

# Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 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, Jimmy McCune

## **Board Members Absent**

Allison Hammer, Emily Steinhilber

## **Student Members Present**

Isabelle Chao, Torrence Spreder

## **City Staff Present**

Tori Eisenberg – City Attorney

LJ Hansen, PE – Director of Public Works

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

Monica Michaud

Uday Khambhammettu

Al Wallace



The April 10, 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 March 13, 2025**

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Scott Miller, the March 13, 2025, Minutes were approved.

**Vote:** 5-0

### **Members voting Aye:**

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

### **Members Absent:**

Emily Steinhilber, Allison Hammer

### **Staff Reports**

- The BRIC grant of \$25.1 million from FEMA has been secured and will proceed despite government cancellation of grants.
- Concerns were raised about potential funding retractions, but the current agreement secures the funding for ongoing projects.
- The city is preparing to advertise four projects on Eastern Shore Drive, including two pump stations and stormwater improvements, under one contract.
- Once construction begins, the city aims to minimize long-term disruptions by coordinating multiple projects simultaneously.
- Upcoming communications include a blog post and video aimed at educating homeowners about preventing yard debris from blocking storm drains.
- The outreach will emphasize the importance of community participation in maintaining stormwater systems to ensure effective operation.
- The Marsh restoration project is currently in a holding pattern as the city works through regulatory challenges with the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC).
- THE VMRC is the lead agency for permitting due to their jurisdiction over the bottom of Back Bay.
- VMRC is requesting more information before deciding on the projects permit, as it is a new concept on the East Coast.



## Windsor Woods Mega Project –Mike Tippin Presentation

- The mega project includes Windsor Woods, Princess Anne Plaza, and the Lakes. Delivered via a design-build method.
- The project aims to address the flooding caused by various sources, including tidal influences and storm surges.
- Construction is scheduled to begin in Q2 of 2026, beginning with the Windsor Woods area.
- Flood gates will be constructed on land to prevent flooding, while tide gates will be installed in water bodies to block the tidal flow.
- The project will include complex drainage systems with sensors and pump stations to manage flooding from multiple directions.
- An 800 CFS pump station will be built at Windsor Woods, with a larger 1400 CFS pump station planned for Princess Anne Plaza.
- Bow Creek stormwater park will provide 300 acre-feet of storage for stormwater, significantly benefitting the area.
- The park will include recreational facilities including trails, pickle ball courts and volleyball courts.
- The project will be completed in two phases, with the first phase currently under construction.
- Maintenance will be required to ensure the stormwater park retains its storage capacity, with a dredging cycle estimated at 20 to 50 years.
- The area is tidally influenced, which may affect sediment accumulation and maintenance needs.
- The Green run Canal and South London Bridge Creek will be kept independent of each other to prevent mixing of flows.
- The separation is expected to enhance capacity of the upstream side.
- The total cost estimate for the project bundle is approximately \$500 million.
- Major cost drivers include the pump stations and tidal gates, both requiring significant amounts of concrete and electrical components.
- Sensors are critical for the operation of the system, controlling when gates close and pumps activate based on water levels.
- Different types of sensors, such as ultrasonic and pressure transducers, are used, each with specific challenges related to maintenance and accuracy.
- The bulk of the \$500 million budget will be spent during construction.
- Design costs are significant but pale in comparison to the expenses incurred during construction phases.

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

