ADDITIONAL READING

Contents

Suggested Readings List

Virginia Wetlands Historical Summary

Informal Suggestions for Conducting a Public Hearing
Additional Readings and Resources

Anonymous. 1988. Population Growth and Development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to the Year 2020. The report of the 2020 panel to the Chesapeake Executive Council. 52 pp. [Available at many public libraries, Virginia Council on the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, 60 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.]

Badger, Curtis. 1978-79. Saltmarsh Ecology, Parts I-IV. Virginia Wildlife 39:(9) and 40:(1,4,8). [Available at many libraries.]


Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. Science 162:1243-1248. [Available at most larger libraries.]


U.S. E.P.A. Chesapeake Bay Program. 1982. Chesapeake Bay: Introduction to an Ecosystem. 33 pp. [Available from Chesapeake Bay Program, 401 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403.]


White, Christopher P. 1989. Chesapeake Bay: Nature of the Estuary, A Field Guide. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, Maryland. 212 pp. [Available at many bookstores.]
Virginia Wetlands
Historical Summary

Background

1963 Massachusetts passes first wetlands protection law.

1966 Virginia legislature establishes special Marine Resources Study Commission.

1967 Study Commission recommends special study on marsh and wetlands.

1968 Legislature directs VIMS to conduct the wetlands study.


1970-72 Public hearings, drafting of Wetlands Act and research (Marcellus, Boon, Lynch) to determine wetlands definitions and upper limits of wetlands.


Wetlands Act enacted, to become effective 1 July 1972.


First local wetlands boards established and VIMS commences training workshops for boards.

VIMS also commences wetlands inventory.


First county inventory published (Lancaster County Tidal Marsh Inventory, Silberhorn, December, 1973).


Two more county inventories published (Mathews, York; both Silberhorn).

Wetlands Guidelines promulgated by VMRC.

Wetlands of Back Bay and the North Landing River and its Tributaries added by amendment to Wetlands Act.

1982 Nonvegetated wetlands added to Wetlands Act by amendment.

Boards expanded from 5 to 7 members (optional).

Grandfather Sunset Clause added.

(over)
1983  *Wetlands Guidelines* revised to include nonvegetated areas.
      New community types added to classification system.

1987  Wetlands Act amended to allow reporting, site inspections, notice to comply and stop work
      orders.

1989  Wetlands Mitigation-Compensation Policy adopted by VMRC.
      State non-tidal wetlands legislation dies in committee.

1990  Wetlands Act amended to allow court ordered civil penalties not to exceed $25,000 for each
      day of violation.
      In lieu of any civil penalty, civil charges of up to $10,000 for each violation may be ordered by
      the Marine Resources Commission or Wetlands Board.
      Restoration hearings were also authorized.

1991  Tidal Marsh Inventory for City of Chesapeake completed and published (last of original
      series). Wetlands inventories to be maintained and updated using computer-based
      Geographical Information System (GIS).
      VIMS Wetlands Program produces “Virginia Wetlands Management Handbook” and
      Wetlands Educational Curriculum.

1992  Wetlands and Dunes Acts “streamlined,” along with other legislation, by the Division of
      Legislative Services.

1995  “Virginia Wetlands Management Handbook” is revised and updated.
Informal Suggestions for Conducting a Public Hearing

Contents

1. Arrangements prior to meeting
2. General meeting format
3. Helpful hints
Just Prior to Meeting, Staff Should:

1. Telephone reminder to Board Members
2. Confirm availability of meeting chamber
3. Check lights and speakers
4. Set out name plates, pads, and pencils
5. Bring appropriate area maps
6. Bring state and local laws
7. Bring photographs of site
8. Post agendas for public
Holding Public Meeting

1. Meeting called to order
2. Attendance recorded, quorum confirmed
3. Chair explains purpose of meeting, reads opening statement*
4. Chair states where agendas are posted
5. Chair calls for comments, questions, corrections on minutes
6. Chair inquires about old business

*Many boards choose to read the policy statement at the beginning of the Wetlands Act.
Hearing Items

1. Chair may shift hearing order, administer oaths, limit presentations and discussions

2. Chair or staff state case number and presents brief description of proposed project

3. Chair or staff read VIMS report into record

4. Applicant or representative speaks

5. Others speak

6. Chair closes hearing to public
Board Discussion

1. Chair asks for comments from Board Members

2. Record should display a consideration of:
   
   A. Social concerns
   
   B. Economic concerns
   
   C. Physical concerns
   
   D. Environmental concerns

3. Chair asks for staff evaluation/recommendation

4. Chair asks if any additional comments from VIMS

5. Chair entertains motion

*A benefits vs. detriments format is recommended*
Motions may include:

1. Approval as submitted
2. Approval in modified form
3. Approval with bonding or letter of credit required
4. Denial
5. Denial without prejudice
6. Direct applicant to provide more information
7. Defer decision for up to 30 days

After Board Decision

1. Chair informs applicant and audience of appeal process
2. Time limit on permit
Helpful Hints

1. Require speaker from public to approach Board, state name/address, speak, return to audience
2. Limit speakers to issues germane to Wetlands Board
3. Allow everyone an opportunity to speak
4. Direct all public comment or questions to Board
5. Discourage interaction between audience and speaker
6. State decision rationale in benefit vs. detriment format