



Mathews County Wetland Board

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Chair Katy Walden
Vice-Chair Richard Marshall
Member Melody Goodwin
Member Nicholas Koch
Member Dan Desmond

Board Members Absent:

Team Members Present: Teresa Sanger, Wetlands and Marine Projects Coordinator
Olivia Upton, VMRC Alternate for Mike Johnson

2. CALL TO ORDER

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. Approval of January 7, 2026 Wetlands Minutes

MOTION: The Mathews County Wetlands Board voted 5-0-0 as follows: Katy Walden, Richard Marshall, Melody Goodwin, Nicholas Koch, Dan Desmond - aye; None - nay; to approve January 7, 2026 Wetlands Minutes.

Roll Call:

Katy Walden, Chair
Richard Marshall, Vice Chair
Daniel Desmond, Member
Melody Goodwin, Member
Nicholas Koch, Member

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 5.A. **Charles & Anna Galusha Aquino, 1818 Point Breeze Road, VMRC #25-2682, TM #17-2-4** –
Request to install a 210'x12' armor stone sill, sand fill landward and planted with appropriate

wetland vegetation along a portion of the Mouth of Stutts Creek shoreline.

Katy Walden: Read the CBPA report, which stated: "Request to install a 210'x12' armor stone sill, sand fill landward and planted with appropriate wetland vegetation along a portion of the mouth of Stutts Creek shoreline." Does the Board consider this application complete?

Katy Walden: Is there someone to speak for this application?

Joseph Scott: Agent - SalTerra Solutions, LLC, addressed the Board in favor of the application, and discussed the need for the project.

Daniel Desmond: What alternatives did you consider besides the sill? Did you consider anything else?

Joseph Scott: They could do a breakwater there. VIMS calls these types of things a brill, a hybrid of a breakwater and a sill. The breakwater would have been even larger, and there would have been a lot more of an issue of mapped SAV's offshore. So we are trying to stay just inside of that, so the breakwater structure would have to be even larger and creep into that. He could have come up onto the uplands and done something behind the wetlands, but he didn't want to give up all that real estate that's in front of it.

Nicholas Koch: I notice you are doing all of this work landward, rather than from a barge?

Joseph Scott: The shallowness of the water, and this contractor's distance by water is so far to travel, shallowness creates a huge problem because the size of the stone would cause him to bottom out and affect the SAV,, they will use matts.

Melody Goodwin: I have a few questions. First, when I look at your diagram/drawing the 5' gaps there, you call them weirs. I looked that word up, it says a structure or a dam, it affects the flow of the water. So really what they are, there's no structures or blocks or anything that would obstruct those 5' gaps, would it?

Joseph Scott: No, my understanding in doing this work is that when you have sills, more than 100' they have to have at least one 5' break in them. You can either do a gap, there would be no structure at all in that section. Or you can do a weir. It will have stone, it just won't rise above the tide level that is required by VMRC. See the drawing included in the packet.

Melody Goodwin: Is it good placement of the weir right under the pier a good choice?

Joseph Scott: The pier is too low to go higher with the stone. Only one gap is required and we have two. The purpose of the gap is to allow marine life in and out.

Katy Walden: Anyone else here to speak in favor of this project?

Melody Goodwin: Are you going to ask about the wetland grasses?

Katy Walden: Did the Board discuss or decide if there are any grasses impacted by the fill?

Katy Walden: Joey, is there any grasses within that staked area?

Joseph Scott: So, within that portion, there are some grasses that are there, that when the sand is placed, there are some that are browning. As is typical with most of these sills, they have allowed us to do so. As long as the sand doesn't exceed the high water level, they can either transplant the grass or a lot of times it just comes up through there.

Katy Walden: I think part of the confusion was the emails going back and forth between Mike and Joey, now there is clarification of a weir/window. .

Katy Walden: With no one else to speak on this application, the public comment period was closed. The Board discussed the application and made a motion.

Motion: On Motion of Daniel Desmond, seconded by Melody Goodwin, the Mathews County Wetland Board voted 5-0-0 as follows: Daniel Desmond, Melody Goodwin, Richard Marshall, Nicholas Koch, Katy Walden - aye, none - nay; to approve the application. The rationale being: "I voted in favor of the project. It's a Living Shoreline application. It's going to maintain existing wetlands and add new vegetation. Obviously, it's needed because of the amount of erosion at the site. The alternatives that were looked at would not work for this type of application and seems like the best approach." Application was Approved.

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. OLD BUSINESS

8. VIOLATIONS

9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

There will not be a Wetlands Board hearing on March 4, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT



Teresa Sanger, Marine & Wetlands
Projects Coordinator


Katy J. Walden, Chairman
Mathews County Wetlands Board