



Mathews County Wetland Board

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Chair Katy Walden
Vice Chair Richard Marshall
Member Melody Goodwins
Member Nicholas Koch
Alternate David Rowland

Board Members Absent: Dan Desmond

Team Members Present: Westlands & Marine Projects Coordinator Teresa Sanger
Sherry Ashe

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.A. Dan & Leslie Jordanger, 361 The Long Lane, VMRC #25-0871, TM #34-A-146 Request to install 556 lf of living shoreline, 573 lf of bioengineered structure, brush sill, sand fill, slope sill, 27 cubic yards of fill, along a portion of the East River shoreline.

Katy Walden: Read the CBPA report, the Board considered the application to be complete, hearing no comment, we shall proceed. Is there anyone to speak for this application tonight? Name and address for the record, please.

Sherry McDearmon 388 Scotts Creek Trail, Hartfield, Virginia. I'm with Mac Bros, LLC

Katy Walden, Tell us what your project is and what you're planning to do.

Sherry McDearmon: They're planning on installing a matrix sill to be set just in front of the existing wetlands grass. The Natrix sill is a nature-based product that provides excellent habitat for oysters, sea lakes, and wetlands grasses. You can read about these projects on-line which have proven to provide great results. We believe this would be an excellent upgrade to the shoreline while protecting it from erosion and providing great habitat for all sorts of marine life. The sand fill around the landward end of the dock would serve the purpose of protecting the exposed roots of the existing trees and from erosion while also being planted with new Spartina plantings. This board has approved a similar project across the river before with a matrix and it's been

successful.

Katy Walden: Asked the board if they had any questions.

Nick Koch: Asked where the prior matrix was across the river.

Sherry McDearmon: Was done in 2022 and located on the other side of the East River, located at 292 River View Road, under the name of Elizabeth Case.

Wade Webb: Spoke in favor, was familiar with the project. He just built a pier there and it is a successful structure. Absolutely, completely successful.

Katy Walden: Does the board have any other questions? I will make mention that this does meet the qualifications of a living shoreline and the only reason that it does not qualify for the General Permit is the fetch in the area. So it is acceptable for Living Shoreline. Is there anyone else to speak in favor of this application? Anyone opposed?

Leslie Jordanger/Owner: Thanked the board for taking the time to look over this project. This is the first shoreline we've ever owned, so we really appreciate the expertise and for the site visit that you made. It helped us feel a lot more secure that it's going to be a good project.

Elizabeth Davis Stewart: Good Evening, I'm actually Leslie Jordangers neighbor on both sides. She bought my home place, and it's so nice to see the home and property be taken care of in such an environmentally responsible way.

Katy Walden: I have an emailed letter to read into the record from Lisa Sutton, I do not have her address. "Good Morning, I will not be able to attend the Wetland Board Meeting on Wednesday, I do not object to the project, but I object to the construction trucks coming through our private lane, (it was mentioned Mrs. Stewart misspelled the property owner's name in the email), and do not have the right of way to use."

Katy Walden: Stated, It's not for us, the board, to discuss this.

Katy Walden: Continuation of email, "They recently had a roof replacement, and all materials, large trucks, and workers came through our single private lane. How do I get this presented to the board if I cannot be at the meeting? Our attorney has sent them a cease and desist letter informing them of the same, but advised us to make this part of the file. Thanks for your help, Lisa Sutton."

Katy Walden: So the comment I need to make here is, following the submission of this application, that this protest email was received, which I have now read into the record. The content of this letter pertains to upland property rights. The Wetlands Board has no jurisdiction over this matter as the road is not located within wetlands.

Katy Walden: If there are no other comments about this project, public comments are closed, and the board will not discuss the project and make a motion.

MOTION: On Motion of David Rowland, seconded by Richard Marshall, the Mathews County Wetland Board voted 5-0-0 as follows: David Rowland, Richard Marshall, Katy Walden, Nicholas Koch, Melody Goodwin - aye; None - nay; **to Approve the application.** Rationale being "A good project for this shoreline, and there is a project across the way that is working to prevent future erosion."

