

Middlesex County Wetlands Board Minutes

June 8, 1999

Call to Order

The June 8, 1999 meeting of the Middlesex County Wetlands Board was called to order by Chairman Sherman T. Holmes at 9:00 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Woodward Building, Saluda, Virginia.

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

Absent: Mr. B. Ulman Miller

Staff present: Thomas Jordan, Planner

Also present were Mr. Chip Neikirk from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and Mrs. Anne Newsom from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the May 11, 1999 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Reed and a second by Mr. Armstead, 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. Godwin Jones – Application #99-0500

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Jones to place 165' of rip rap at the existing bank. This project is located on Wilton Creek, Tax Map #43C (1) 16. Mr. Holmes read the VIMS report for the project.

Alor Grantham-Traywick, agent for Mr. Jones was present. Mrs. Traywick described the project and offered to answer any questions. She then added that all debris would be cleaned up and the leaning trees would be removed.

Mr. 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 #99-0500 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

B. Donald Benton – Application #99-0821

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Benton, to place 420' of rip rap at toe of bank and construct four 48' low-profile groins. This project is located on the Rappahannock River, Tax Map #9 (2) 4. Mr. Holmes read the VIMS report for the project.

Carol Collier, agent for Mr. Benton was present. Mrs. Collier offered to answer any questions that the Board may have. She stated the applicant is proposing to remove the debris and grade the bank before the installation of the revetment at the toe of the bank. She said the groins would hopefully maintain and add to the existing beach.

Mr. Taylor questioned Mrs. Collier about the stone size being used for the project. She stated the size the applicant is proposing, is the same as what is already used in that area. Mr. Holmes voiced his concern that too many people do not use the correct size stone. Mr. Taylor stated that he did not believe the groins were needed. Mr. Reed stated he agreed with VIMS and staff, which both recommended permit approval with the deletion of the proposed groins from the project.

Mr. Holmes opened the public hearing.

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

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Reed, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #99-0821 was approved with the deletion of the proposed groins and the condition that an approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan be obtained. This project was approved for a term of 18 months.

C. Charles Townes – Application #99-0824

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Townes, to construct a 60' wooden low-profile groin. This project is located on the Chesapeake Bay, Tax Map #41 (53) 42 & 43. Mr. Holmes read the VIMS report for the project.

Carol Collier was present as the agent for Mr. Townes, to explain the project and answer any questions from the Board.

Mr. Reed mentioned there was a stone jetty already at the project site. Mrs. Collier explained that they had discussed adding larger stones to the existing jetty instead of the wooden groin, but they were concerned about the use of heavy machinery in the limited amount of area they had to work within. She went on to say the proposed groin would not encroach any further channelward than the other groin on the property. Mr. Reed also added that a 60' groin would place the groin further out than the existing structure and that he believed a 48' long groin would suffice.

Mr. Holmes wanted to take another look at the pictures of the site. Staff furnished pictures of the site to Mr. Holmes and the remainder of the Wetlands Board.

Mr. Holmes opened the public hearing.

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

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Reed, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #99-0824 was approved with the condition that the groin length be modified to 48' instead of the proposed 60'. This project was approved for a term of 18 months.

D. Henry Dowdy – Application #99-0838

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Dowdy, to place 100' of armor stone on top of the existing rip rap structure. This project is located on the Rappahannock River, Tax Map #19C (1A) 3. Mr. Holmes read the VIMS report for the project.

Mr. Henry Dowdy was present to explain his project and answer any questions from the Board.

Mr. Taylor question Mr. Dowdy about the size of the stone he is proposing to use. Mr. Dowdy stated the existing stone would be used as core material and armor stone would be placed on top.

Mr. 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 #99-0838 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

E. Richard Lewis – Application #98-2031

Chairman Holmes read the proposal of Mr. Lewis to modify his previously approved marsh toe stabilization project (adding a layer of armor stone to increase the structure to a 6' base and 4' height). This project is located on the Rappahannock River, Tax Map #9A (4) 1. Mr. Holmes read the VIMS report for the project.

Neither the applicant nor the agent was in attendance to represent the proposed modifications to the originally permitted project.

Mr. Holmes inquired about the original application that was approved. Staff presented the original application and permit to the Board.

Staff introduced Anne Newsom from VIMS and she offered to answer any questions on the project. Mr. Holmes asked her to approach the Wetlands Board and to further elaborate on the report she made on the project. She explained the impact of the current structure and then discussed the proposed modifications. Mr. Taylor then asked Mrs. Newsom what she thought about allowing the proposed modifications on the existing structure except for the most 15' landward section. Mrs. Newsom agreed that would be more environmentally beneficial, since it would better maintain the tidal connection and promote flushing. Mr. Reed then inquired about extending the structure 15' on the channelward section to the existing groin. Mrs. Newsom said the existing groin would offer protection for that corner. She also added if the applicant wanted to enhance the marsh, sand could be added up to the sill and vegetation sprigged to better protect the existing marsh. Mr. Armstrong asked Mr. Neikirk if he had any thoughts about adding sand and sprigging that section. Mr. Neikirk said it would be a good idea and offer greater protection. Mr. Armstrong inquired about removing the 15' most landward section of the sill as recommended by staff. Mrs. Newsom answered as long as no armor stone was added to that section the stone currently there poses no environmental impact due to its small size, whether left there or removed.

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

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Reed, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #98-2031 was approved with the following conditions: (1) no armor stone be added to the 15' most landward section on the northwest side, (2) the area behind the sill must be backfilled with sand and sprigged with appropriate vegetation. This project was approved for a term of 18 months.

Old Business

A. Appeal Process – review old draft and discussion

Mr. Taylor said he had thoroughly reviewed the proposed amendments to the By-laws and felt they are a good idea. Mr. Reed stated he agreed with Mr. Taylor and the amendments would be good to have.

On a motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried by unanimous vote, the motion was approved to initiate the amending of the Middlesex County Wetlands Zoning Ordinance By-laws to include an Administrative Decision Appeal Procedure.

New Business

A. Extension Request – Maude Walker, Permit #97-1265

Chairman Holmes read the extension request. The permit originally authorized construction of a 56' low-profile groin at Tax Map 40 (5-D) 5.

On a motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried by unanimous vote, the extension request for Permit #97-1265 was approved for an additional term of 18 months.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss. Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

Wetlands Board Chair

Date