

# Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

## **ESRNWC October 19, 2017 Minutes**

At a meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held on the 19th day of October, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Department of Social Services Building in Eastville.

Members Present:            John Joeckel, Chair  
                                     Donald L. Hart  
                                     John Tavolaro  
                                     Larry Lemond  
                                     William J. "Billy" Tarr

Members Absent            Bill Burnham  
                                     Granville Hogg, Vice Chair  
                                     J.T. Holland  
                                     P.G. Ross

Others Present:            Albert Grimes, USCG  
                                     Barbara Wilk, USCG  
                                     Chris Scraba, USCG  
                                     Chris Turner, USACE  
                                     Jeff Deem, Private sector  
                                     Michael Maiocco, USCG  
                                     Richard Harr, USACE  
                                     Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC  
                                     Warren Jeffries, USCG

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joeckel at 3:05 p.m.

### **Minutes**

**Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

### **Old Business**

#### **1. *Membership Update***

Chairman Joeckel and Committee welcomed newly appointed Accomack County

Member, Mr. John Tavolaro, of Chincoteague. Chairman Joeckel updated the Committee that Mr. Jim Dixon was appointed to fill the vacant Northampton County seat. He reminded the Committee that absence at three consecutive meetings is cause for removal from the Committee.

**2. Update on Commonwealth of VA funding methods**

Chairman Joeckel confirmed that both Accomack and Northampton County Board of Supervisors approved the Joint Resolution concerning navigable waterway maintenance needs and that he and staff will be working with representatives and counterparts in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula regions as well.

**3. Update on PAS project**

*Mr. Harr, USACE, provided an update on status of the requested PAS project. Ms. Alexander updated the Committee with regards to time and fiscal limitations. A-NPDC staff and USACE will coordinate to perfect the cost share agreement.*

**4. Willis Wharf update**

Mr. Lemond updated the Committee about the maintenance costs and informed all that the project will be put back out to bid in 2018.

**New Business**

**Update on Cedar Island/Wachapreague Project**

**1. USACE Agenda Items**

a. **Chincoteague Project** – A letter sent from the Town of Chincoteague and a rough draft from the PDC, both in support of the Commonwealth supporting the Chincoteague Study by committing to the necessary nonfederal match.

**Mr. Hart made a motion that the Committee send a separate letter than the PDC to Gov. McAuliffe, copying Sen. Lewis, Del. Bloxom, and both County Board of Supervisor Chairs, requesting Commonwealth funds to be used as match for the project. The motion, seconded by Mr. Tarr, passed unanimously.**

b. **Tangier Projects** – Mr. Harr reported on the CAP project, but Dan Hughs is the project manager and should be contacted for details. The figure for the total cost of the jetty were not clear, but thought to be about \$2.1Million (including both federal and state funding portions). Spring 2019 is the anticipated construction start date.

c. **Cedar Island/Wachapreague Project** – Mr. Harr also updated the Cedar Island-Wachapreague CAP project. Mr. Joeckel asked about the field trip and the need for participation on the field trip of Nature Conservancy, some coastal geologists that ANPDC has recommended and VIMS. Harr advised they would like to include, keeping in mind boat capacity. Mr. Joeckel also commented on the need to evaluate the significant erosion of the marsh opposite the enlarged Wachapreague Inlet as part of this project since if nothing is done at that site, eventually the loss of the marsh will bring the Atlantic Ocean up against Wachapreague and loss of storm surge protection of the mainland.

d. **FY17** – Mr. Turner that the 2017 work plan includes Chincoteague Bay Channel (Greenbackville) and Oyster Channel. The latter will most likely need work to increase the capacity of the on-land spoil site. Mr. Turner updated the Committee that Dredge Murden

was currently performing work on the Tangier Channels and would be onsite for about 30 consecutive days. Approximately 35,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of spoil are anticipated to be dredged with this regular maintenance. This spoil is not currently being used to maximum beneficial use. Mr. Joeckel asked why the routine dredging of Tangier does not utilize the dredged materials beneficially and should not a long term plan be developed to do so? Ms. Christie asked the correct point of contact for large policy-level change request.

e. **FY18** – USACE pointed out that this is actually a request for FY19 potential projects, as FY18 is being completed under the FY17 Work Plan. Chairman Joeckel, Ms. Alexander, and USCG spoke of the projects that ‘rose to the top’ in state of need, including, but not limited to: Onancock Creek (particularly the turning basin and near-Town areas; spoil placement area needed), Parker Creek (Seaside, Metompkin Bay), Occohannock Creek (new survey needed), Finney/Wachapreague/Bradford Bay area waterways, and Nandua Creek.

f. **Joeckel raised the issue of Corps Civil Work program funding showing overall growth, yet shallow draft low use project funding does not seem to be growing along with the overall Corps budget.** John Tavoraro raised the issue of 2014 WRDA concerning Section 2102 pursuant to the law stipulating additional incremental growth funding for shallow draft low use (emerging harbors) projects.

## 2. **USACE Agenda Items**

a. **Status of AtoNs on the Shore** – Mr. Grimes, Mr. Scraba, Mr. Maiocco, and BMC Jeffries provided an update on the status of about half of the AtoNs scheduled for removal on the WCV, Quinby was renumbered and Willis Wharf is next on the Seaside. All WCV/VIP aids slated to be removed are planned to be removed before the spring. At least 14 of the Onancock Creek AtoNs were moved, renumbered, and/or replaced. Similar maintenance, including possibly replacing poles with buoys, will be done on Pungoteague Creek, Occohannock Creek, Hungars and Mattawoman Creek. The 10 warning day beacons on Nassawadox Creek are all to be removed as well. Mr. Grimes pointed out that the local notice to mariner gives shoaling notice. Joeckel pointed out there needs to be a better way of keeping the public informed as to aids removals/changes to minimize public negative reactions due to lack of information. Ms. Christie pointed out the fiscally efficient new technologies that could be used for survey data collection, remotely operated submersible vehicles.

b. **SEACOAST WAMS Entrance buoys at the Chincoteague Inlet LWB CI, Turner’s Lump LBB 2TL** – Mr. Grimes circulated a map indicating possible relocation of said buoy. Public comment from Chincoteague area watermen and boaters is requested, form to be sent to Mr. Tarr.

c. **USCG budget, the future for small boat stations in Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Cape Charles** – Mr. Scraba lead this discussion. Committee members emphasized the importance of these stations to the region and to the security of the Nation.

d. **Anchorage status, Cape Charles** – Environmental impacts and other variables are still being researched. Sometime in 2018 there will be a supplemental notice issued and an NPRM which will provide the public with another opportunity

to make comment.

**Other Matters**

None.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Deem stated the importance of protection of the marshes east of Wachapreague to the resilience and protection of the Town.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be on January 18, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the A-NPDC conference room in Accomac. Chairman Joeckel adjourned the meeting at 5:14pm.

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John Joeckel, Chair

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Curtis Smith, Secretary

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Date

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