

Middlesex County Wetlands Board Minutes

January 9, 2001

Call to Order

The January 9, 2001 meeting of the Middlesex County Wetlands Board was called to order by Chairman Elliott Reed at 9:00 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Woodward Building, Saluda, Virginia.

Present: Mr. Elliott Reed
Mr. M. Dale Taylor
Mr. B. Ulman Miller
Mr. John Smither
Mr. Woodson Armstead

Staff present: Thomas Jordan, Planner
Cathy Shiflett, Planning Secretary

Also present was Mr. Robert Neikirk from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC).

Election of Officers

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Smither, and carried by unanimous vote, Mr. Reed was reelected Chairman.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by unanimous vote, Mr. Smither was elected Vice Chairman.

Meeting Time and Date

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by unanimous vote, the Wetlands Board will continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Woodward Building, Saluda, Virginia for Public Hearings and continue scheduling site visits for the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the December 12, 2000 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Miller and a second by Mr. Smither, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Hearing

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

A. Walter R. Lawson - Application -#2000-2183.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 265' of riprap revetment. This project is located on the Rappahannock River, at Tax Map #30-19-1A. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Carla Havens, agent, was in attendance to represent the applicant's project. She explained the proposal and offered to answer any questions the Board may have. Mrs. Havens presented revised drawings to the Wetlands Board. She further stated that Mr. Lawson has received the full brunt of northeast storm damage, and has lost more than 30 feet of land along his shoreline. Mrs. Havens additionally stated it would be necessary for the proposed riprap revetment to encroach onto the Fears' property to further decrease the erosion problem.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Board would need to receive a letter from Mr. Fears giving consent for the encroachment onto his property.

In response to the staff recommendation that the area be filled to the elevation of the existing marsh, and the planting of *Spartina patens*, Mrs. Havens responded that the planting of *patens* would require filling in the wetlands. She stated that the applicant would prefer to leave the property as it is and stabilize the area with cord grass. Mr. Neikirk offered the opinion that a mixture of vegetation, *Spartina patens* and *Spartina alterniflora*, would be desirable, and that there is probably enough existing seed to naturally fill in the area eventually. Mr. Jordan added that the Board may consider either suggestion as a viable solution.

Chairman Reed 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. Armstead, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2000-2183 was approved conditioned upon the receipt of a letter from Adjacent Property Owner (APO) Fears granting authorization for the proposed revetment to encroach on their property. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

B. Ernest Mayo – Application #2000-2091.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to construct two 25' groins (1 replacement and 1 new). This project is located on the Rappahannock River, at Tax Map #39-1-B. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Neither the applicant nor agent was in attendance to represent the project.

Chairman Reed 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. Taylor, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2000-2091 was approved as submitted for a term of 18 months.

C. Jessie S. Gordon, Jr. – Application #2000-1477.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 90' of riprap revetment. This project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map #37A-4-55. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Carol Collier, agent, was in attendance to represent the applicant's project. She explained the proposal would be to rework and add to the existing riprap in order to reduce erosion along the shoreline. She stated that the riprap will extend approximately 18" further seaward than presently aligned.

Chairman Reed opened the public hearing.

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

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Armstead, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2000-1477 was approved. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

D. Lee Ahlstrom – Application #2000-2214.

Chairman Reed read the applicant's proposal to place 189' of riprap revetment and construct two 60' low-profile groins. This project is located on the Rappahannock River, at Tax Map #40-98-A. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project. Mr. Jordan stated that he had received one letter of opposition from an Adjoining Property Owner.

Ms. Collier stated that the project would tie-in to the existing structures of the Adjoining Property Owners.

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

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2000-2214 was approved on the condition that an approved Land Disturbing Permit be obtained. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

New Business

A. Wetlands Board Site Visits

In response to a concern voiced in the December 12, 2000 meeting, regarding the Wetlands Board's Site Visit attendance and notification, Mr. Jordan stated that Mr. Tim Wilson, Director of Planning, has recommended that the monthly Public Notice not include notification of the date and time when the Wetlands Board will be making their site visits to the applicant properties. Mr. Jordan stated that he has revised the applicant and agent notification letter to include that the Wetlands Board will visit the project site on the first Tuesday of each month or the next day if it falls on a holiday.

Mr. Neikirk added that the intent of the additional information is to invite the applicant and the agent, not the general public. The purpose of the site visit is to gather information, discuss facts, take measurements, etc., regarding the projects. Discussion of the merits and/or concerns regarding projects should take place during the regularly scheduled Wetlands Board meeting.

B. Virginia Wetlands Management Symposium – Saturday, February 24, 2001 - 9 to 4 PM

Mr. Jordan invited the Board members to attend the Virginia Wetlands Management Symposium and that stated that the County will pay their attendance fees. Messr's. Taylor, Miller, Armstead, and Smither stated their intentions to attend; Chairman Reed stated he would advise of his intents at a later time.

C. Wetlands Board Project Site Sign

Mr. Taylor asked the Charman to clarify that agents need to place Wetland Board project signs at the project sites. Mr. Jordan stated that he has signs available to be used for this purpose and he would send a letter with signs to some of the more active marine agents within the county.

D. New VIMS Reports

Mr. Neikirk informed the Board that VIMS will have site reports available through the Internet in the near future. The four-page reports will include photos and other information pertaining to the projects.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted.

Wetlands Board Chair

Date