- 4.B. **Martha W. Aschman, Trustee, 573 Waterfront Lane, VMRC #25-0960, TM #16-3-4** Request to install 623 lf Rip-Rap Revetment, 35 lf Rip-Rap Spur, and 115 lf shell bag sill with 115 lf sand fill area to be planted with Spartina Patens, along a portion of Stutts Creek shoreline.

Katy Walden: Read the CBPA report, the Board considered the application to be complete. Hearing no comment, we shall proceed. Is there anyone to speak for this application tonight? Name and address for the record, please.

Sherry McDearmon: 388 Scott Street Trail, Hartfield, Virginia.

Katy Walden: Tell us what you want to do there.

Sherry McDearmon: Mrs. Aschman would like to protect her shoreline. That's her goal. There has been a change in the project. The original proposal showed the revetment two-foot channelward of MHW. However, we moved the revetment back landward of MHW in order to avoid wetland

impacts. Revised drawings have been turned in this evening, one-page showing there is zero impact to wetlands. Should this project be approved tonight, the JPA drawing revisions will be sent in officially.

Katy Walden: Has the board had a moment to study this new information? And do you have any questions? All right, thank you, Mrs. McDearmon.

Katy Walden: Is there anyone else to speak in favor of this application?

Katy Walden: Is there anyone who is opposed that would like to speak? Please state your name and address for the record.

Macky Hall: I live at 228 Oak Point Road. I live more or less across the way from the property itself. Quick question, this is from somebody who obviously lives on the creek, has loved on the creek, and some of you might know occupies that water quite a bit. Why isn't a living shoreline being put in when it's the law? That's the first question, of course. And the second question is, you know just, just again from somebody who's on that water probably more than anybody. The bottom grade itself and that shoreline grade is tremendously mellow number one. And number two, you know that growth area is unlimited. Beyond that, uh, across the creek, there are two examples of a successful implementation of a living shoreline. so, again, those are the basis for my, uh opposition.

Katy Walden: All right, thank you sir. If there's no one else that wishes to speak, public comment period is closed and the board will discuss this and then make a motion.

Sherry McDearmon: Asked if she should answer Mr. Hall's question?

Katy Walden: Yes, you can, please come forward.

Sherry McDearmon: Again, we moved the revetment and the whole purpose is to protect that shoreline. A lot of boats go through their and there's some undercut. So it's to protect the shoreline and there are some wetlands grasses. I believe the board visited the site, so the purpose is to protect it.

Macky Hall: I can answer that. Real quickly, I'll just speak loudly. Um, I paddle that. I paddle the creek there six days a week without fail. It's kind of my routine right there. Um, going past that property as one of my paddle routes. I've got to go about 10 to 15 feet away from that shoreline to keep my paddle from dragging right there. And you know that creek is fairly wide right there. Uh, thereby giving me room to do that. Um, I can't see why there cannot be room for a living shoreline right there. Knowing that shoreline and knowing that bottom as well as I do. Even in front of that dock where it's directly facing out from the bay, the tip of the dock at high tide, uh, at the top of that dock at high tide. Um, which extends about, Sherry, is that extends about 25 feet out into the water. Correct. What is that? The dock itself. The tip of the dock itself. Sure. Yeah. at the tip of the dock which extends 25 feet out into the water at high tide. The water depth right there is uh, approximately four feet between, depending on high tide, between three and a half and four and a half feet.

Katy Walden: Okay, we will take your comments into consideration.

Macky Hall: Appreciate it. Thank you for the time.

Martha Aschman: Hi, I'm Martha Aschman, and I'm at 573 Waterfront Lane. We built the house just a little four years ago and at the time we did, the erosion on the tip of the lot was terrible. Mike Early put in a nice dock for us with sides that would accommodate my husband's wheelchair, and we were very satisfied. Now, since that was put in, there has been a significant amount of erosion. We have tree roots hanging out of the embankment on the butt end that faces down the creek. And so, the loss is really measurable year by year. Uh, i have no problem with preserving wetlands at all, but I think for that particular location right there in the front, it would be impossible. So, that's all I want to say. I want to do what's definitely right, but, I also want to preserve my property for my daughter and my grandchildren.

