

Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 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, Emily Steinhilber, Ryan Radspinner, PE, Allison Hammer, Jimmy McCune

Student Members Present

Isabelle Chao

Student Members Absent

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

Jacob’s Engineering Group

Shelly Frie, PE – Local Project Manager

Public Attendees

Mike Barbachem

Tim Solanic

Jon Murdoch

Aubrey Moore



The January 9, 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 December 12, 2024

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Scott Miller, the December 12, 2024, Minutes were approved.

Vote: 6-0

Members voting Aye:

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

Members Absent:

Emily Steinhilber (Absent for vote only)

Staff Reports

- A 54-inch pipe is being installed at the intersection of South Plaza and Donnawood Dr, requiring significant space and careful planning due to existing underground utilities.
- Recent communications regarding the Pleasure House Point project reached approximately 18,000 views, indicating strong public interest.
- Future educational blogs will focus on wetlands credits, aiming to inform the public about the purpose and acquisition.

Pleasure House Point Wetland Mitigation Bank

- The project aims to restore wetlands and create a mitigation bank, with construction expected to begin in February 2025 and conclude by August 2025.
- The project will involve planting over 600 trees and is designed to accommodate sea level rise.
- The city acquired the land in 2012, and a conservation easement has been established to protect the area.
- The project will generate tidal wetland credits that can only be used for city projects, addressing the need for such credits in upcoming flood protection initiatives.
- Ongoing efforts are being made to identify additional wetland credits for future projects, ensuring efficient use of resources.
- The availability of tidal wetland credits was uncertain until recently, complicating project planning.
- The city had to explore alternative sources for credits due to delays from public banks.



- A need for a comprehensive plan to address the loss of tidal wetlands due to climate change was discussed.
- The Bow Creek project will create tidal wetlands credits, but the city cannot take credit for them without establishing a Mitigation Banking Instrument (MBI).
- A total of eight tidal wetland credits will be created, with specific timelines for their release based on monitoring results.
- The project must comply with seasonal restrictions due to the presence of endangered species.
- Parks and Recreation will manage the area as a natural preserve, ensuring long-term maintenance and monitoring.
- Suggestions were made to preserve and reuse materials from trees removed during construction for educational and aesthetic purposes.
- The project is currently at 100% design, with a tree plan in place that includes replanting efforts.
- The number of trees to be replanted was discussed, indicating a significant commitment to environmental restoration.
- The importance of community outreach and education about the project was emphasized to mitigate concerns and misunderstandings.
- Residents need to be informed about the project's benefits and impacts on their neighborhoods to foster support and understanding.
- The importance of making information accessible to the public was emphasized.

Board chair Jeff Waller adjourned the meeting at 3:29 PM.

