

Middlesex County Wetlands Board Minutes

September 8, 1998

Call to Order

The September 8, 1998 meeting of the Middlesex County Wetlands Board was called to order by Chair Sherman T. Holmes at 9:00 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Woodward Building, Saluda, Virginia.

Present: Chairman Sherman T. Holmes
Mr. Woodson Armstead
Mr. Elliot Reed
Mr. M. Dale Taylor
Mr. B. Ulman Miller

Staff present: Thomas Jordan, Planner

Also present was Traycie West-Pinkoski from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the August 11, 1998 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Miller and a second by Mr. Reed, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Hearing

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing, and the Middlesex County Wetlands Board took action on the following applications:

A. Walter Gentry – Application #98-1125

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Gentry to construct 62' of riprap revetment channelward of existing bulkhead for erosion control. This project is located on the Rappahannock River, Tax Map#41 15&16.

Alor Grantham Traywick was present as agent to represent Mr. Foster. Mrs. Traywick explained how Mr. Gentry had a failing bulkhead that had also been flanked. She explained the project would pull up and top off the existing class 1 riprap with armor in the same footprint. She went on to explain the part of the project in the Wetland's Board jurisdiction was to extend the riprap, aligned with the bulkhead, and the filling the area beyond the bulkhead.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Armstead, seconded by Mr. Reed, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #98-1125 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

B. Charles Silver – Application #98-1284

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Silver to construct 100' jetty at inlet to tidal pond, construct four 48' (from MHW) low profile timber groins with rip rap at heads, construct 130' of marsh toe rip rap, and construct three 30' sections with 20' spacing of rip rap. This project is located on La Grange Creek, at Tax Map #19 (19) 1, 19-274B, & 19-25.

Alor Grantham Traywick was present as agent of Mr. Silver. She began discussing the breakwaters and how a continuous structure (proposed by VIMS) would catch debris and cuts down flushing of plant materials and debris.

She also discussed the two factors played a roll in planning the proposal were economic and environmental. Economic, in trying to protect a large amount of shoreline for a reasonable cost as opposed to ripping the entire shoreline at high cost. Environmental factors such as moving so much rock across environmentally sensitive wetlands. She explained the structures they proposed limited the amount of movement over the wetland while also keeping cost lower.

She then went on to discuss the VIMS recommendation of adding riprap to existing groin to minimize flanking, stating the groin was in good shape even after the March storms. She stated on the proposed groins riprap will be at the heads to prevent flanking. It would also prevent scouring and the water coming around it and cutting into the marsh land behind it.

Mrs. Traywick then explained the riprap on the point, the marsh toe portion would go in front of the existing wetland grasses. The section that comes through tidal wetlands is there to protect the marsh, which is landward of the existing groin, tying it into the groin to prevent the severe erosion that happened in June.

She then discussed the salt pond on the far left of the property stating the proposed jetty to help keep the shallow tidal pond open by trapping the sediments on the right hand side. Mrs. Traywick stated the jetty would be "helping to maintain the same status as in June. Hopefully having enough gut so that it will funnel through one place in and out instead of spreading out with a very flat opening or have two or three openings that would not let the tidal pond flush on an average time."

Mr. Taylor questioned the amount of time the salt pond had been there. Alor stated she did not know. He also asked if it has had any trouble before. Alor said she believed the flat has been growing larger out into LaGrange Creek, and the applicants had especially noticed it after the March storms. The ditch looked good when she was there except for the sand building up at the mouth. Mr. Reed questioned the erosion history. Alor answered lot D and the point had historically had the most erosion lost. She explained she hoped the jetty would also act as a groin, and maybe stop some of the erosion on lot D and the common area. Mr. Taylor questioned the amount of water in the pond. Alor said it didn't appear too be much, but it was a very soft bottom. He also asked about possibly dredging the pond. Mrs. Traywick stated she did not believe the Corp would permit dredging in such a shallow water area. Mr. Reed stated that he did not see any specific examples of devastating erosion when he was on the site yesterday at high tide. Mr. Holmes inquired about the use of Gabion baskets. Alor stated the ones she has seen are not holding up well. She reiterated they were trying to find a balance with this proposal between economic and environmental constraints.

A VIMS representative was not present to comment in person and Chip Neikirk of the VMRC was unable to attend the meeting to comment on the proposal.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Armstead, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #98-1284 was continued until next meeting for further review.

C. Jack Hurd – Application #98-1286

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Hurd to construct 100' of riprap revetment at toe of eroding bank, for erosion control. This proposed project is located on Sturgeon Creek, at Tax Map #40 (104) 32.

Alor Grantham Traywick was present as agent for Mr. Hurd. Also present was Mr. Jack Hurd to answer any questions about his project.

Alor presented the proposal stating the project would be landward of existing vegetation.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Armstead seconded by Mr. Reed, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #98-1286 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

D. Richard Nichols – Application #98-1050

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Nichols to construct 100' of riprap revetment channelward of existing timber bulkhead, then backfill landward of bulkhead for shoreline erosion control. This proposed project is located on the Rappahannock River, at Tax Map 39A (3) A&B.

Alor Grantham Traywick was present as agent to represent Mr. Nichols.
Mr. Miller questioned the debris removal. Mrs. Traywick stated all debris would be removed.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #98-1312 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

E. John Hoggan – Application #98-1353

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Hoggan to replace three (3) existing groins and extend groin in center of property from 48' to 60'. The proposed project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map 46 (2) 18.

Carol Collier, agent of Mr. Hoggan was present to represent his project. She explained the groins were in need of repair.
Mr. Reed noted that the length of 150' needing to be marked on the plan view drawing.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Armstead, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #98-1353 was approved as submitted with clarification of plan view for a term of 18 months.

F. Charles Salomone – Application #98-1376

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Salomone to install a 50' X 6' X 12' quarry stone revetment with armor for erosion control. The proposed project is located on the Rappahannock River, at Tax Map 39A (3) 11A.

Jay Foster of R&W Construction was present to represent his client. He explained Mr. Salomone's property is in between two other of his clients who had the same projects appear before the board and approved last month. The projects were to stabilize the existing timber bulkhead.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.
With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Armstead, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by unanimous vote, Applications #98-1376 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

G. Byrd Davenport – Application #98-1352

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Davenport to replace an 80' timber groin for erosion control. The proposed project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map 46 (2) 17.

Carol Collier was present to represent her client.

Mr. Reed questioned the lack of dimensions where the bulkhead comes back to provide "beach area."

Mr. Taylor questioned the length of the groin in the cross-section drawing. Mrs. Collier said the drawing should reflect 80' in length not the 48' as shown on the drawing.

Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing.

With there being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

On a motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by unanimous vote, Applications #98-1352 was approved as submitted with clarification of the cross-section length for a term of 18 months.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss. Mr. Reed moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second by Mr. Armstead, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

Wetlands Board Chair

Date