



City of Virginia Beach Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board 2023-2024 Annual Report to City Council

Chair: Jeffrey Waller, P.E.

Date: August 8, 2024

Executive Summary

The Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Volunteers, City Council and Staff Liaisons have worked to compile the FY24 Annual Report to City Council covering the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. The Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board met 12 times in the past fiscal year.

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed below, along with recommendations for your consideration.

Mission Statement

The Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board is a 9-member board made up of 7 citizens and two students, responsible for providing City Council with regular briefings every quarter addressing the more than 40 projects (including the 21 projects listed in the 2021 Bond Referendum) included in Phase 1 of the Flood Protection Program and progress reports on work to eliminate the backlog in the maintenance of the City's legacy ditches, canals and ponds.

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

Over the past fiscal year, the agency, through its appointed volunteers and its liaisons, worked on the following key matters in furtherance of its mission:

1. Topic #1 At each of the monthly meetings starting in July 2023 the Board's City staff liaisons provided regular detailed briefings including.
 - a. Field Trip to Rosemont Forest Pump Station
 - b. The Windsor Woods Tide Gates
 - c. Stormwater Master Plan Effort

- d. Design-Build Delivery Effort
 - e. Drainage Ditch Operations and Maintenance
 - f. Communication Plan for the Flood Protection Program
 - g. The Sandbridge Road/New Bridge Road Intersection Improvements
 - h. The Grant Application Process
 - i. Stormwater Management regulations
 - j. Sea Level Rise and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study
 - k. Field Trip to the Windsor Woods Tide Gates
 - l. Stormwater Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance
2. Topic #2. City Council appointed two non-voting student members to the Board. The students have brought presentations to the Board back to the Brock Environmental Center to their classes.
 3. Topic #3. The chairman has provided quarterly updates at the City Council Informal Meetings.
 4. Topic #4. Board members have attended City Council District Meetings and project-specific public meetings.
 5. Topic #5. In the FY 23 Annual Report the Board recommended making Media and Communications available to support an increase in Public Awareness. There are currently 21 videos on the Flood Protection Program with 50,000 views.

Membership and Attendance

Name	Term	Beginning Date	Expiration Date	Eligible	Representing
Usha Eleswarapu	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	Environmental Science
Allison Hammer	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	Environmental Science / Resource Soil Scientist
James McCune	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	Finance
Scott Miller	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	
Robert Radspinner, P.E.	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	Civil Engineer
Emily Steinhilber	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	Environmental Science
Jeffrey Waller, P. E.	None	7/12/2022	N/A	N/A	Engineer
Torrence Spreder	None	3/06/2024	6/30/2025	N/A	Student Commissioner
Isabelle Chao	None	3/06/2024	6/30/2025	N/A	Student Commissioner

The standard attendance report for this report's Fiscal Year is included as Exhibits A & B.

The volunteer hours report covering this report's Fiscal Year is included as Exhibit C.

Financial Report (if applicable)

Not Applicable

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

In the upcoming year the Board has the following goals:

- a. Continue with Master Project Briefings with Central Resort Area, West Neck Road Bridge, and others as may arise.
- b. Participate in project site visits including Bow Creek Stormwater Park Phase 1, Lake Windsor Tide Gates when operable, and others as project schedules dictate.
- c. Continue quarterly presentations to City Council.
- d. Increase public awareness of the Bond Referendum projects and project status through participation in public and civic meetings, recommendations to public awareness campaigns including You Tube videos and social media, website, and public signage.
- e. Continue in depth discussions of the City's funding strategies for flood mitigation to include grants.
- f. Continue educational outreach through the Virginia Beach Environmental Studies program through current student members and identification of future student members.

Recommendations to City Council

- a. Encourage all Council Members play an active role in constituent education, by inviting staff to present updates on the Flood Protection Program at regularly scheduled District meetings, reshare Ripple Effect communications on their social media platforms, etc.
- b. Request that each Council Member attend at least one Bond Referendum Oversight Board meeting, particularly new members who may join after the 2024 election.

Additional Information (if desired)

As of June 30, 2024, the City of Virginia Beach is making good progress in all of the 7 Major Projects. Specific project progress is on schedule. There are several stormwater projects under construction, most notably, the Windsor Woods Tide Gate Project, the Bow Creek Stormwater Park Project Phase 1, Seatack Drainage, S. Plaza Trail/Presidential Boulevard Drainage, and Old Forge Road/Red Lion Road Drainage. Future projects under construction include Back Bay Marsh Restoration, Elizabeth River Floodplain Restoration, and First Colonial Road/Oceana Blvd.

