

Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

**ESRNWC January 21, 2021 Minutes**

A meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee was held on the 21st day of January 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via virtual meeting platform ZOOM.

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

Members Absent            Dixon Leatherbury

Others Present:            Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC  
                                     Elaine Meil, A-NPDC  
                                     Michael Anderson, USACE Norfolk District  
                                     Chris Turner, USACE Norfolk District  
                                     Richard Harr, USACE Norfolk District  
                                     Kim Huskey, Cherrystone Aquafarms  
                                     Albert Grimes, USCG  
                                     Michael Hall BML, USCG Ant Chincoteague  
                                     Tom O'Brien, BOSN  
                                     Richard Snyder, VIMS  
                                     Ryan Wartick, NOAA (exited meeting roughly 3pm)  
                                     Joe Betit, Accomack Resident  
                                     David Lee, Northampton Resident  
                                     Lucas Antunes, Accomack Resident  
                                     Robert Williams, Town of Wachapreague  
                                     Glenn Graves

**Call to Order:**

Chairman John Joeckel called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of both the July 16<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meetings,

**Old Business:**

- a. VA Commonwealth WMF –
  - i. Current FY2020 Projects & Progress - Ms. Alexander updated the committee on the current progress for the 2020 WMF projects, Quinby Channel and Kings Creek.
    - 1. We await work with the USACE regarding to the Pealer Point material placement site.
    - 2. The JPA for Kings Creek has been submitted. Bid documents are being drafted by the contractor.
  - ii. Current FY2021 RFP Progress- Ms. Alexander explained some delays in the Proposal review process due to splitting Phase I into Parts A & B and inconsistencies in percent engineering to be accomplished in the draft contract SOW. Staff is to ask VPA if projects are permitted to have 2 year implementation timelines.
  - iii. VPA WMF FY2022 Application Discussion
    - 1. Kings Creek Phase 2
    - 2. Folly Creek Phase 1 Completion
    - 3. Nassawadox Creek Phase 1 Completion
    - 4. Hungers Creek Phase 1 Completion
    - 5. Red Bank Creek Phase 1 Completion

**Member Hart moved to direct A-NPDC staff to submit applications for the FY22 VPA WMF cycle for the above listed 5 projects in that priority (1 highest, 5 lowest) on behalf of each County respectively. The motion, seconded by Member Dixon, carried unanimously.**

The Committee Members advised staff to clearly express the prioritization of these projects to VPA, as funds are limited and it is not anticipated that all will be successfully awarded.

- 6. Discussion ensued regarding the review of A-NPDC Charges for Oversight of WMF Projects. Ms. Alexander described that these are not simply pass-through funds, but require significant staff time to manage. She described the A-NPDCs work to integrate Committee recognized projects into regional and state planning efforts. Ms. Meil described the A-NPDC's indirect rate and impacts of new staff and efficiency. She is to supply some effort of work justification to the Committee.

- b. NOAA – No representative from the agency was present to provide an update.
- c. USACE- Mr. Turner, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Harr provided updates on their respective projects, including Chincoteague Inlet and USCG Station boat basin, Oyster Channel, Tangier Channel, Bradford and Finney Creeks related to the Cedar Island CAP. Additionally, the importance of regularly surveying the Greenbackville confined material placement site for stability was addressed.
- d. USCG - BML Hall reported that the remaining WCV AtoNs scheduled for removal are not in the current FY budget, bWIP Information and new resources- Ms. Alexander presented a brochure the A-NPDC developed to be distributed out to various communities to summarize the BMPs for WIP. She also explained a program that is available for residents near Hungars Creek and Kings Creek to assist in septic pump out.

**New Business:**

- a. WRDA 2020 Discussion regarding new elements ensued, including references to economically disadvantaged community, 5 year regional dredged material management plans, placement of dredged materials, and multiple project benefits language and policy changes.
- b. Resiliency Efforts – Ms. Alexander provided information about the state Community Flood Protection Fund associated with RGGI, the regional resilience project database, and the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Staff is to supply a [link to the public comment for the Community Flood Protection Fund guidelines](#) with the minutes for this meeting. She also reported that she is serving on the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group, who have been convened to help determine beneficial use of the York Spit Channel dredged material. Members described some bayside erosion hot spots for her to take to the VA BEWG.
- c. Discussions ensued regarding challenges with contractual requirements for the Counties for securing dredging contractor(s).
- d. Pace of RFP & Contract Development & Issuance
- e. Increase in WMF Grant Levels – Ms. Alexander reported that Senator Lewis is introducing a budget bill to double the current level of funding. Staff to work with Chairman to provide his office a list of talking points.
- f. News/Articles – An article about NOAA hydrographic services was included in the packet for Member review at their convenience.

**Other Matters:**

- a. Chairman Joeckel expressed concerns regarding member meeting attendance

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and engagement between meetings. Most of the action plans are accomplished in between meetings.

- b. Mr. Hogg provided an update regarding a potential project on his property along Kings Creek and his work engaging DCR SEAS staff for technical assistance.
- c. Discussion about compiling a list of small contractors for dredging projects ensued.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be on April 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm, venue to be determined. Chairman John Joeckel adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.

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John Joeckel, Chair

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Shannon Alexander, Secretary

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Date