

Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

February 13, 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, Usha Eleswarapu, Ryan Radspinner, PE, Allison Hammer, Jimmy McCune

Board Members Absent

Emily Steinhilber, Scott Miller

Student Members Present

Isabelle Chao, Torrence Spreder

City Council Present

Robert W. "Worth" Remick

City Staff Present

Tori Eisenberg – Deputy 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

Kyle Coolbaugh – Public Works, Stormwater Extension Agent

Jacob’s Engineering Group

Shelly Frie, PE – Local Project Manager

Public Attendees

Neena Moorjani

Al Wallace

Rona Marsh

Walt Stone

Venkat Eleswarapu



The February 13, 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 January 9, 2025

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Allison Hammer, the January 9, 2025, Minutes were approved.

Vote: 5-0

Members voting Aye:

Jeffrey Waller, Ryan Radspinner, Usha Eleswarapu, Allison Hammer, Jimmy McCune

Members Absent:

Emily Steinhilber, Scott Miller

Staff Reports

- The corps of Engineers conducted a feasibility study presentation on coastal storm risk management.
- Funding was approved for the pleasure house point project.
- The Eastern Shore Drive project has been baselined and is now officially in the project phase, with some smaller projects combined to streamline efforts.
- The city is reapplying for a \$35 million grant for Lake Bradford-Chubb Lake project after two unsuccessful attempts.
- The Marsh Restoration project is currently stalled pending permit approval from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

GIS- The data behind the decisions

- GIS stands for Geographic Information System
- GIS is crucial for Public Works as it provides spatial data that informs decision making and analysis.
- The city uses ESRI tools, which are industry standards for GIS applications.
- The Operations group in Public Works manages GIS data, including stormwater assets.
- Various methods are used to collect data, including licensed surveyors, field visits, and non-traditional methods like CCTV.
- Crowd-sourced data from tools like Waze are also utilized to enhance situational awareness during storm events.



- GIS data is imported into SWMM (a stormwater modeling program) then used to assess the capacity of stormwater systems and identifying areas at risk of flooding.
- Public Works is committed to transparency by providing open access to stormwater data through the city's website.
- GIS management is divided among departments, with IT overseeing hardware and software while departments manage their own GIS data.
- The city contracts a vendor to acquire annual imagery and lidar data, which is essential for creating digital elevation models.
- Lidar data is collected every five to six years and is crucial for understanding terrain without the interference of buildings.

Economic Analysis of FPP projects

- The city of Virginia Beach requested ODU to conduct the economic analysis study of the FPP Bond Referendum Projects. City staff worked with the researchers to provide any information needed for the study.
- An economic analysis conducted by ODU highlighted the benefit-cost ratios of various flood prevention projects, with Central Resort area showing a ratio of 33.7.
- The need to prioritize projects based on their economic benefits was discussed.
- The benefit-cost ratio for the projects averages around 13.4, indicating a strong return on investment for the city.

Board Member Comments

- Concerns were raised about comparing projects with different levels of information and conceptual costs, highlighting the need for careful evaluation in decision-making.
- The Central Resort Area with 33.7 Benefit/Cost Ratio should be prioritized, however it is behind all the other projects in the timeline for completion.
- The Chubb Lake/Lake Bradford outfall has only 1.6 Benefit/Cost ratio and has estimated cost of \$155 Million, however it is ahead in terms of money spent and timeline for completion.
- It was stated that the city should promote these positive economic findings to the public to highlight the value of the projects.

Public Comments

- Public comments are on pages 4 and 5. Page 4 comments are from Rona Marsh; Page 5 comments are from Walt Stone and Venkat Eleswarapu.



.Pleasure House Pt.

It looks like this PHP project is buying credits out of Matthews's County to initially destroy wetland (2.96 acres) on site before it begins their "restoration" following.

The JPA application states that non-- tidal wetlands are present onsite, and the applicant proposes to compensate for impacts to those non-tidal wetlands with the purchase of non- tidal mitigation credits, prior to establishing tidal wetlands on the Pleasure House Point site.

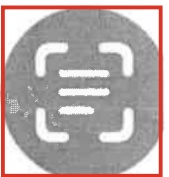
Windsor Woods Pump station - 0.4 Acres

* **North London Bridge Creek and South London Bridge Creek - 2.3**

Acres

* **Total -2.7 Acres**

Rona Marsh



Why is the city failing to purchase mitigation credits right now that are readily available from over 5 existing banks that can be used within the code area of projects affected in Virginia Beach. The current need of just under 3 acres of mitigation credits could be purchased for approximately \$4.3M right now and proof of such is that the city is planning to purchase 2.96 credits from the Matthews County Chesapeake Bay bank now to initiate the PHP project where they must 1st destroy 3 acres of non-tidal/tidal features in this site as a first step to begin what they have described as the necessary process of creating a mitigation bank to produce credits at a cost of \$12M.

That's the most illogical thinking ever conceived.

The city can buy 8. mitigation credits right now on the open market for approximately \$10.4 million and avoid destroying an established coastal wetland that's providing natural flood protection as it exists in its current configuration, just as the USACE has described in recent presentations for coastal flood protection and which the city has agreed is important.

Buy the mitigation credits that you need right now and finish your FPP projects currently under construction and stay out of the Pleasure House Park wetland conservation area.

WALT STONE
Citizen Resident and Property Owner in Ocean Park
wlsvb@aol.com

Did the city take into account the economic analysis done by ODU for FPP projects? Did they use this when determining the timeline for each project and if so how and when?

Venkat Eleswarapu