

1                   **ACCOMACK COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2025**

2           At a meeting of the Accomack County Wetlands Board held on the 5th day of May, 2025 in the  
3           Accomack County Administration Building Board Chambers, Room #104, in Accomac, Virginia.

4           **1. CALL TO ORDER**

5                   **MEMBERS PRESENT**

6                   **Wetland Board Members Present**

7                   Mr. T. Lee Byrd, Chairman

8                   Mr. George Ward, Vice Chairman

9                   Mr. Gene Wayne Taylor

10                  Mr. George H. Badger

11                  Mr. Timothy Getek

12                  **Others Present:**

13                  Ms. Julie Floyd, Environmental Permit Specialist

14                  Ms. Ginger Harmon, Administrative Assistant

15                  Mr. Paul Watson, Deputy Director of Code Enforcement

16                  Mr. Lee Pambid, Deputy County Administrator

17                  Ms. Claire Gorman, Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

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19           **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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21                           **On a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Ward,**  
22                           **the Wetlands Board voted to approve the agenda.**

23           **3. MINUTES**

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25                           **On a motion made by Mr. Getek and seconded by Mr. Badger,**  
26                           **the Wetlands Board voted to approve the March 27, 2025 minutes.**

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28           **4. NEW BUSINESS**

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30                   **A. JPA 2025-0521 Virginia Port Authority**

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32                   Paul Watson was sworn in and gave a synopsis of the application explaining that  
33                   this is a dredging project in Sloop Gut on Wallops Island. He also explained that  
34                   the non-vegetated wetlands would be converted to sub-aqueous bottom and that  
35                   there would be no net loss, therefore there should be no mitigation fee.  
36

37 Mr. Chuck Rolley was sworn in and gave a presentation explaining that the  
38 project’s goal was to deliver neutron rocket materials to Rocket Lab. He answered  
39 questions from members of the Board. He agreed that the 14,000 square feet of  
40 disturbance was conversion, and therefore was no net loss.

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43 **CHAIRMAN BYRD OPENED THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

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45 Mr. Byrd asked if there was anyone who wished to comment on application 2024-2631.  
46 No one wished to comment

47  
48 **CHAIRMAN BYRD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

49  
50 Ms. Gorman was sworn in and explained that the Commission was also going to be  
51 hearing this proposal.

52  
53 Leander Pambid was sworn in and spoke about the project and the need for facilities for  
54 our stakeholders within the space industry. He stated that the project has the potential to  
55 help many other groups.

56  
57 **On a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Getek, the Wetlands**  
58 **Board voted unanimously to issue a permit, valid for two (2) years, to**  
59 **Virginia Port Authority - VMRC# 2025-0521 for the dredging of Sloop Gut.**  
60 **This project is located in Wallops Island, VA**

61  
62 *All parties are advised that the foregoing determination grants no authority to*  
63 *encroach on the property rights of others.*

64  
65 **B. JPA 2025-0491 The Nature Conservancy**

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67 Paul Watson gave a summary of the project. He relayed that the application is for  
68 a wetland restoration project. He explained that the impacts included 863 square  
69 feet of vegetated wetlands. He also informed the board that the applicant requested  
70 that the compensation of 863 square feet of impacts be a pledge of credits from the  
71 wetlands bank to be finalized within 30 days of the completion of the project.

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73 Mr. Robin Bebenbaugh from RES was sworn in and gave a summary as well.

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75 **CHAIRMAN BYRD OPENED THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

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77 Mr. Byrd asked if there was anyone who wished to comment on application 2025-0491.  
78 No one wished to comment

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80 **CHAIRMAN BYRD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT**

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82 **On a motion made by Mr. Ward and seconded by Mr. Getek, the Wetlands Board**  
83 **voted unanimously to issue a permit, valid for two (2) years, to The Nature**  
84 **Conservancy - VMRC# 2025-0491 for wetland restoration near the Machipongo**  
85 **River Waterway in Accomack County, on the condition that the applicant will**  
86 **compensate for the loss of 863 square feet of vegetated wetlands from the credits**  
87 **created by this project as follows:**  
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89 **1. Applicant shall provide a written pledge of these credits for the issuance of**  
90 **the permit; and**  
91

92 **2. Applicant shall provide proof that these credits were applied to this project**  
93 **within thirty days of the completion of the project.**  
94

95 *All parties are advised that the foregoing determination grants no authority to*  
96 *encroach on the property rights of others.*  
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99 **5. OLD BUSINESS**

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101 **A. JPA 2023-0657 BIC, INC**

102 Paul Watson summarized the violation and explained that the bulkhead was  
103 altered but that it still did not follow the original plan or the revised plan.  
104

105 Mr. Raymond Britton was sworn in and explained that the numbers on the plan  
106 were wrong but that the overall measurements were very close.  
107

108 **CHAIRMAN BYRD OPENED THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT**  
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110 Mr. Byrd asked if there was anyone who wished to comment on application 2023-0657  
111 No one wished to comment  
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113 **CHAIRMAN BYRD CLOSED THE FLOOR TO PUBLIC COMMENT**  
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115 The board members asked questions of Mr. Britton and Paul Watson. Mr. Taylor  
116 reiterated that the overall measurement was close and even disturbed less than the  
117 what the plan had stipulated. Mr. Badger argued that you cannot blame the staff  
118 because the plans are poorly drawn. The board recommended that Mr. Britton  
119 include more legible plans. Mr. Britton agreed to have his staff do future  
120 illustrations for better overall information.  
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122 Ms. Gorman explained that the plans were not built according to plans  
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124 Mr. Badger concluded that the bulkhead is now built where the board thought it  
125 would be.

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**On a motion made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Badger, the Wetlands Board voted unanimously to accept the revised drawings with a change to the measurements to match staff measurements.**

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Policies and Procedures**

- A.** Mr. Watson discussed how GIS equipment could be problematic because of the resources and staff responsibilities. The board members discussed benchmarks and other ways to avoid mis-placing elements on site.
- B.** The board was asked to vote on whether or not to accept the Policies and Procedures Manual. On a motion from Mr. Badger and seconded by Mr. Getek, the board voted to accept the most recent draft of the Policies and Procedures Manual.

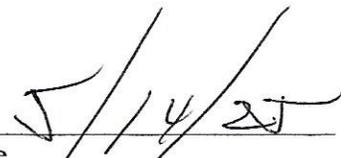
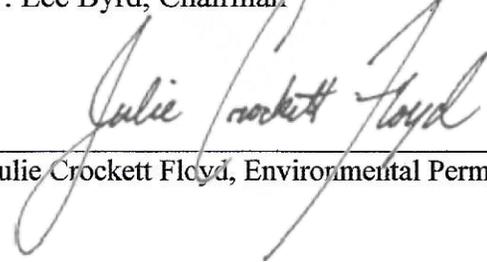
**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next Wetlands Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Accomack County Board Chambers, Room 104, in Accomac, VA.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made by Mr. Getek and seconded by Mr. Badger, the Wetlands Board voted to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 PM.

	
T. Lee Byrd, Chairman	Date
	5/14/2025
Julie Crockett Floyd, Environmental Permit Specialist	Date