Public Meeting

Minutes

Discussion of Proposed Fast-track Permit Regulation for Disposal of Dredge Material on
State-owned Submerged Lands

March 12, 2019
3:00pm
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Fort Monroe Office
Commission Meeting Room

Commission Staff present: Tony Watkinson, Randy Owen and Justin Worrell, as well as Sea
Grant Fellow, Lauren Pudvah

The meeting was attended by three representatives from local planning district commissions, two
from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, one from the seafood/aquaculture industry, one from the
University of William & Mary Coastal Policy Center and a representative from VIMS.

Commission staff provided a PowerPoint presentation that covered background leading up to the
Acts of Assembly 2018 Chapter 449, which requires that the Virginia Marine Resources
Commission (VMRC) development a regulation to establish and implement a fast-track
permitting program for dredge material disposal sites. Discussion focused on the Corps no longer
dredging shallow draft channels, and the desire for local governments to assume this role along
with the fact that funding is now provided by the State through the Port Authority.

Commission staff explained that Fast-track permitting can only apply to the Commission’s
authority to issue permits for use of State-owned submerged land and the fast-track provisions
should apply to local government projects only. Currently §28.2-1205.2 of the Code of Virginia
establishes a coordinated review process for beach replenishment projects using Chesapeake Bay
sand. This section of code establishes time limits for review and necessary application
information. As such, it provided a template for the application requirements and review
procedures in the proposed regulation. A draft of proposed elements for a Fast-track permit
regulation was presented.

There seemed to be general agreement the regulation should only apply to local government
projects, and with the list of information needed for fast-track review as well as the situations
where the fast-track review would not apply. The draft regulation was generally well received.
Comments were provided and Commission staff invited any additional comments the attendees
wanted to make following the meeting. Attendees were advised that Commission Staff planned
to present a draft regulation to the Full Commission at their April meeting and request a public
hearing at the May meeting.