

Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

ESRNWC April 19, 2018 Minutes

At a meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held on the 19th day of April, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Enterprise Building of the A-NPDC in Accomac.

Members Present: John Joeckel, Chair
 George "Danny" Bowden
 Granville Hogg, Vice Chair
 James Dixon
 John Coker
 John Tavolaro
 J.T. Holland
 William J. "Billy" Tarr

Members Absent Donald L. Hart
 Spencer Murray

Others Present: Curt Smith, A-NPDC
 Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joeckel at 3:04 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Holland made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2017 meeting. The motion, seconded by Mr. Tavolaro, carried unanimously, with the exception of Mr. Coker and Mr. Hogg who were not present during the October meeting and Mr. Tarr and Mr. Bowden, who had not yet arrived at the meeting.

New Committee Member Introductions

Members introduced themselves and discussed background and current location of residence.

Old Business

1. VA Commonwealth Fund status

Chairman Joeckel supplied a brief update as to the status of SB693 establishing a VA Waterway Maintenance Fund and Grant Program, which was signed by the governor on March

30th. Staff also supplied a brief update with regards to HB1096, HB1093, BH095, BH1091, HB1091, HB1092. HJ69.

2. Cedar Island Project

Chairman Joeckel supplied an overview of the 5-year process to date. Mr. Smith reviewed the letter that was submitted to the USACE on April 19th. He explained the two main factors identified by experts were marsh elevation and fetch, and that using these factors, Site 5 (on Figure 3) was agreed to be the most important. Mr. Tavolaro described the results of his research into USACE Authorities relevant for coastal restoration projects. These included Section 204 WRDA 92, 206 WRDA 96, 1135 WRDA 86, 510 WRDA 96 (Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration Pilot Program, may be possible to apply to the seaside), 1201 WRDA 16 (Chincoteague Island Study, needs a sponsor to move forward). Curt announced that recently living breakwaters were approved as a mechanism to generate credits with nutrient credit trading programs. Concerns with regards to the USACE lack of coordination with scientific experts prompted Members to discuss working with Mrs. Diane Kauffman of Tim Kaine's office, should we have no adequate reply to Mr. Smith's letter in the next two weeks. Discussions continued with Mr. Dixon referring to the NOAA Marsh Restoration Program of the National Ocean Service, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services and Mr. Smith referencing partnership with TNC for match.

3. USCG AtoN Removal Progress Update

Tabled as representatives from the USCG were not present due to a lack of communication about location. Staff is to request this information from the USCG and supply to Committee Members via email as soon as possible.

New Business

1. Eastern Shore Water Access Authority

Ms. Alexander provided an update as to progress with establishing the ESWAA and associated new legislation that would be applicable for the Committee. She presented that she presented to the Commission and the Accomack County Board, and will present to the Northampton County Board Monday April 23.

2. USACE Projects: Greenbackville, Oyster, Tangier (East/West Channel at Basin)

Chairman Joeckel presented that the Greenbackville and Oyster projects have been delayed, but should start by the end of calendar year 2018. He also reviewed the suggested projects that the Committee supplied to the USACE, which included Deep Creek, Little Machipongo River, Surveying Parkers Creek, and Onancock Creek (specifically developing a dredge material site location).

Other Matters

Mr. Tarr pointed out that there have been indications that the Commonwealth of Virginia has supplied the \$1.5M in match needed for the Chincoteague Inlet study. Research into the realities of this obligation and designation of a specific sponsor needs to be done.

Mr. Smith announced that there will be a field trip to Parramore Island with coastal

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geologist Chris Heine of VIMS, Members are to be invited, more details to come.

Mr. Tavolaro indicated that in all written correspondence, and verbal whenever possible, members of the Committee should refrain from use of the word spoil, instead indicating dredge material or another suitable alternate.

Chairman Joeckel presented that for the USACE call for applicants to the Beneficial Use Project program, the VMRC submitted for Tangier and we supplied a letter of support. He also presented that there was feedback from the USACE on the separate application that he submitted with regards to the whole seaside of the Eastern Shore project. USACE indicated that it might be able to compile Atlantic coast projects and so Chairman Joeckel presented a draft letter indicating the Committee's willingness to merging our project with other states along the Atlantic, so long as an organizational framework could be developed that would strive for equitable evaluation of projects and funding amongst the states.

Mr. Tarr made a motion to send the draft letter, as written, to the USACE. The motion, seconded by Mr. Holland, carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be on July 19, 2018 at 3:00 pm in the Eastville. Chairman Joeckel adjourned the meeting at 4:48pm.

John Joeckel, Chair

Curtis Smith, Secretary

Date