

Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

**ESRNWC January 16, 2020 Minutes**

At a meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held on the 16th day of January, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at the VIMS ESL Seaside Hall in Wachapreague, Virginia.

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

Members Absent           Donald L. Hart  
                                  Spencer Murray  
                                  George "Danny" Bowden  
                                  John Coker

Others Present:           Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC  
                                  Grayson Williams, A-NPDC  
                                  Chris Hein, VIMS  
                                  Emily Hein, VIMS  
                                  Justin Shawler, VIMS  
                                  Chloe Obara, VIMS  
                                  Jenn Connell, VIMS  
                                  Richard Synder, VIMS  
                                  Mike Fenster, Randolph-Macon College  
                                  Jessica MacGregor, George Washington University  
                                  Chris Turner, USACE Norfolk District  
                                  Richard Harr, USACE  
                                  George Janek, USACE  
                                  Jeff Tabar, Stantec  
                                  Chris Guvernator, Accomack County Resident  
                                  Jason Norris BMC, USCG STA Wachapreague  
                                  Blake Johnson, Island House Wachapreague  
                                  Ann Gallivan, JC Walker Bros.  
                                  Kim Huskey, Cherrystone Aquafarms  
                                  Cliff McDougall, FP Subsed  
                                  Ruth Boettcher, VDGIF  
                                  Hank Badger, VMRC  
                                  Nancy Finley, USFWS  
                                  Kevin Holcomb, USFWS

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Others Present Continued: Jill Bieri, TNC  
Susan Bates, TNC  
Alex Wilke, TNC  
Michael Hall BML, USCG Ant Chincoteague  
Edward Owens, NOAA/OCS

### **Call to Order**

Chairman John Joeckel called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### **Minutes**

**Mr. Tarr made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting. The motion, seconded by Mr. Holland, carried unanimously.**

### **Cedar Island Marsh Restoration Project Presentation**

A presentation was conducted by Chris Hein and fellow members of VIMS to explain Cedar Island's geographical changes over the past decades and research progress to date under a NFWF grant. Along with VIMS presenting, Jeff Tabar represented Stantec to explore five different preliminary design plans to help restore and preserve Cedar Island. After the presentation, input was solicited and a discussion followed amongst attendees and presenters.

### **Old Business**

#### **a. VA Commonwealth WMF**

- i. 2020 Applications Development: Wachapreague & Redbank-**  
Chairman Joeckel presented his proposed applications towards the FY 2020 WMF to be the Wachapreague Inlet and Redbank Creek. Chairman Joeckel proceeded to address how these two waterways are used as primary channels and rising concerns of water depths at low tide are causing these channels to become unnavigable. Mr Norris, USCG STA Wachapreague, provided insight on how much of an issue the Wachapreague Inlet is at low tide. Chairman Joeckel also discussed additional funding sources other than WMF due to the current budget constraints.

**Mr. Holland made a motion to submit Phase One efforts for Wachapreague Inlet for the 2020 VPA Waterway Maintenance Fund application for Accomack County. The motion, seconded by Mr. Dixon, carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Holland made a motion to submit Phase One efforts for Redbank Creek for the 2020 VPA Waterway Maintenance Fund application for Northampton County. The motion, seconded by Mr. Tarr, carried unanimously.**

- ii. **Current Project Progress**-Alexander indicated that the ESRNWC needs to establish an RFP Review Committee including one member from the A-NPDC and two members from the ESRNWC for reviewing the Quinby Creek and Kings Creek projects RFP's due on January 31, 2020 by 12:00 PM. Shannon Alexander will represent the A-NPDC in this committee along with Chairman John Joeckel and Vice Chair Granville Hogg representing the ESRNWC.
- b. **USACE** – See USACE Norfolk District Civil Works Program update in packet.
- c. **USCG** – No significant updates, some comments concerning state of Wachapreague area channels provided.
- d. **NDZ Update**- Ms. Alexander will update the committee at their next meeting.
- e. **Section 408 Review Official Letter of Request**- Ms. Alexander will update the committee at their next meeting.
- f. **Hydrographic Surveys**- Mr. Ed Owens, NOAA Navigation Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Region, Norfolk District, initiated a discussion on Hydrographic surveys and how future projects can benefit from the technology. Mr. Owens stated a survey was approved to be done in 2016 on Quinby Creek but due to unforeseen circumstances throughout the recent years, the survey was unable to be completed. This lead into Mr. Michael Hall, USCG Ant Chincoteague, stating how there is an abundance amount of out-of-date bathymetry information for local waterways.

**Chairman Joeckel made a motion to send a letter to the United States Coast Guard and Ed Owens, NOAA, prioritizing a list of navigable waterways that are in need of Hydrographic Surveys for improvements by February 14, 2020. The motion, seconded by Mr. Dixon, carried unanimously.**

- g. **Initiative to increase annual WMF Funding**- The letter to be mailed to Senator Lewis and Delegate Bloxom will be amended to specifically request an additional \$7.4 million in funding.

### **New Business**

- i. **U.S. Congress: HR 3596 Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act; Introduced by Rep. Chellie Pingree of Maine's 1st District; Draft letter to Congresswoman Luria:**

**Vice Chair Hogg made a motion to finalize the drafted letter and send to Congresswoman Luria. The motion, seconded by Mr. Holland, carried unanimously.**

### **Other Matters:**

None

### **Public Comment:**

None

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**Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be on April 16, 2020 at 2:00 pm in Eastville. Chairman John Joeckel adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

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John Joeckel, Chair

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Shannon Alexander, Secretary

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Date