

Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 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, Jimmy McCune, Allison Hammer, Ryan Radspinner, PE

Board Members Absent

Emily Steinhilber

Student Members Present

John L'Heureux, Pahan Jayarathna

City Council Present

Robert W. "Worth" Remick

City Staff Present

Diamond Royster – Assistant City Attorney

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

D'Juan Tucker – Public Works, Administrative Assistant

Tiffany Russell – Communications Director

Jennifer Lundgren – Media and Communications Coordinator

Public Attendees

Uday Khambhammettu



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VIRGINIA BEACH FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

The August 14, 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 July 10, 2025

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Scott Miller, the July 10, 2025, Minutes were approved.

Vote: 5-0

Members voting Aye:

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

Members Absent:

Emily Steinhilber

Members Abstain:

Ryan Radspinner

FY25 Annual Report

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Ryan Radspinner, the FY25 Annual Report was approved.

Vote: 6-0

Members voting Aye:

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

Members Absent:

Emily Steinhilber



Flood Protection Plan Overview

- The Flood Protection Program includes a bond referendum of \$567 million which was voted on in 2021.
- Over 70% of citizens voted to approve the bond referendum.
- There are more than 40 projects in phase 1 of the Flood Protection Program.
- Virginia Beach faces flooding threats from all directions which is influenced by storm events and wind direction.

Communications

- The new city logo and website were rolled out during the centralization process.
- The centralization of communications began around 2022-2023 to improve efficiency and consistency.
- The communications office includes various teams focusing on internal communications, public engagement, video production, social media, media relations, and design.
- 150 posts published related to the Flood Protection Program from September 2023 to July 2025.
- 43 blogs posted from September 2023 to July 2025 with over 26,000 views, averaging 615 views per blog.
- Over 122,000 views on “How it Works” videos, primarily on Instagram.
- The Friday city weekly email newsletter reaches about 12,000 recipients.
- The Flood Protection Program’s engagement on Facebook is significantly higher than the industry average.
- A \$500 Facebook ad boost resulted in significant engagement and follower increase.
- The annual budget for paid advertising for the department is \$1,000, with a recent test of \$500.
- The fourth grade Flood initiative is complete and will go to VBCPS for teachers to teach.
- Communications team will explore setting up direct email lists for targeted project information.
- Communications team will explore the use of reels and engaging with local influencers for better outreach.

Back Bay Restoration Project Concerns

- The Back Bay Restoration Project is currently on life support due to various challenges and may require legislative changes.
- There are about 300 acres in Back Bay, in about 50 acres Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) has shown up. When the program started there was 0% SAV.
- The city plans to go to Richmond in November to seek legislative support for the Back Bay Restoration Project.
- If changes are made to the design, the joint permit application process starts over.

Board chair Jeff Waller adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.



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