During each meeting and presentation, board members, the council liaison, consultants, and city staff engaged in robust discussion on various topics such as inflation, communication to the public, project costs and street sweeping schedule. Some of the topics raised are as follows:

- Is inflation considered for cost estimates of projects at different benchmarks?
- To address rising project costs, is the city considering extending completion dates of projects or moving up certain projects that may have some immediate impact on flood reduction?
- Are there ongoing reviews of completed projects to see if they meet the goal of flood mitigation?
- Additionally, there was a suggestion to make educational videos for the public on how the city drains and floods and, why certain areas are the focus of FPP efforts.

(From the Board Chairman) the City of Virginia Beach has selected 9 members to the Oversight Board. I continue to be impressed with the varied backgrounds of the members and the high level of interest and participation of my co-Board members.

(From the Board Chairman) I am also continually impressed by the professionalism, support, and cooperation always displayed by our city staff liaisons and other city staff, our City Council liaison, and members of Jacobs Engineering (who provides administrative support for the CVB) in working with the Oversight Board. This group keeps the Flood Protection Program moving forward.

Closing

Should you have any questions or desire a formal City Council briefing from our agency, please contact Jeff Waller 757-409-7664 and Mike Tippin at 757-385-1673.


Jeffrey Waller, P.E.

Chairman of the Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board



Toni Utterback, P.E.

City Engineer



Mike Tippin, P.E.

Stormwater Engineering Center Administrator

Exhibit A
City of Virginia Beach
Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board
2023 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	July 13th	Aug 10th	Sept 14 th	Oct 12 th	Nov 9 th	Dec 14th	Total Present
Usha Eleswarapu	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
Allison R. Hammer	N/A	P	P	E	P	P	P	5/6
James F.N. McCune	N/A	P	P	P	P	E	P	5/6
Scott C. Miller	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
Robert R. Radspinner, PE	N/A	P	E	P	P	E	P	4/6
Emily Steinhilber	N/A	P	E	P	P	P	E	4/6
Jeffrey S. Waller, PE	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
Total Present		7/7	5/7	6/7	7/7	5/7	6/7	
Robert W. Worth Remick		P	P		P	P		4
Beverly K. Wilson		P	P	P	P	P	P	6
Toni P. Utterback			P	P	P		P	4
D’Juan Tucker		P	P	P	P	P	P	6

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (**A**) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (**E**) Cancelled (C)

City Council and Staff Liaisons should be marked either P or P/V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank.

If Commissioners participate P/V, it must be annotated in the Minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or Staff Liaisons.

Meetings lacking a quorum of Members attending **in-person** should be designated with an asterisk (*)

Exhibit B

City of Virginia Beach

Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board

2024 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 11 th	Feb 8 th	Mar 14 th	April 11 th	May 9 th	June 13 th	Total Present
Usha Eleswarapu	N/A	E	P	P	P	P	E	4/6
Allison R. Hammer	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
James F.N. McCune	N/A	P	P	P	P	E	P	5/6
Scott C. Miller	N/A	P	P	P	E	P	P	5/6
Robert R. Radspinner, PE	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
Emily Steinhilber	N/A	P	P	P	E	P	P	5/6
Jeffrey Waller, PE	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	6/6
Torrence Spreder (Student)	6/30/2025	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	4/4
Isabelle Chao (Student)	6/30/2025	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	4/4
Total Present		6/7	7/7	9/9	7/9	8/9	8/9	
Robert W. Worth Remick		P	P	P		P	P	5
Beverly K. Wilson		P	P	P	P	P	P	6
Toni P. Utterback, PE		P	P		P	P	P	5
Mike Tippin, PE		N/A	N/A	P		P	P	3
D’Juan Tucker		P	P	P	P	P	P	6

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)

City Council and Staff Liaisons should be marked either P or P/V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank.

If Commissioners participate P/V, it must be annotated in the Minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or Staff Liaisons.

Meetings lacking a quorum of Members attending in-person should be designated with an asterisk (★)

Exhibit C
City of Virginia Beach
Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board
2024 Volunteer Hours

Name	July 13 th	Aug 10 th	Sept 14 th	Oct 12 th	Nov 9 th	Dec 14 th	Jan 11 th	Feb 8 th	Mar 14 th	April 11 th	May 9 th	June 13 th	Total Minutes	Total Hours
Usha Eleswarapu	54	93	107	88	92	81	0	85	90	90	90	0	870	14.5
Allison R. Hammer	54	93	0	88	92	81	53	85	90	90	90	79	895	14.9
James F.N. McCune	54	93	107	88	0	81	53	85	90	90	0	79	820	13.7
Scott C. Miller	54	93	107	88	92	81	53	85	90	0	90	79	912	15.2
Robert R. Radspinner, PE	54	0	107	88	0	81	53	85	90	90	90	79	817	13.6
Emily Steinhilber	54	0	107	88	92	0	53	85	90	0	90	79	738	12.3
Jeffrey S. Waller, PE	54	93	107	88	92	81	53	85	90	90	90	79	1,002	16.7
Torrence Spreder									90	90	90	79	349	5.8
Isabelle Chao									90	90	90	79	349	5.8