

Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026, 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm

Economic Development, Boardroom B
4525 Main Street, Suite 700
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Board Members Present

Scott Miller, Emily Steinhilber, Allison Hammer, Jeffrey Waller, PE, Jimmy Mccune, Ryan Radspinner, PE, Usha Eleswarapu

Student Members Present

Pahan Jayarathna, John L'Heureux

City Staff Present

Tori Eisenberg – City Attorney

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

D’Juan Tucker – Public Works, Engineering Administrative Assistant

Jim Milliken, PE – Public Works, Surface Water Regulatory

Jacobs Engineering Group

Shelly Frie, PE – Local Project Manager



The January 8, 2026, Public Hearing Meeting for the Virginia Beach Flood Prevention Bond Referendum Oversight Board was called to order by board chair Jeff Waller at 2:00 PM. D’Juan Tucker then took roll call.

Minutes of January 8, 2026

Upon motion by Jimmy McCune, seconded by Scott Miller, January 8, 2026, Minutes were approved.

Vote: 7-0

Members voting Aye:

Ryan Radspinner, Jeff Waller, Allison Hammer, Jimmy McCune, Usha Eleswarapu, Scott Miller, Emily Steinhilber



Status Report

1. Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Study Meetings
 - Six public meetings were held. (two Virtual, four in-person)
 - Total Attendance: 60 participants.
2. Natural & Hybrid Infrastructure (NHI) Workshop
 - Held January 14th.
 - Hosted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and City of Virginia Beach.
 - Focus: Green Infrastructure solutions to complement gray infrastructure.
 - Workshop emphasized flood reduction through nature-based solutions.
 - Attendees included NGOs, regulatory agencies, City staff, and UVA students.
3. Elizabeth River Wetland & Floodplain Restoration Project
 - Notice to proceed issued January 26.
 - Project officially entered construction phase.
 - Initial challenge: discovery of buried concrete infrastructure.
4. Windsor Woods/ Princess Anne Plaza/ The Lakes Mega Bundle
 - Phase 2 kickoff meeting held January 21.
 - Total construction purchase order: \$455 Million.
 - Marks full construction launch of combined projects.
5. Eastern Shore Drive Drainage
 - Project is currently in bid and award phase for construction.
 - Selected to receive \$8.3 million loan from the DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF).
6. Back Bay Restoration Project
 - Currently in holding pattern.
 - Issues include: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Regulatory constraints regarding state-owned bottom lands, easement requirements create complications.
 - Attorney General and Chief Resilience Officer reviewing long-term lands solution.

Hydrodynamic Separators (HDS) – Jim Milliken

1. What is a Hydrodynamic Separator
 - Underground cylindrical stormwater infrastructure.
 - Uses swirling flow to separate sediment.
 - Approximately 15 approved models in Virginia.
 - All approved by Virginia Stormwater Regulations.
 - Primary Functions: Sediment removal, trash and debris capture, partial hydrocarbon capture.
2. How the City uses HDS Units
 - Configurations
 - I. Online: Installed directly in storm line
 - II. Offline (Preferred): diverts first flush; bypasses large storm events.
 - Applications:
 - I. Retrofit to existing systems.
 - II. Pre-treatment before ponds and wetlands.
 - III. Standalone water quality improvement projects.



IV. Incorporated into new flood protection projects.

3. Example Installations

- First Colonial/Oceana Project.
- Seatack Neighborhood Improvements.
- Aragona Village.
- Kemps River Crossing (Standalone Water Quality Project).
- Laurel Cove Park.
- New City Hall.

4. Maintenance

- 77 HDS Units (City and privately owned).
- City owned units inspected annually.
- Private units inspected every 5 years.
- Maintenance performed using Vacuum (Vactor) trucks.

5. Cost-Benefit

- Estimated 70,000 – 100,000 per pound of phosphorous removed annually.
- Used strategically where cost effective.
- Coordination between Flood Protection and Water Quality teams through quarterly meetings.

6. Legislative update

- CFPF likely to regain funding through Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
- Loan and grant structures evolving.
- State exploring non-federal match funding for Army Corps projects.
- Multiple resilience-related bills moving through General Assembly.

7. Student Member Update

- One student representative participated in Conservation Lobby Day in Richmond.
- Advocated for: Bycatch reduction devices, wildlife corridor study, Environmental Literacy Bill.
- Engaged directly with state delegates.

8. Board Member Comment

- A request was made for Stormwater Modeling for the Silo Project as a topic to be presented to the board.

9. Public Comment

- Why does City focus on phosphorus reduction rather than nitrogen?
 - I. Virginia water quality use phosphorus as primary regulatory pollutant for stormwater compliance.
 - II. Nitrogen contributes to algal blooms but is addressed through broader Chesapeake Bay TMDL framework.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM

