

## Working Waterfront Steering Committee

**Date: Tuesday, January 9**  
**Time: 10:00am; Duration: 1 hour**  
**Conference Call**

### Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Welcome

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) staff hosted a conference call of the Working Waterfront Steering Committee on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, rescheduled from Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Those in attendance included Beth Polak, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program; John Bateman and Lisa Hull, Northern Neck PDC; Lewie Lawrence and Jackie Rickards, Middle Peninsula PDC; Ben McFarland, Hampton Roads PDC; Curt Smith and Shannon Alexander, A-NPDC.

#### 2. Legislation Discussion

Shannon Alexander explained the two pieces of legislation they have been working with their representatives on for the 2018 General Assembly, including resolution of recognition of the 2016 Working Waterfront Master Plan and establishment of the Waterway Maintenance Fund. The latter with language originating from the Joint Resolution for Accomack and Northampton Counties. Reference to use of the tax associated with Code of Virginia Section § 58.1-2289 (approximately \$2.7M in new funds) was made as a potential source of funding. [HJ 69 Virginia's Working Waterfront Master Plan](#)

[HB 575 Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund; Grant Program](#)

Lisa Hull asked about any progress on moving forward with the idea of a Century WWF program akin to the [Century Farm and Century Forest programs](#). Shannon Alexander referenced our *Rural Chesapeake Bay/Seaside of Virginia Working Waterfront Language and Policies* VCZMP grant, as this is included in the deliverables, product #1. Discussion

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ensued. This is to be a topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

Lewie Lawrence provided an update on the 11 pieces of relevant legislation the MPPDC has been working on with their Delegate. The MPPDC has contracted with Advantus Strategies to aid in legislative/lobby issues. The included legislation includes adding dredging to the possible projects to be funded by VRA loans, tax increment financing (TIF) for dredging projects, fast tracking the dredging process with VDEQ and VMRC, add dredge project management to MP PAA, include vertical buffer option in Bay Act, research natural resource products and rail shipping, authorize counties to impose fee on recreational boats (sticker versus tax), enable all three PAAs to work collaboratively on dredging projects, and an associated Rural Coastal Dredging Authority (the latter most likely being withdrawn).

Lewie Lawrence also mentioned HB264, introduced by Cheryl Turpin of VAB, concerning transferring/assigning oyster-planting ground lease to a locality.

Ben McFarland referenced Senator Lewis' HR Resilience Authority and the HRPDC's work with the VACo agenda.

### 3. Next steps and next meeting

Members requested that additional date options be introduced for the upcoming Working Waterfront & Rural Coastal Virginia Tourism Planning dual meeting. Shannon Alexander is to update and resend the poll in response.