

# Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

March 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, Scott Miller, Usha Eleswarapu, Emily Steinhilber, Ryan Radspinner, PE, Allison Hammer, Jimmy McCune

## **Student Members Present**

Isabelle Chao, Torrence Spreder

## **City Council Present**

Robert W. "Worth" Remick

## **City Staff Present**

Diamond Royster – Assistant 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

CJ Bodnar – Stormwater Engineering Center, Technical Services Program Manager

## **Jacob’s Engineering Group**

Shelly Frie, PE – Local Project Manager

## **Public Attendees**

Mike Barbachem

Neena Moorjani

Uday Khambhammettu

Al Wallace

Rona Marsh



**theRippleEffect**

VIRGINIA BEACH FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

The March 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 February 13, 2025**

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Allison Hammer, the February 13, 2025, Minutes were approved.

**Vote:** 5-0

### **Members voting Aye:**

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

### **Members Abstain:**

Emily Steinhilber, Scott Miller (Absent previous meeting)

### **Staff Reports**

- Windsor Woods Tide Gate project, which is nearing completion, includes innovative maintenance features.
- Temporary pumps are currently in use and will remain for two to three years until the permanent pump station is operational.
- The team is actively engaging with the community through various presentations and media interviews to raise awareness about flood protection efforts.
- Suggestions were made to create educational content showcasing unusual debris found in stormwater pipes to inform residents about their responsibilities in maintaining drainage systems.
- The operations team has successfully encumbered \$31 million in ARPA funding, which is to be spent by December 2026.
- A proactive asset management approach is being implemented to maintain infrastructure and prevent failures. The Stormwater master plan is complete, with plans to address neighborhoods affected by tidal influences.

### **Coastal Storm Risk Management – CJ Bodnar Presentation**

- The CSRМ aims to enhance the city’s resilience against coastal storm risks over a 50-year timeframe.
- The study has progressed through authorization in 2020 and appropriation in 2022, currently in the feasibility phase.
- Various structural and non-structural alternatives are being evaluated, including flood walls, gates, and nature-based solutions.



- Regular meetings with the corps ensure ongoing coordination with Norfolk and Chesapeake to optimize flood protection efforts.
- The potential for shared costs and benefits is being explored to enhance efficiency and reduce expenses.
- The city plans to apply for DCIP (Defense Community Infrastructure Program) grants to improve military readiness and flood protection, particularly for First Colonial and Oceana.
- The Army Corps of Engineers is using their own programs and economic drivers to assess damages, which requires inputting existing data into their systems.
- The sea level study conducted previously has significantly advanced the current project discussions with the Army Corps.
- Current modeling does not account for ongoing Flood Protection Projects as they are considered future projects without benefits.
- The Army Corps will account for property acquisition costs in their estimates, but the actual acquisition responsibility lies with the city.
- Certain construction plans may have a greater impact on personal property, particularly in areas like Sandbridge where homes are close to the beach.
- Easements will be required for non-structural solutions like berms, and the city may need to acquire properties to maintain these structures.
- The city has already paid \$2.5 million towards the study.
- Federal funding for construction phases is structured as 65% federal and 35% non-federal.
- The project has not been significantly impacted by recent federal budget cuts, and funding is expected to continue incrementally each year.

#### **Board Member Comments**

- Board members emphasized the need for clear communication to the public regarding project progress and timelines.
- Visual updates and progress tables that will help the public understand the ongoing work and future plans was suggested.
- A concern on the use of the economic analysis conducted by ODU in project prioritization by Jacobs Engineering was presented.
- It was clarified that the study was intended to inform and was not utilized for project scheduling.

#### **Public Comments**

- Concerns about budget shortfalls, indicating a gap of \$141 million in project funding and the need for better financial management, and the potential waste of funds on unnecessary projects.
- Public comments highlighted the dissatisfaction with the bulldozing of Pleasure House Point and the need for alternative solutions.
- The community expressed concerns about the impact of flooding and the importance of preserving natural resources.

Board chair Jeff Waller adjourned the meeting at 3:28 PM.

