

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
MINUTES

At the regular monthly meeting of the Northumberland County Wetlands Board held on September 13, 2022 in the Sheriff's Office in Heathsville, Virginia at 7:00 PM:

Present

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

No one was present online.

Harry Towne, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

On a motion by Robert Vanlandingham, seconded by Lewis Howard, the minutes of the July 12, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-1785

Clarence Bowen et al – to install 60', 80' and 120' armor stone breakwaters with beach nourishment and wetland plantings along the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and 135 and 136 Smith Point View.

Craig Palubinski, agent for the owner, described the project.

Lewis Howard noted the written objection by Raymond Atkins who was not present.

Craig Palubinski said he had talked with Mr. Atkins who believes previously installed groins caused erosion and was concerned this project would do the same. He explained how groins worked compared to breakwaters. He stated that he thought this would work although there may be some temporary impacts.

Bob Bannach, adjoining neighbor, said he had asked Craig about the impacts. "He said it was difficult to respond. Now, he mentions a year or more before we see results and it may need additional work to stabilize it."

Craig Palubinski explained how that sand moves back and forth until it reaches equilibrium. He said we've learned a lot over the last 25 years. He noted that they used to push them way offshore.

“We’ve learned that they work better when kept high and tight to the shore. It still takes time to stabilize.”

Roger McKinley stated that he was working in an area where huge breakwaters were installed too far out. He said the homeowners are now building new breakwaters closer to the shoreline. “They do a good job, but it takes time.”

A three-year permit was requested.

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. 22-1975

Douglas N. Goodman et al – to install 146 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of Dividing Creek and Tax Map Parcel #47(3)-3 & 4 on Sculling Oar Lane.

Craig Palubinski, agent for the owner, described the project.

Albert Fisher asked if a living shoreline was considered.

Craig Palubinski said they would need to grade the bank and remove all the trees on the bank in order to do so.

A three-year permit was requested.

There being no further questions or concerns, Albert Fisher made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Application No. 22-1442

Robert Kane – to install 58 linear feet of riprap sill and install 65 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of The Glebe and 592 Highland Point Road.

Roger McKinley, agent for the owner, described the project and noted that the owner was present. He stated that they decided not to do a living shoreline as there was already grass present so they will put the rock close to shore in order to stabilize the eroded bank behind the grass.

Albert Fisher asked if they could stay off all the grass.

Roger McKinley said that one little clump of grass, not marsh grass, will be removed but none of the marsh grass will be affected.

A three-year permit was requested.

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

Application No. 22-1852

Henry M. Loughran - to install 155 linear feet of riprap sill, replace a failing bulkhead with 93 linear feet of riprap revetment and replace an existing timber bulkhead with 81 linear feet of vinyl bulkhead along the shoreline of Harveys Creek and 43 Harveys Neck Road.

Roger McKinley, agent for the owner, described the project.

Jeff Madden asked Mr. McKinley if he anticipated (on the revetment bulkhead) that when he removed the bulkhead that he would have an exposed intertidal zone.

Mr. McKinley said, "I don't think so. I think when they grade the bank, they will put the toe right at the foot of the existing wall."

Jeff Madden noted that the only part in the Board's jurisdiction would be the 15-foot return wall.

A 3-year permit was requested.

Albert Fisher made a motion to approve that portion of the project within the Board's jurisdiction for three years. Lewis Howard seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Other Business

Harry Towne stated that the November scheduled meeting would fall on Election Day and the Board needed to select another date. Tuesday, November 15, 2022 was suggested, and a motion was made by Harry Towne to meet on that date. Lewis Howard 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.

