

ESRNWC October 17, 2019 Minutes

At a meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held on the 17th day of October, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission in the Enterprise Building in Accomac.

Members Present: 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
 John Joeckel, Chair
 Spencer Murray

Others Present: Chris Turner, USACE Norfolk District
 Jason Brisson CWO3, USCG Sector Hampton Roads
 Jeff Deem, VMRC/FMAC
 Joseph Betit, Accomac Citizen
 Julie Delesandri, USCG Sector Hampton Roads
 Kim Huskey, Ballard Fish & Oyster
 Michael Hall BML, USCG Ant Chincoteague
 Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Hogg called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Holland made a motion to amend to the agenda to move items related to Chincoteague, from both old and new business, to immediately following approval of the Minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting. The motion, seconded by Vice Chair Hogg, carried unanimously.

Minutes

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

Business

a. Chincoteague Related Items

i. The Committee discussed the Town of Chincoteague application for private AtoNs in Lewis Creek, representatives of the USCG contributed to the conversation.

b. VA Commonwealth Waterway Maintenance Fund Applications

Update –Alexander provided an update that neither the Kings Creek nor Quinby Area Phase 1 projects will be far enough along to submit Phase 2 to the VPA for the 2020 grant application period. Rather, applications for Phase 1 for Wachapreague will be submitted for Accomack County. For Northampton County, staff is to look into Hunting Creek, Deep Creek, and other options, one of which would be preliminary sampling and surveying on many of the state waterways in order to be able to better prioritize moving forward.

c. USACE written update on the following, with verbal discussion where indicated

i. **Chincoteague Inlet Federal Navigation Project** – The FY20 budget included \$400k.

ii. **Chincoteague Bay (Greenbackville) Federal Navigation Project**

iii. **Oyster Channel Federal Navigation Project**

iv. **WCV Federal Navigation Project (Bradford Bay & Finney Creek)**

v. **Tangier Island Jetty CAP Section 107**

vi. **Cedar Island CAP Section 204**

vii. **Assateague Island Beneficial Reuse Project**

viii. **FY2020 Work Plan Intentions** – The President’s budget included only \$400,000; despite a capacity (need) presented from the Norfolk District of over \$14M.

d. USCG update – Staff reported to BOSN Brisson that there was another reported down steel pile on Nassawadox Creek, she is to email the correspondence to BOSN Brisson.

e. NDZs – Committee Member Coker indicated that this effort is being taken at the state level. Staff is to circulate the final, approved boundaries of the Cape Charles Anchorage.

f. Section 408 Review – Staff is to reach out to Mr. Anderson with the USACE to confirm any progress from work with the MPPDC.

g. Eastern Shore Hydrographic Survey Presentation – Mr. Joseph Betit provided an update on his efforts with Broadwater, ODU, and Go Virginia to bring a hydrodrone training institution to the Shore. He presented some of the capabilities of the technology and their applications and relevancy to the Committee, the USCG, the USACE, and the region.

h. Initiative to increase annual WMF funding in 2020 GA – Mr. Coker made a motion to amend the draft letter presented to include a specific recommended dollar figure and mail to Senator Lewis and Delegate Bloxom. The motion, seconded by Mr. Holland, carried unanimously.

i. Informational Items:

- i. U.S. DOT Names Nine Marine Highway Projects, including: Wallops Island M95 Intermodal Barge Service; Mr. Curt Smith is to supply the NASA POC to Chris Turner with the USACE.
- ii. New resource: Rural Shallow Water Dredging, by VIMS

Other Matters

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Jeff Deem reported that shoaling at the Wachapreague Inlet has led to dangerous conditions during some tidal conditions. He indicated that the area of highest concern is around the last two (Eastern-most) buoys and told of a particular incident during the July Marlin Tournament.

Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be on January 16, 2020 at 2:00 pm in Eastville. Vice Chair Hogg adjourned the meeting at 4:38 pm.

John Joeckel, Chair

Shannon Alexander, Secretary

Date