Katy Walden: Thank you, Mrs. Aschman. Public comment is now closed. The board will discuss

this application and make a motion.

Katy Walden: You see, we have new drawings which brings back the revetment on the upland, out of our jurisdiction.

Katy Walden: I was telling the board, reminding them that we have just received tonight, some new drawings to show that the revetment has been pulled back out of the wetlands, which has been brought up to the uplands. And that portion is now out of wetland jurisdiction. The rest of the project, some is and some is not, some is VMRC. So, we still have to vote on this application.

Nicholas Koch: For the record, and that portion is living shoreline

Katy Walden: Yes, it is part of the living shoreline.

Katy Walden: Has the board had time to study the new drawings? Is there any more comments for discussion?

Katy Walden: Is anyone ready to make a motion?

MOTION: On motion of Richard Marshall, seconded by Nicholas Koch, the Mathews County Wetland Board voted 5-0-0 as follows: Richard Marshall, Nicholas Koch, Melody Goodwin, David Rowland, Katy Walden- aye; None - nay; to approve the application. Rationale being "to accept it, my rationale being, it looks like, number one, much of it was discussed here, it's really not in our jurisdiction anymore."

- 4.C. **Phillip & Ellen Marie Hess, 536 Pintail Cove Lane, VMRC #25-1148, TM #24-15-D** Request to install 200 lf of Class A1 & I stone revetment over filter cloth. Revetment to be 10' wide x 5' tall, along a portion of Blackwater Creek shoreline.

Katy Walden: Read the CBPA report, the Board considered the application to be complete. Hearing no comment, we shall proceed. Is there anyone to speak for this application tonight? Name and address for the record, please.

Wade Webb: Hi everyone, Wade Webb, Blackwater Pier & Dock, Inc., 5247 North River Road, North VA 23128. It's a stone revetment against a portion of an eroding shoreline. Originally, we considered doing some kind of living shoreline or some kind of offshore structure, but it was recommended to me by VMRC that we not do that because of the large amount of SAV beds. So, that really didn't leave me with another option than to make a stone revetment against the eroding shoreline which has a large amount of pine trees which have fallen over, some of which are in the process of falling over, some of which just the root balls are last. So, that's where I'm at.

Katy Walden: Board, do we have any questions for Mr. Webb? Looks like they don't have any questions for you. Thank you.

Katy Walden: Is there anyone else to speak in favor of this project? Anyone who is opposed that would like to speak? If not, public comment is closed. You may sit down Mr. Webb.

Katy Walden: The board will discuss this project and make a motion.

Katy Walden: I would like to mention, according to VIMS, the elevation is too high to be in the vegetated impact, so I believe there is zero impact. Any other discussion? If not, is the board ready to make a motion?

Nicholas Koch: Looks like he's boxed into this solution and it's straightforward. So, I make a motion that we accept it as submitted.

David Rowland: I'll second.

MOTION: On motion of Nicholas Koch, seconded by David Rowland, the Mathews County Wetland Board voted 5-0-0 as follows: Nicholas Koch, David Rowland, Melody Goodwin, Richard Marshall- aye; None - nay to Approve the application. Rationale being "Looks like he's boxed into this solution and it's straightforward. A motion was made to accept it as submitted."

5. NEW BUSINESS

6. OLD BUSINESS

- 7. VIOLATIONS** *Site Visit made by Wetlands Violation Enforcement Officer Daneil Desmond on June 11th at 2354 Hallieford Road, Tax map #11C-1. A letter was sent Certified Mail/ return Receipt. At this time, the matter is being addressed administratively. Therefore, no mitigation or enforcement action will be taken - provided the activity ceases immediately and no reoccurrences. Army Corp responded and will not proceed with any action.*

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Katy J. Walden, Chairman
Mathews County Wetlands Board

Teresa Sanger, Marine & Wetlands
Projects Coordinator