

Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterway Committee

**ESRNWC October 25, 2018 Minutes**

At a meeting of the Eastern Shore Regional Navigable Waterways Committee held on the 25th day of October, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission in the Enterprise Building in Accomac.

Members Present:                    Granville Hogg, Vice Chair  
    John Coker  
    John Joeckel, Chair  
    Donald L. Hart  
    James Dixon  
    John Tavolaro  
    J.T. Holland  
    Spencer Murray

Members Absent                    George "Danny" Bowden  
    William J. "Billy" Tarr  
    Charles Kolakowski, Northampton County Administrator  
    Mike Mason, Accomack County Administrator

Others Present:                    Chris Turner, USACE Norfolk District  
    Curt Smith, A-NPDC  
    Kim Huskey, Ballard Fish & Oyster Company  
    Mike Steelman, Resident  
    Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC  
    Richard Harr, USACE Norfolk District  
    Michael L. Anderson, USACE Norfolk District  
    Albert Grimes, USCG District 5  
    LCDR Peter Francisco, USCG Sector Hampton Roads  
    CWO-2 Jason Brisson, USCG Sector Hampton Roads

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joeckel at 2:01 p.m.

**Minutes**

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting. The motion, seconded by Mr. Tavolaro, carried unanimously, with Mr. Murray, Mr. Coker, Mr. Hogg, and Mr. Dixon who were not present during the July meeting.

**Old Business**

***a. Eastern Shore Water Access Authority Update***

Ms. Alexander gave a brief update that the enabling legislation and draft operating agreement, both previously reviewed by the A-NPDC legal counsel and supplied to each County Administrator, will be discussed next week with County Administrators and Board member(s).

***b. FY2018-2019 USACE project status and potential suggestions concerning FY2020 projects, as reported by Chris Turner and Michael Anderson:***

***a. Greenbackville:*** contract award anticipated for January, 2019; work anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2019, requires upgrades to the spillbox and upland spoil site and approximately 10,000yd<sup>3</sup> are anticipated to be removed;

***b. Oyster:*** contract award anticipated late March 2019; work anticipated to commence April 2019 and it is a 180 day work cycle, in process of acquiring real estate for pipeline to placement site, which is near capacity so geosynthetic fiber will be used on the inside and counterbalance ballast to raise the dike 5 feet using dried material to form the dike, 70,000yd<sup>3</sup> are anticipated to be removed, this will be the last feasible use for the enhanced placement site, Mr. Hogg requested information about County use of the dried recovered sediment;

***c. Chincoteague Inlet:*** About 40,000yd<sup>3</sup> are removed annually seven miles to the overboard placement site off of Wallops. Discussion about beneficial use of any recovered sand materials for nearby Atlantic beaches was discussed. Members inquired about the status of the potential VA Coastal Resiliency Authority. Mr. Harr is to report back on the status.

***c. 1.75M VIP/WCV funding & applicability:*** discussion ensued about the potential options for use of this funding, timing, and associated risks and the current navigation hazards reported by USCG Wachapreague Station and made apparent with the newest condition survey, which revealed an estimated 110,000yd<sup>3</sup> of sediment in need of removal.

**Mr. Hart made a motion to request that the USACE move forward with use of the VIP/WCV funds for the Wachapreague/Finney/Bradford Bay area federal projects. The motion, seconded by Mr. Dixon, passed unanimously.**

***d. VA Commonwealth Fund***

***a. Final VPA Grant Guidance & Process*** – Chairman Joeckel presented the final guidance as included in the packet.

- b. Potential ES State Waterway Projects** – Chairman Joeckel emphasized the importance of members reviewing and determining priority project(s) to include in the March 2019 application prior to the January quarterly Committee meeting. Ms. Alexander is to send more information about each of the 10 possible projects in the next couple of weeks. Staff is to include any potential budgetary needs for staff support. Ms. Alexander is to send an email to Members with a request for their knowledge and relevant contribution for each waterway, so that it can be compiled and made available to members prior to and during the next meeting.
- e. USCG AtoN Removal Progress Update: Bayside, Seaside, Nassawadox, Hungars and Mattawoman Creeks** - CWO-2 Jason Brisson reported that removal of the 3 damaged steel piles in Nassawadox Creek is out for bid and should be removed before spring 2019. On August 24 USCG went to Mattawoman Creek and recommended a dive locker go in, which will happen in November. USCG were unable to locate any wreckage in Hungars Creek on August 24<sup>th</sup>. He reported that Daniel Adams is the interim Officer at Chincoteague and a new Officer is forthcoming. Some discussion ensued from the public concerning integrating federal, state, local programs and funds.
- f. USACE to provide update on Beneficial Use Pilot Project initiative:** Doug Stamper was unable to join via phone and this was tabled until the next meeting.
- g. USACE to provide an update on the Tangier Jetty schedule:** Federal funds of \$2.4M and state funds of \$215,000 were committed. First steps are a field visit and new survey. Engineering must be completed. Construction will not begin until at least early 2019.
- h. USCG to provide an update on the Proposed Cape Charles anchorage:** It will be 3 to 4 months until the public notice of rule-making. Currently there is no designated anchorage, only a mooring field. USCG is using their relationships with pilots/companies to reach out and request action during storm/wind events.

#### New Business

- a) **Potential progress by Northampton County on establishing a no discharge zone:** Mr. Coker reported that the Maritime Association is working with Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources to get an agreement prior to going to the EPA. Additional discussion ensued about the challenges associated with the potential designation.

#### Other Matters

Mr. Harr of USACE reported that the CAP 204 (Wachapreague/Cedar Island) project draft is to be completed November 21 and the public review and North Atlantic review will be held in tandem, December 17 to January 17. The final report is scheduled to be complete March 1, 2019.

Mr. Hogg pointed out that southern Northampton County is part of an economic development area, but there are challenges to proceeding with many government and private conservation lands.

Mr. Smith reported on Wallops project preliminary plans for shoreline management that

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includes three parallel-to-shore breakwaters, for which the beach behind will then be renourished.

**Public Comment**

*None.* Mr. Steelman commented during the meeting.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2019 at 3:00 pm in the A-NPDC conference room in Accomac. Chairman Joeckel adjourned the meeting at 4:05pm.

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John Joeckel, Chair

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Curtis Smith, Secretary

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Date

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