



# STAFFORD COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm  
Board Chambers of the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Anthony Pineau, Mary Rust, Ben Rudasill, Dan Adams, Sue Henderson

Members Absent: Jim Riutta, Frank Rubio

Staff Present: Trent Funkhouser, Rishi Baral, Joe Fiorello, Sylvia Dyson, Cindy Bush

C. Determination of a Quorum

A quorum was established with 5 of the 7 members present.

D. Public Presentations

There were no presentations by members of the public.

E. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rudasill made a motion to approve the January 14, 2019 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Henderson. The motion passed 5-0.

F. Public Hearings

1. Wetlands Permit VMRC# 18-1601, Denise and David Wilder

Staff stated that the applicant was requesting remove a 425 linear foot timber bulkhead and replace it with rip rap revetment in order to protect the shoreline from erosion. Staff explained that the existing bulkhead had been damaged by waves and storms in recent years, however, staff did not feel that trying to repair the bulkhead was a good solution, which is why the applicant had agreed to remove the bulkhead and replace it with rip rap upslope.

Mr. Palubinski from Bayshore Design, the applicant's representative, added that the revetment would be class II armor stone. He explained that the existing bulkhead was about 4 to 5 feet in height and that the applicant was proposing to remove it in its entirety and install armor stone revetment (about 1.5-2 tons per foot) and work landward, tying into an existing revetment on the

eastside, the Canterbury Estates Home Owners Association's property and extending westward up the Potomac river, tying into the revetment on the adjacent property. Mr. Palubinski added that the debris from the removed bulkhead would be disposed offsite at the landfill. He further pointed out that there were some impacts to non-vegetative wetlands as a result of tying into the existing revetment on the west end, which stuck out beyond the alignment of the existing bulkhead.

Mr. Palubinski stated that the site would be accessed through the property driveway and no additional grading would be required outside of the footprint of the construction work. He added that all trees would be left in place.

Ms. Rust inquired what type of vegetation the current buffer existed off. Mr. Palubinski replied that it was lawn grass. Mr. Wilder added that on either side were virgin woods. Mr. Rudasill asked how far upriver the revetment would reach. Mr. Palubinski stated that it was about 6 feet.

Ms. Henderson inquired whether the bulkheads on the adjoining properties were damaged as well. Mr. Palubinski stated that there was not a bulkhead on the Canterbury Estates property and that he believed that the bulkhead on the other adjoin property might have been damaged since there was rip rap in front of it.

Ms. Rust asked requested that natural vegetation be put in place after construction, rather than planting fescue. Mr. Wilder was not opposed. Mr. Palubinski suggested switchgrass to prevent over wash and washout from behind.

Mr. Rudasill made a motion to adopt Resolution WB19-01 which would approve the permit request with conditions, which was seconded by Mr. Adams. The motion passed 5-0.

## G. Staff Report

### 1. Meeting Dates

The Board voted 5-0 to cancel the March meeting.

### 2. In-Lieu Fees

Mr. Fiorello stated that the County had collected \$102,000 in in-lieu fees. After research staff was able to determine that the in-lieu fees could potentially be used to restore the tidal wetlands at Widewater so long the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) requirements were satisfied, such as a letter of intent from the Board and possible a memorandum of understanding. According to Mr. Fiorell, Mr. Vollmer, DCR, was currently working on a grant with Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), which would result in the inventory of Widewater's wetlands as well as all other tidal parks. Mr. Fiorello further added, that according to an email from Mr. Harvey, Director of Planning and Zoning, in-lieu fees could be used for projects creating wetlands or restoring them, including engineering, construction and land acquisition and that the funds would have to be allocated by the Wetlands Board as well as Supervisor action.

Ms. Rust stated that she also had contacted Mr. Vollmer regarding the use of County fees for state projects and he was able to confirm that Prince William County had been doing so, but he was going to check into it further.

Mr. Fiorello was able to confirm that the County had co-ownership of Crow's Nest (50%).

Ms. Rust stated that the wetlands restoration at Widewater wasn't due to begin until 2020.

Ms. Henderson asked if staff had been able to get in touch with Parks & Recreation to see if they had any County owned assets that the Board might be able to spend the in-lieu fees on. Mr. Fiorello stated that staff did not have any updates at this point. Mr. Pineau inquired what the next steps were. Mr. Funkhouser recommended the Board create a candidate list and discuss at a future meeting.

Ms. Rust inquired if it would be beneficial to the process if the Board held a work session together with Crow's Nest representatives, DCR, VIMS, etc. Mr. Funkhouser felt that it might be in the future but suggested having the discussion amongst the Board first and approach the agencies once the list of candidates has been narrowed down. Mr. Pineau added that it would probably be a good idea to come up with an estimated cost for the different projects to see if the required work could be accommodated by the in-lieu fees.

#### H. Reports by Commission Members

Mr. Pineau stated that he had attended the Marsh Resilience Summit in Williamsburg on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February which was sponsored by the Chesapeake Sentinel Site Cooperative. He further stated that he had typed up Ms. Donna Bilkovic (VIMS) her presentation regarding living shorelines given at the summit as he felt it might be relevant to the Wetlands Board.

Mr. Pineau added that Ms. Karen Duhring (VIMS) also spoke at the summit regarding the yearly tidal wetlands workshop on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Gloucester. He stated that he would be attending and encouraged the Board to attend as well.

Ms. Henderson reminded the Board and staff that the town hall meeting to discuss floodplain concerns in Falmouth was scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> at Falmouth Elementary School. She stated that invitation had been sent out to all residents in the George Washington District.

Ms. Dyson briefly introduced Ms. Cindy Bush as the new recording secretary and staff support for the Wetlands Board.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.