

Middlesex County Wetlands Board Minutes

February 14, 2006

Call to Order

The February 14, 2006 meeting of the Middlesex County Wetlands Board was called to order by Chairman Miller Smither at 9:00 A.M. in the Boardroom of the Woodward Building, Saluda, Virginia.

Present: Mr. J. Miller Smither – Chairman
Mr. B. Ulman Miller – Vice Chairman
Mr. M. Dale Taylor
Mr. Woodson Armstead
Mr. Archie Brooks

Staff present: Amy Easterbrook, Planner
Cathy Shiflett, Planning Department Secretary

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

Minutes

The Board considered the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Taylor, and a second by Mr. Miller, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Hearing

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

A. Beverly Ambler - Application #2005-3021.

Chairman Smither read the applicant's proposal requesting to extend an existing riprap revetment 100'. This project is located on the Piankatank River, at Tax Map # 37A-7-32. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Mr. Scott Ambler, son of the applicant, was in attendance to represent the project

Chairman Smither 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. Brooks, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2005-3021 was approved in accordance with staff recommendations and revised drawings as submitted. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

B. Robert Bain – Wetlands Application #2005-3022.

Chairman Smither read the applicant's proposal requesting to install 340' of riprap revetment. The property for which the application is being made is located on LaGrange Creek, Tax Map #14-8-4A. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Mr. Robert Bain, applicant, was in attendance to represent the project.

Chairman Smither opened the public hearing.

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

Mr. Taylor questioned why the bank was graded prior to the Board's visit to the site.

Mr. Bain stated that under a previous permit he had submitted a plan to slope the bank and plant marsh grass along the shoreline, but the toe of the bank washed out due to wave action along the shoreline.

Mrs. Easterbrook commented that VIMS staff had visited the site and was in favor of the project as originally proposed. However, Mrs. Easterbrook explained, the property is close to a marina, and wave action undercut the bank and trees fell into the water. She noted that the bank was pulled back towards the house rather than pushed down.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Armstead, and carried by a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Taylor opposed, Application #2005-3022 was approved as submitted. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

C. Phyllis Motley – Wetlands Application #2005-3035.

Chairman Smither read the applicant's proposal requesting to replace 2 existing groins with new 37' vinyl groins extending from the bulkhead. The property for which the application is being made is located on the Chesapeake Bay, Tax Map #41-44-26, 26. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Mr. Joey Scott, agent, was in attendance to represent the project.

Chairman Smither opened the public hearing.

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

On a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Armstead, and carried by unanimous vote, Application #2005-3035 was approved as submitted. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

Old Business

A. Ken O'Dell – Wetlands Application #2005-2910.

Chairman Smither read the applicant's proposal requesting to install 50' of riprap revetment for shoreline erosion control. The property for which the application is being made is located on Fishing Bay, Tax Map #41-68. Staff then read the VIMS report for the project.

Mr. Ken O'Dell was in attendance to represent the project.

On a motion by Mr. Armstead, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by a unanimous vote, Application #2005-2910 was approved with staff recommendations that benchmarks be provided, filter cloth be placed under the revetment and the stone be appropriately sized with at least Class I armor stone. A revised drawing will be required. This approval is valid for a term of 18 months.

New Business

A. Extension Request – Wetlands Board Permit #2004-1235 for George and Thyra Harris to dredge 188 cubic yards from the entrance to a man-made boat basin. Contractor only recently acquired.

On a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried by unanimous vote, Extension Request for Permit #2004-1235 for George and Thyra Harris was approved for an 18 month extension.

B. Possible closing of the Center for Coastal Resource Management

Mrs. Easterbrook advised the Board that the VIMS Center for Coastal Resource Management would close if the State does not allocate operating funds beyond July 2006. She explained that there would be no VIMS reports if the Center closes, and the facility would likely become a private entity. Mrs. Easterbrook stated she would keep the Board informed of the Center's status.

C. Guest speakers to discuss a possible wetlands bank in Middlesex County

Mrs. Easterbrook introduced Mr. Randy Revercomb, property owner on Harry George Creek in Middlesex County, and Mr. Stuart Gratton, owner of a wetlands bank on the York River. She explained that Mr. Revercomb was contemplating the possibility of creating a wetlands bank for the Rappahannock River watershed.

Mr. Revercomb explained that he was in the early stages of exploring the possibility of developing a wetlands bank. Mr. Revercomb commented that he was interested in getting feedback from the Board prior to proceeding with plans to create a wetlands bank. Mr. Revercomb and Mr. Gratton gave an overview of how wetlands banks are created and operated and answered general questions from the Board members.

Chairman Smither stated that the Board was very interested in looking at various alternatives for compliance with the new VMRC Wetland Mitigation/Compensation Guidelines. He noted that a wetlands bank on Mr. Revercomb's property would essentially provide wetlands mitigation coverage for half of the County, on the Rappahannock River side.

Mrs. Easterbrook commented that that a wetlands bank would be beneficial in the event the Board of Supervisors chooses not to approve No Net Loss In-Lieu Fees.

Chairman Smither expressed appreciation to Mr. Revercomb and Mr. Gratton for meeting with the Board.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wetlands Board Chair

Date