 11626 Chickahominy Branch Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23059 has applied for permission to construct a private boat ramp along their Rappahannock River shoreline, located at 343 River Front Road, and further identified as Parcel 41 of Tax Map 43. (VMRC #19-0993.)

Chris Self with K & B Marine Construction, representing Paul and Rebecca Blackhurst proposes to remove the existing dilapidated 12'x36' timber boat ramp and construct a concrete boat ramp in the same footprint.

Mr. Self mentioned the concrete ramp will be poured in place with groin sides and reinforced on the insides with tie backs, stone backfill, heavy duty filter cloth, and a two (2) foot minimum tow.

Mr. Self noted a vinyl cofferdam will be placed around the area while construction is going on.

Mr. Self mentioned there is no submerged vegetation on the shoreline it is just sand and beach.

Mr. Self noted this ramp is for private use but is shared occasionally with the neighbor.

Vice Chairman Gruner opened the floor to the public.

With no comment from the public, Vice Chairman Gruner closed the public comment period.

Richard English read the staff report as follows:

The applicant proposes to remove an existing dilapidated 12'x36' timber boat ramp and to construct a new concrete boat ramp in the same footprint along their Rappahannock River shoreline. The applicant's upland consists of a grass lawn mowed to the edge of timber bulkhead 3-4 feet in height. The shoreline currently consists of a timber bulkhead, a downstream rip-rap revetment, a private pier, multiple timber groins and a sandy beach 5-15 feet in width. The up-river neighboring property consists of the same shoreline characteristics. The down-river neighboring property consists of pocket-marsh and sandy beach area.

Staff has determined that the ramp's direct adverse impact on the marine environment would cause a displacement of 132 square feet of sandy beach. However, staff believes it would not be unreasonably detrimental to the ecological system should be facility be justified by the Board. Other indirect adverse environmental impacts may be expected of the ramp which in Staff's opinion could be considered minimal. The applicant's proposal is reasonably consistent with previously permitted boat facilities and I would recommend approval of the proposed project.

“On a motion made by David Gallagher, seconded by Wayne Morris, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #19-0993, as presented, with an expiration date of June 27, 2020.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. English thanked the alternates for filling in and welcomed Chris Bronner to the Board.

Mr. English noted there is a Wetlands Board meeting scheduled for July 25th, 2019 with one project on the agenda at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted as observed,
Liz Hylan
Acting as Secretary