ESRNWC July 13, 2017 Minutes

At a meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held on the 13th day of July, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the A-N Planning District Commission Building, Accomac, VA

Members Present: John Joeckel, Chair

Granville Hogg, Vice Chair

Donald L. Hart

William J. "Billy" Tarr

J.T. Holland

Members Absent Bill Burnham

P.G. Ross

Wayne Merritt Larry Lemond

Others Present: Shannon Alexander, Coastal Resource Program

Manager, A-N Planning District Commission Shelly Vallone, Intern, A-N Planning District Commission

Paul Muhly, Accomack County Board of Supervisors member

John F. Tavolaro, retired USACE

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joeckel at 3:08 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 meeting. Mr. Holland seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business

1. Update on Cedar Island/Wachapreague Project

Chairman Joeckel updated the Committee on the USACE Workshop of June 2nd, 2017 and informed the Committee that the only new development since the last Committee meeting is that the USACE sent Chairman Joeckel an update that they are planning a site visit for the Wachapreague Project in late August.

Chairman Joeckel also informed the Committee that The Nature Conservancy is considering placing oyster reefs at the project site. Chairman Joeckel suggested that if The Nature Conservancy would like to go to the site, a Committee member may want to escort them.

2. CBBT Tunnel Materials: Beneficial Use

Chairman Joeckel briefed the Committee that it was decided to not send the letter to the Governor as previously agreed by the Committee, since the Accomack County Board of Supervisors had already sent a similar letter.

The Committee discussed possible Tangier Island projects and agreed that The Committee is in favor of supporting projects that save Tangier Island.

Although a special use permit has already been granted for the CBBT dredge spoil site, Shannon Alexander noted it is not unprecedented for Board of Supervisors to rescind special use permits in light of new information.

3. Begin discussing FY 2018 dredging project priority list to supply to USACE

Chairman Joeckel informed the Committee that there is no major progress on narrowing down the list of potential dredge sites for USACE, but that the Committee should be getting the USACE surveys soon and that Chairman Joeckel will be looking over them in the next few weeks. Shannon Alexander read a list of possible sites, and will give that list to the Committee so they can narrow it down.

Chairman Joeckel reminded the Committee that the funds we acquired in FY 2017 will actually be pushed to FY 2018.

The Committee discussed the shoaling in Willis Wharf, and was informed that the dredging projects in Northampton County have not yet gone out for bids.

4. Update on Commonwealth of VA funding methods, efforts already made by MPPDC and Del. Hodges.

The Committee discussed Virginia's lack of a state waterway fund, despite our need for dredging of state waterways. Shannon Alexander informed the Committee that MPPDC is already working with Delegate Hodges on potential legislation for allocating more money to state waterways, and presented a list of possible legislative changes that would not ask for additional funds, but rather adjusting the criteria on existing legislation so it includes state waterway dredging.

Mr. Tavolaro noted that we have nothing to lose by asking for those changes, but it is not the answer we need; we need to push for something stronger.

The Committee agreed that we must have our legislative suggestions submitted to our representatives by early November at the latest. There will be a state PDC meeting next week in Norfolk. Shannon Alexander will work on arranging a private, informal meeting between Elaine Meil and the NNPDC and MPPDC, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee will be invited. Shannon Alexander will send a summary to MPPDC to discuss.

Mr. Tavolaro advised the Committee that New Jersey has a similar problem with state waterways so they started funding projects like this under NDOT. Mr. Tavolaro will look into the New Jersey Office of Maritime Resources in NDOT to see if it can be a model for Virginia.

5. Update on PAS Project

Chairman Joeckel noted there is nothing the Committee can do at this time until the Cost Share Agreement is signed.

New Business

1. Present and discuss Beneficial Use options, techniques, and emerging issues

Shannon Alexander presented a powerpoint on the possible beneficial uses of dredge spoils, including several successfully completed projects. She also presented several relevant graphics on beneficial uses.

The Committee discussed the dredge spoils from the Oyster project. Mr. Tavolaro noted that the material excavated from the dredge spoil site could be useful.

Chairman Joeckel will further look into the existing studies on Tangier Island.

2. Articles and Information Items

The Committee discussed the articles, "Marshfield applies for grant to study uses for dredging material" and "Maryland Natural Resources providing \$10.5 M in Waterway Improvement Fund grants."

Other Matters

Committee member Mr. Merritt has verbally expressed his wish to resign from the Committee, and for his convenience Shannon Alexander will draft the letter for him to send to the BOS.

Mr. Holland made a motion to send a letter to the BOS, pending Mr. Merritt's resignation, requesting they appoint a new member and Mr. Holland seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be on October 19, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the Glass Conference Room in Eastville. Mr. Holland made a motion to adjourn at 4:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion was unanimously passed.

John Joeckel, Chair
Curtis Smith, Secretary
Date