

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD**  
**JULY 9, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

At the regular monthly meeting of the Northumberland County Wetlands Board held on July 9, 2024 in the Sheriff's Office in Heathsville, Virginia at 7:00 PM:

Present

Absent

George Rew  
Robert Vanlandingham  
Spencer Headley

Albert Fisher – Vice-Chairman

Spencer Headley, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order.

On a motion by George Rew, seconded by Robert Vanlandingham, the minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Robert Vanlandingham to move the hearing for Robert Jacey to the end of the agenda. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**Application No. 24-1280**

James E. Britton. – to install 30 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of the Little Taskmaker Creek and 185 Holly Grove Lane.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, described the project. He stated a living shoreline would not work there as the bank is 4 feet and the tree roots are already exposed.

After review of the project and there being no objections, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**Application No. 24-1253**

John Fairservice – to install 280 linear feet of riprap revetment along the shoreline of the Great Wicomico River and 672 Meshachs Lane.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, described the project. He noted that a living shoreline would not work as the bank is 16 feet tall and the vegetation is washed out. He also noted a one-mile fetch N and a half-mile fetch to the NE with a lot of boat traffic. He stated that the depth drops off quickly.

After review of the project and there being no objections, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**Application No. 24-1322**

Michelle R. Lequeux – to remove two (2) existing timber groins and replace with two (2) low-profile timber groins 57 feet channelward of MHW from the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and 229 Shipwatch Lane.

Claudette Lajoie, agent for the owner, described the project.

George Rew stated that this is a very volatile place and they need all they can get there.

After review of the project and there being no objections, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**Application No. 24-1306**

Cheryl Russell. – to install 210 linear feet of riprap revetment and to replace two (2) timber groins with two (2) low-profile armor stone groins 40 feet channelward of MHW along the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and 113 Waters Edge Lane.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, described the project and noted the loss of 40 to 50 feet of shoreline over the last 4 years. He stated that there is a 25-mile fetch to the E and a 25-mile fetch to the SE. He stated that a living shoreline would require a break water system. He said they decided to go with the groins which would be used to catch sand.

George Rew noted that this is also a volatile area.

After review of the project and there being no objections, 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. 24-1367**

Steilbergs Wharf LLC – to install 260 linear feet of riprap revetment and to replace two (2) timber groins with three (3) low-profile riprap groins 40 feet channelward of MHW along the shoreline of the Great Wicomico River and 361 Rogue Point Lane.

Joseph Scott, agent for the owner, described the project as having a pretty wide waterway that stays busy. He said there has been erosion problems over the past 10 years and they have been losing portions of the bank over the last 2 years. He noted that the pier, originally connected to

the land is now about 10 feet offshore. The groins would be used to recapture some of the sand that has been lost. He said a living shoreline cannot be used due to SAV offshore.

After review of the project and there being no objections, George Rew made a motion to approve the application as submitted for three years. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

#### **Application No. 24-1286**

Triple F of Virginia, LLC – to construct a jetty 48 feet channelward of MHW from the shoreline of the Great Wicomico River and 2046 Whays Creek Road.

Odis Cockrell, agent for the owner, stated that the original request was for a marsh sill. However, the owner applied for a VGIN grant and a jetty was recommended. “There is a fringe wetland existing there but it’s not really thriving.”

Spencer Headley asked about the difference in installing a jetty as compared to using armor stone.

Odis Cockrell said the jetty would collect sand.

After review of the project and there being no objections, Robert Vanlandingham made a motion to approve the application for three years. George Rew seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

#### **Application No. 24-0471**

White Sand Harbour POA – to install 230 linear feet of armor stone breakwater and install 132 linear feet of armor stone sill along the shoreline of the Potomac River and Lowes Pond at the end of Fleet Road and White Sand Drive in White Sand Harbour Subdivision.

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

Claire Gibbon, of the Chesapeake Cove HOA, said that the construction of the breakwaters and things over the years has significantly affected the amount of sand moving down to the opening of Cubitt Creek. She also stated that due to unpermitted dredging, Lowes Pond has become a salt-water system and the fresh-water system destroyed. She asked that a moratorium be set until an environmental study can be done.

John Bischoff said he is concerned about the future of the creek. “We’re worried about jelly fish that get in and can’t get out and more sand coming in. It’s getting to not be a good place for kids to swim.”

Spencer Headley asked Jeff Madden if the project is warranted.

Jeff Madden said if the Board wanted further clarification, he recommended the application be tabled and seek advice from VIMS.

After further review of the project, George Rew made a motion to table the application until the September 10, 2024 meeting in order to request information from VIMS on the proposed project. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

### **Application No. 24-0701**

Robert W. Jacey, Trustee – to construct a commercial pier from the shoreline of Mill Creek and 619 Train Lane.

Roger McKinley, agent for the owner, informed the Board that the proposed pier has been revised to show it 80 feet long and 6 feet wide.

Cathy Meehan stated that she opposed the pier regardless of size. She stated that she and others were opposed to a commercial entity on the waterfront. She objected to the logging done on the property and presented photos of the timbered area. She also was concerned for the wildlife. She also noted other docks already in use by Mr. Jacey.

Robert Vanlandingham explained that the Board has nothing to do with logging and that it, like a corn crop, has to be harvested at certain times.

George Rew asked what does it mean to have a commercial pier?

Roger McKinley said that VMRC only gives two choices, private non-commercial or commercial. He said even community piers are considered commercial. There will be no commercial activity on the dock. He further explained that the Board of Supervisors have conditions placed on the pier to prevent commercial activity on the pier should they approve it.

Anna Ransone said she was not at the first meeting because she was not notified, nor did she see it in the paper. She stated that he already has two piers used for this operation and he does not need another.

William Meehan complained that he had not seen any plans or other information regarding the present and future plans of J. C. Vinyards.

Spencer Headley informed Mr. Meehan that the Wetlands Board was here to discuss the dock and the wetland around it.

Philip Marston informed the audience that the paperwork is available on the state website and in the Building and Zoning office.

Andrea Lavine objected to the size of the pier as the use may change.

James Penney asked if there will be any signage on the dock.

Roger McKinley said they have proposed one 9 square foot sign on a tree in the woods identifying the dock.

Ann Parker said two people at the Board of Supervisors meeting said no trees would be removed but the logging has taken place. She said a lady left this land to be a bird sanctuary, but the will was broken, and the property sold. She presented photos of the logging operation.

Robert Vanlandingham said the forestry department oversees logging and has rules which allows them to cut a certain distance from the water.

Andrea Lavine asked if the pier to be considered would be 6 feet wide or 8 feet wide.

Spencer Headley said the pier requested is 6 feet wide.

Roger McKinley stated that no commercial activity will take place on this pier. He said the pier will be 6 feet wide and 80 feet long with mooring piles 20 feet past the end of the "T" which makes it 100 feet from MHW. He noted that the timbering on the property is a private matter and between Mr. Jacey and the Forestry Department, not the Wetlands Board.

After review of the project and there being no objections, Spencer Headley made a motion to approve the application for three years based on the Wetlands Board jurisdiction of the intertidal zone as we do not foresee any additional impacts that will be detrimental. Robert Vanlandingham seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Robert Vanlandingham seconded by George Rew, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

