

January 12, 1978

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WETLANDS BOARD OF JAMES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COURTHOUSE, WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF JANUARY, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT.

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. Ross Davis, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Donna Ware
Mr. Gerald Otey
Mr. William Apperson

OTHERS:

Mr. Henry H. Stephens
Mr. Craig Causey, V.M.R.C.

2. MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Davis the minutes of the October 13, 1977 meeting were approved as presented.

3. PRESENTATION

Mr. Craig Causey, of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, made a presentation to the Board on permitting procedures. Mr. Causey outlined the past activities of the James City County Wetlands Board. He stated only six decisions had been rendered in James City County regarding wetlands since the formation of the Board in 1972. Mr. Causey outlined a review procedure for inquiries about Wetlands Permits. This procedure includes a site visit by the Board for every request for a determination of the applicability of the Wetlands Ordinance.

Mr. Causey also informed the Board about a new application form which V.M.R.C. had adopted. This application was standardized so that it could be used by the applicant for all the permits he would need from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, V.M.R.C., and V.I.M.S. He strongly urged the Wetlands Board to adopt the same application form for its permits. He said this would simplify the review process for the applicant.

Finally, Mr. Causey informed the Board about sections of the State Code which can be used to remove obstructions to navigation from Virginia waters. He stated, however, that if the owner of an obstruction did not remove it after encouragement from V.M.R.C. then the State had no money allocated to do the work. Thus, little is being done except development of a list of projects to do when money is allocated.

Mr. Stephens expressed concern about the procedure outlined by Mr. Causey for review of questions about the Wetlands Ordinance. He said that nowhere in the ordinance did it say or suggest that only Wetlands Board members may determine that no permit is necessary. He stated the Wetlands Board members are volunteers, and

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James City County has a paid staff to visit sites and interpret the ordinance. Board members should only be called upon to go to sites and process applications when there are wetlands involved. He said, also, that processing everything through the Wetlands Board would not be fair to citizens who, after a staff investigation, clearly were not affected by the Wetlands Ordinance. Mr. Stephens expressed concern that V.M.R.C. was by-passing the local staff. He said that information was not being sent to the Planning Department, thus staff reviews were not being done. He used the standardized application as an example of something which the staff should have reviewed and made a recommendation to the Board on. Mr. Stephens requested that henceforth the Planning Department be sent a copy of all materials sent to the Wetlands Board.

Mr. Davis stated that he was retired and had plenty of time available for site visits. He told Mr. Causey that he would like to go with him on investigations in other jurisdictions to learn more about wetlands.

Mr. Causey concluded the program with a slide presentation of various wetlands and code violations.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business the James City County Wetlands Board meeting of January 12, 1978 was adjourned.

William C. Porter, Jr.
Secretary

Ross E. Davis, Jr.
Chairman