

RICHMOND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 21st, 2019

The Richmond County Wetlands Board held a meeting on November 21st, 2019 in the Public Meeting Room, Warsaw, Virginia.

Wetlands Board Members Present: Wayne Morris, Michael Sisson, Nancy Finnegan, Greg Gruner, and Tom Kiple

Others attending the meeting were: Richard English (Environmental Compliance Agent), Liz Hylan (Admin. Assistant), Jay Woodward (VMRC), Bud Allen (Agent), and approximately 2 others.

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 Greg Gruner seconded by Nancy Finnegan, the Board unanimously approved the September 26th, 2019 meeting minutes as written.”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- David A. Harned et al, 1705 Windingridge Drive, Richmond, VA 23238-4134 has applied for permission to construct multiple timber groins along their Rappahannock River shoreline, located at Bamboo Lane, and further identified as Parcels 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, & 8 of Tax Map 42B(1). (VMRC #19-1685)

Mr. Harned presented the Board a joint application to construct multiple timber groins along their Rappahannock Shoreline.

Mr. Harned mentioned he is representing himself along with his seven other adjoining property owners.

Chairman Sisson opened the floor to the public. After no public comments, Chairman Sisson closed the public comment period.

Mr. English read the staff report as follows:

The applicant proposes to construct multiple (13) low-profile timber groins (40 linear feet each) along their high energy sandy shoreline of the Rappahannock River. The shoreline currently consists of private piers, timber bulkhead and an approximately 4' wide non-vegetated intertidal area. The upland is a grass lawn maintained to the top of the bulkhead. The down-river shoreline consists of the same shoreline characteristics. The up-river neighboring shoreline consist of a rip-rap revetment.

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 VMRC.

Mr. English mentioned there are no Staff Recommendations.

Mr. English noted how easy Mr. Allen was to work with during the permit process and on the drawings. Mr. English mentioned he discussed some tide ranges and setting some elevation marks for those timer groins and Mr. Allen adjusted those elevations as requested.

Mr. English mentioned this project was a joint effort between the property owners.

Mr. Sisson asked if there is a consistent sand drift along the stretch. Mr. English noted it's hard to tell how much sand is in the system, a lot of the shoreline has been hardened off. Mr. English mentioned it isn't certain that the groins will form as expected.

Mr. English noted the applicant can come back and apply for an additional permit with VMRC to put sand on the beach.

Mr. Woodward mentioned sand of a certain consistency, beach quality sand, to put that on the intertidal zone beach area in Richmond County and other Counties that have adopted the beaches and dunes ordinance which is separate than the wetlands are exempt. Mr. Woodward noted to put sand on subtidal river bottom does require a permit from VMRC.

Mr. English noted some of the bulkhead along the shoreline was recently replaced by Ryan Edwards.

Mr. Allen commented how nice it is for the property owners to combine there project and make it a whole.

“On a motion made by Greg Gruner, seconded by Nancy Finnegan, the Board voted unanimously to approve VMRC application #19-1685 as presented, with an expiration date of November 21st, 2021.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. English mentioned there are no upcoming projects in the works at this time, so there will not be any scheduled meetings until after the Holidays.

Mr. English noted there has been a living shoreline project in the Simonson area proposed that is in compliance with the general permit criteria. Mr. English mentioned this is a relatively new permit process that is an incentive to the property owner to speed up the permit process to design a living shoreline that can be approved without having a public hearing process.

Mr. Woodward mentioned VMRC in conjunction with others developed the living shoreline group I and group II general permits. Mr. Woodward noted if all the boxes meet the criteria, there is no public hearing through the Wetlands and the permit is issued through VMRC.

Mr. Sisson noted there are incentives to this new permit process such as the funding and no public hearing.

Mr. Allen mentioned there needs to be a way to educate people and make them aware of the different permit options.

Mr. English noted he would get together with Mr. Sisson with some ideas and discussion on how to make the public aware of the different permit options.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted as observed
Liz Hylan
Acting as Secretary