

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD
APRIL 12, 2022
MINUTES

Due to the Northumberland County Emergency Ordinance addressing Continuity of Government during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic, the Northumberland County Wetlands Board held an in person and telephonic public hearing on April 12, 2022 in the Sheriff's Office in Heathsville, Virginia at 7:00 PM:

Present

Harry Towne – Chairman
George Rew – Vice-Chairman
Albert Fisher
Robert Vanlandingham
Lewis Howard

Harry Towne, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

No visitors were present online.

On a motion by George Rew, seconded by Lewis Howard, the minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0575

Mark Coggins – to install 100 linear feet of riprap revetment and 60 linear feet of coir logs along the shoreline of Rock Hole Creek and 24 Bay Point Court.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, described the project area and noted heavy erosion around the dock where they planned to install a riprap revetment. He said there is an area where grass is already growing but is experiencing some erosion where coir logs will be used. He stated that if something isn't done there, the trees will be in the creek. A three-year permit was requested.

There were no questions or concerns.

After consideration, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Lewis Howard seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0513

Rochelle Jobes – to install 76 linear feet of armor stone revetment channelward of a failed bulkhead along the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and 288 Great Wicomico Light Lane.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, described the project and noted a huge fetch and a lot of energy there.

George Rew asked if the concrete is coming out.

Joseph Scott said, "Yes, if it will. If not, they will just go over top of it."

George Rew said he needs all he can get there.

Jeff Madden asked Joseph Scott if he anticipated disturbing any of the vegetation there.

Joseph Scott said, "No." He noted that it was staked to prevent that.

After consideration, George Rew made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Albert Fisher seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0567

MVBB, LLC and Ginger Brooks – to install 204 linear feet of riprap sill and 78 linear feet of breakwater along the shoreline of the Coan River and 1578 Cowart Road.

No one was present to represent the project.

The Board and Jeff Madden indicated that they had questions regarding the drawings on the project.

Philip Marston noted that the County has not received payment.

After a brief discussion, Albert Fisher made a motion to table the application until the May 10, 2022 meeting in order to get clarification of the application and proper payment is received. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0342

Ranbec II, LLC – to conduct a dredge of 1,000 cubic yards of spoils and to allow expansion of an existing commercial marina along the shoreline of the Great Wicomico River and 2379 Jessie Dupont Memorial Highway.

Randy Cockrell, president, said the existing travel lift is 30 years old and he wants to build a new travel lift and travel lift runway with access dock, construct new bulkheads and conduct a dredge. He stated that the spoils will go to Ricky Haynie's place on Surprise Hill.

It was noted that Omega Protein also takes their spoils to this location.

Michael Manyak said he and his wife, Angelina Manyak, have an oyster farm across the Great Wicomico River from this project. He said they started a hatchery a few years ago and expressed

concerns regarding harm that the sediment would cause and the potential for heavy metals in that sediment. He asked when the work would take place and what kind of mitigation would be done to prevent harm to his oysters.

Randy Cockrell said he has been talking to Docks of the Bay but did not know what kind of mitigation will be used if they do the work. He stated that he would like to get the work done sometime this summer but could not guarantee that.

Michael Manyak said that the hatchery season, which is most vulnerable, is from January to Septemberish.

Sue Jones suggested testing the soil.

Randy Cockrell said he is willing to do what is reasonable.

Jeff Madden stated that he has contacted VIMS for comments on this issue and expects that they will address these concerns with recommendations. He noted that they may suggest a sediment curtain. He noted that the Wetland Board's jurisdiction on this is limited to the area between MLW and MHW.

Angelina Manyak asked if this was the place to discuss the financial impact this would cause their business. She briefly described the business and the impact she felt the dredging would cause.

Randy Cockrell said if he doesn't do this work, his business would be gone also.

She wanted to know if testing could be done before and after the work.

Harry Towne informed the audience that this discussion is not something that the Board can do anything about.

George Rew stated that he has been around a good while and around the Great Wicomico River as much as anyone. He said Randy and his father have been around and in business before I knew what business was. "They have raised oysters on both sides of this operation. I have never known anybody to ever say that anything was done detrimental to oysters in any way. I have a lot of experience with oysters."

Jeff Madden suggested testing oysters located there, before and after the dredging. He stated that VMRC will not act on this request until VIMS has weighed in on the matter.

Jeff Madden stated that the dredge will be a zonation dredge and that a 4X buffer be maintained between the top of the dredge cut and the adjacent wetlands. "I would ask that the Wetland Board consider that and make it a condition in the permit."

Sue Jones of Engineering Design said, "we can maintain that."

Jeff Madden asked, “is the reason for constructing a bulkhead that it is necessary because there really is no other way to operate a travel lift. It can’t be a living shoreline as you cannot operate a travel lift at a living shoreline.”

After further discussion, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application with a 4X buffer adjacent the wetlands for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-0577

Mia Thompson Ray – to remove an existing failed timber groin and install an armor stone groin 48 feet from MHW and remove a failed timber bulkhead and install 90 linear feet of armor stone revetment along and from the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and 105 Shoreline Drive.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, said that they had an approved permit (VMRC # 21-1903) for an armor stone groin but before the work could be done, we had a storm in October which blew out the bulkhead. He stated that the owners have decided to put in an armor stone revetment and relocate the groin because Patricia Myers, adjoining property owner, is moving her groin over so it pushed this one to the property line.

After consideration, Albert Fisher made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Robert Vanlandingham, seconded by George Rew, the meeting was adjourned.

