

Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025, 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm

Economic Development, Boardroom B
4525 Main Street, Suite 700
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Board Members Present

Jeffrey S. Waller, PE, Scott Miller, Usha Eleswarapu, Ryan Radspinner, PE, Allison Hammer

Board Members Absent

Jimmy McCune, Emily Steinhilber

Student Members Present

Isabelle Chao, Torrence Spreder

City Council Present

Robert W. "Worth" Remick

City Staff Present

Tori Eisenberg – City Attorney

Mike Tippin, PE – Public Works, Stormwater Engineering Center Administrator

Toni Utterback, PE – Public Works, City Engineer

D’Juan Tucker – Public Works, Administrative Assistant

Jacob’s Engineering Group

Shelly Frie, PE – Local Project Manager

Public Attendees

Aubrey Moore

Uday Khambhammettu

John L’Heureux

John McDonald



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VIRGINIA BEACH FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

The June 12, 2025, Public Hearing Meeting for the Virginia Beach Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board was called to order by board chairman Jeffrey Waller at 2:00 PM. D’Juan Tucker then took roll call.

Minutes of May 8, 2025

Upon motion by Ryan Radspinner, seconded by Scott Miller, the May 8, 2025, Minutes were approved.

Vote: 5-0

Members voting Aye:

Jeffrey Waller, Ryan Radspinner, Usha Eleswarapu, Scott Miller, Allison Hammer

Members Absent:

Emily Steinhilber, Jimmy McCune

Staff Reports

- Construction on the First Colonial/ Oceana BMP has begun to address flooding on Oceana Boulevard.
- The project is crucial for maintaining mission readiness at Oceana jet base.
- A recurrent flooding indicator map was presented, showing areas affected by various storm scenarios and sea level rise.
- The Marsh Restoration Project is on hold due to the inability to obtain necessary environmental permits related to subaquatic vegetation.
- City Council has requested a legislative package to seek a special carve-out for the project in the next General Assembly session.
- Suggestions for alternative strategies such as adding trees, shrubs, and creating artificial reefs, were discussed as potential options if the marsh project does not proceed.
- There is \$31 Million in local funding allocated for the Marsh Restoration Project, with additional grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- If the project cannot move forward, funding may be reallocated to other initiatives.

Central Resort District

- A presentation on the Central Resort District was provided, outlining its significance and the various projects involved. The area is highly developed and includes multiple capital improvement projects aimed at enhancing drainage and flood management.
- The Central Resort District was identified as the primary area affected by flooding.
- Historical development has reduced green spaces, impacting drainage capacity.
- Significant flooding events have been documented, particularly near 21st and Baltic Street.
- The existing drainage system, including a 54-inch culvert, is over capacity and leads to frequent flooding.
- A holistic approach is being taken to address flooding across a 650-acre area.



- Seven alternatives were considered, focusing on city-owned properties to minimize impact on private land.
- The selected plan includes improvements to culverts and the construction of new pump stations.
- The project aims to enhance drainage efficiency and reduce flooding risks significantly.
- The total estimated cost for the drainage improvements is \$577 million.
- Funding availability will determine the timeline for project phases, with initial phases already funded.
- The first phases of the project are expected to begin in the second quarter of 2026.
- Subsequent phases will depend on funding and project prioritization.
- The Central Resort project has multiple phases, with phases 1A and 1B capturing most benefits upfront, while subsequent phases will address internal neighborhood improvements.

Student Member Comments

- Student members expressed appreciation for the welcoming environment of the board and their involvement in discussions.
- The selection process for new student members is underway, aiming to have two new members by the July meeting.

Board chair Jeff Waller adjourned the meeting at 3:09 PM.



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