

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WETLANDS BOARD OF JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN THE BOARDROOM, 101-C MOUNTS BAY ROAD, JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE NINETEENTH DAY OF MARCH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN.

1. ROLL CALL

Present

Mr. Henry Lindsey
Mr. William Apperson
Mr. Ralph Cobb
Ms. Carolyn Lowe
Mr. John Hughes

Others

Mr. Bernard M. Farmer, Jr Director of Code Compliance
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mepham

2. MINUTES

The February 19, 1987 minutes were approved as written.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to be discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Case No. W-1-87: Mr. Gerald Mepham

Mr. Farmer presented the staff recommendation. Mr. Mepham has applied for a wetlands permit for approximately 20 linear feet of rip rap revetment and the grading and filling of approximately 7,500 square feet of non-vegetated wetlands. The area is predominantly a mud flat community that serves no erosion control purpose, but does serve as a foraging area for waterfowl. Under the Wetland guidelines this parcel is classified as a Section II, which is secondary only to the top category, which should be preserved at all costs. This basin will be lost through natural processes within 5-10 years if no action is taken. The staff recommends that this wetlands permit be approved as an opportunity to enhance the existing wetlands area and to limit further disturbance and sedimentation of the adjacent wetlands subject to the following conditions:

1. That the boat hulk and sunken skiff along the Powhatan Creek shore be removed.
2. That all debris (tires, steel, pipe sections etc.) be removed along the creek shore and disposed of properly.

3. That all trees and shrubs within 10 feet of the Powhatan Creek shore be cut, and the bank sown with grass to prevent sloughing and further erosion.
4. That the brick and rubble presently emplaced near the dock be removed and reconstructed as per the SEAS guidelines with inspection of the filter cloth done by Code Compliance prior to rip rap placement.
5. That the fill across the mouth of the basin be graded to a 2:1 slope or flatter, and protected by rip rap and filter cloth revetment, with inspection of the filter cloth prior to rip rap placement.
6. That the permit shall expire on March 19, 1988.

Discussion followed concerning the placement of the rip rap. The riprap is going to be placed all the way around the shoreline and not just at the entrance of the basin. Thirty pound rock will be used.

Mr. Lindsey opened the public hearing.

Mr. Gerald Mephram assured the board that he will be doing the work himself, and he will remove the trash and abide by all the conditions if the permit is granted. He plans to burn the large skiff and haul off any remainder. He also stated that he would like to fill the basin, and then remove the skiff.

Mr. Lindsey closed the public hearing.

Mr. Cobb wondered if this will set a precedent. Since the circumstances are unique, this probably won't happen.

It was Mr. Hughes' opinion that granting the request would only help the basin.

Concern was expressed that no member of VIMS had attended the meeting. Mr. Farmer said Kirk DeHavens, of VIMS, couldn't recommend the request outright, but personally he didn't feel it would hurt anything to grant the request.

The point was made that this basin was once dug out to provide borrow sand, and now they want to fill it back in. However, the same thing can be said about other sites, but you wouldn't apply the same rationale to them. You must consider the value of the habitat.

Mr. Farmer will supervise the removal of the skiff and the trash.

Mr. Apperson made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.

Ms. Lowe seconded the motion.

The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

5. MATTERS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Farmer has contacted a member of the Army Corps of Engineers about speaking to the Board at the next meeting. At this time, Mr. Bruce Williams is tentatively set to speak at the next Wetlands meeting.

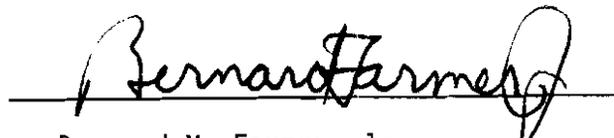
Ms. Lowe expressed the desire to see the non-tidal wetland area maps as soon as they are made available to the county.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04.



Henry C. Lindsey, Chairman



Bernard M. Farmer, Jr.
Secretary to the Board