

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
WETLANDS BOARD**
Minutes
December 19, 2012

This was the regular meeting of the Northampton County Wetlands Board held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 in the Board Chambers located at 16404 Courthouse Road in Eastville, Virginia for the purpose of conducting regular business.

Those members present were Chair Marshall Cox, Vice-Chair Bowdoin Lusk, Nancy Wells Drury, Dot Field, Mark Gates and Will Brown. Absent from the meeting was John Chubb, Jr.

Also attending were Hank Badger with the Va. Marine Resources Commission; Melissa Kellam, Agent to the Board and Zoning Administrator; Katrina Hickman, Zoning Inspector and Enforcement Agent to the Board; and Kay Downing, Board Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m., and a quorum established. All those wishing to speak at today's meeting were sworn in by the Chair.

Public Hearing

The scheduled public hearing was called to order.

VMRC 2012-1694: Guy & Joyce Doughty have applied to construct a new 50-foot long bulkhead and connect it with an adjacent bulkhead and install a 10-foot return wall and Class II riprap. The property, located at 2229 Concord Wharf Road, is described as Tax Map 2A, double circle 1, parcel 7 with frontage on Occohannock Creek.

It is noted for the record with the exception of Mr. Brown that all Board members present and Ms. Kellam had conducted a field inspection of the property prior to the meeting this day.

No staff report or decision tree had been prepared by Ms. Kellam. No opposition had been received from adjacent property owners.

Stephen Bunce, Jr., contractor for the applicant, stated that he had conferred with Robert Cole, agent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who suggested that additional stone be installed on the corner at the adjacent property line. Mr. Bunce also noted that the applicants wish to install a set of beach access steps.

When asked, Mr. Bunce agreed with Mr. Cole's assessment that additional stone should be added for stabilization purposes. He noted that Mr. Doughty had agreed as well to the suggestion.

It was Mr. Badger's impression that no vegetation existed where additional stone would be placed. However, Ms. Field stated that existing vegetation was observed during the field visit and suggested that new drawings be submitted if stone is to be increased.

The Chair called for public comments. There being none the hearing was closed.

Mr. Lusk noted that with the exclusion of the steps and additional rip rap as suggested by Mr. Cole the application seems appropriate as this property is a high energy location.

Ms. Field expressed her concern about scour impacts to the adjoining property and impacts to existing vegetation.

Action:

Motion was made by Mr. Lusk to accept the application as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Drury and carried 5 to 1 with Ms. Field opposed.

As a point of clarification concerning issues observed during the field visit, Ms. Kellam stated that the private open pile pier that was originally depicted as 80 feet long on the Doughty property was permitted instead at a length of 210 feet which did not require Board approval.

The groin was replaced according to Mr. Bunce; however, Ms. Kellam questioned if the original groin was ever officially permitted. If not, then it would require Board approval through the public hearing process. Ms. Kellam also noted that access steps are allowed without permitting from the Board, but should be shown on submitted drawings.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Statements from the Public: none.

Ms. Kellam, Agent to the Board Chair, reported that several new applications are pending and may be scheduled in January. Also, the paperwork on the Shooting Point violation is expected to be filed in the near future. She noted that if the Board decides to deny this after-the-fact application then a restoration hearing can be held instead. The applicants will be notified about this possible scenario as well.

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the November 21, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted upon motion by Mr. Gates and second by Mr. Lusk.

Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Chair

Secretary