# STAFFORD COUNTY WETLANDS BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 20,2025 at 6:00 p.m.
ABC Conference Room, 2nd Floor

## A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman, Robert Hayden.

## B. Roll Call

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| Members Present: | Mary Rust, Benjamin Rudasill, Anthony Pineau, Robert Hayden, Zachary Martinez and Dan Adams |
| Members Absent: | Sue Henderson |
| Staff Present: | Joe Fiorello, Emily Torrey, Vicki Sowers |

## C. Determination of a Quorum

A quorum was established with 6 members present.

## D. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2025

Mr. Adams noted a change needed on page 5 of the notes indicating that he was referred to as the speaker and it should be changed to Mr. Hayden. All reviewed and Ms. Sowers noted and advised that she would make the change.

A motion was made by Mr. Pineau to approve September 15, 2025, meeting minutes **WITH** noted change; seconded by Mr. Martinez. Minutes were approved 6-0 (1 absent).

## E. Public Speakers:

A request was made to open the floor to public comments.

Ms. Kristen Maxim presented some concerns regarding 303 Thorny Point Rd (staff data) and said that there is confusion with the address noted for 41A 113.
Other issues she described include public notice signs at the property for this meeting for public to be better informed. Mr. Hayden said he would take it under advisement.

**F. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**APPLICATION (AP25156674): WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION WB25-01 – MR. FEROZ TAMANA, APPLICANT, IS REQUESTING A WETLAND PERMIT UNDER SECTION 27-19 – APPLICATION FOR PERMIT OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY WETLANDS ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING A 150 LINEAR FOOT RIPRAP REVETMENT. THE REVETMENT WILL STABILIZE THE BANK AND RETARD EROSION**

Mr. Fiorello explained the details of the rip rap revetment application through his staff report that included graphs and photos. The project involved installing a 100-150 ft linear rip rap revetment, affecting 385 sq ft of non-vegetated tidal wetland and 710 sq ft of subaqueous bottom to help combat shoreline erosion along Aquia Creek. The proposed project demonstrated compensatory mitigation through the Virginia Aquatic Resources Fund. Mr. Fiorello also presented the VIMS management decision tree, showing support of the proposed revetment.

Mr. Jim Beck, engineer for the applicant, took the floor and explained the engineering aspects of the revetment. He said it would include installation of a two-to-one slope and would tie into existing grading. He also explained that the project would mitigate the disturbance of 3100 square feet of RPA with native plants.

Public comment from a next-door resident (name not obtained) spoke to offer concerns regarding the removal of trees and the impact on existing natural habitat. He suggested that the erosion problem had been exaggerated and that the trees are essential for the natural ecosystem. He suggested that the emergency juncture for which the trees were removed may not have been valid. Mr. Hayden confirmed that proper guidance was followed by the County. He said he would like to see the trees put back but understands that's not likely and would take 30+ years to grow to where they were. He also suggests that the purpose of application is more for view than to mitigate erosion issues. Mr. Hayden acknowledged the resident's concerns and thanked him for his feedback.

Mr. Hayden proceeded to summarize the Board's discussion and the resident's concerns, and Mr. Beck explained that they used SEAS recommendations regarding which canopy trees and shrubs were kept. Mr. Rudasill made a motion to approve the revetment application. Ms. Rust seconded the motion. The motion to approve the application passed unanimously (6-0, 1 absent).

**G. OLD BUSINESS:**

- SUB-COMMITTEES
- BY-LAWS

- Mr. Hayden discussed the formation of four subcommittees and the need for a final meeting to review their progress. He said he sent out an email to all members regarding their involvement with each. Ms. Rust asked if Mr. Hayden is eligible for a second term in January. Mr. Fiorello confirmed. The Board agreed to schedule a meeting in January to review progress with each. Mr. Hayden said the By-Law discussion would follow in January – By-Law subcommittee report.

**H. NEW BUSINESS**: NONE

**I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- OCTOBER 1st Event

Mr. Hayden reported on the huge success of the October 1st educational event that involved 130 Widewater Elementary School fourth graders. The event was held at the Widewater State Park and was hosted by various state and local agencies aimed to educate students about wetlands and water quality. Ms. Rust and others commended Mr. Hayden's (and all who assisted) efforts in showcasing the value of wetlands/Chesapeake Bay education. Mr. Hayden requested his recap email (read in meeting) be added to the official record and said he would include pictures once they are approved for public viewing.

**J. STAFF REPORT**: NONE

**K. ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Mr. Martinez made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rudasill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.