

Meeting May 20, 2016 Lynnhaven River Workgroup

Ken Neil brought the meeting to order about 9:45 AM at the Brock Environmental Center

A number of issues were identified many of which had already been raised at previous meeting and during a boat trip the prior Friday.

These issues included; lease application notification process, safety, marking requirements, liability, visual/property values, navigation, set aside area not for leasing, prohibition to dredge through a lease if leaseholder objects, riparian rights, user conflict (recreational versus commercial), leasing land grab issues, lease rate/application fee/use plan, decisional system does not work for cages, abandoned cages, and lease term limits.

It was also suggested that the process be changed to allow dredging (permitting) through a lease (like condemnation). Also was noted that safety is paramount issue and that cages are contrary to safety in general.

**Notification:** Suggestions to send out a post card of notification of adjacent property owners. Discussion about distance for notification that would be appropriate. Request to have a copy of notification bill that failed. VMRC could have an arbitration committee to address lease use conflicts and protests. Request to notify entities other than individuals (like civic groups, cities, counties, homeowners groups). Recommendation that notification be made to adjacent land owners (distance discussion), no consensus, however it was suggested to just make it “adjacent” property owners. Suggestions were to notify adjacent landowner and adjacent leaseholders in a more robust way than currently.

**Cages on leases and notification:** Some discussion on the use of cages up to twelve inches on a lease. Should there be a notification process even for up to 12-inch structures? The regulation could be modified to require some type of notification before being deployed. It was noted that cages seem to be the biggest problem so this should be the most urgent to address.

For next meeting, what is the proper notification and how should cages be authorized (to include notification), and what is the proper distance for notification. Continue discussing other issues identified at the beginning of this meeting. Some discussion about making next meeting at night and at the Commission headquarters in Newport News. No final decision made on either.

*\*Mike Oesterling noted the previous task force group and briefly noted a lot of the issues raised during this meeting were discussed by this group. (perhaps this is an avenue to introduce some of their work discussions, etc.).*

*Copies of the Helsel bill (notification) and the McWaters bill (lease marking) to be made available at the next meeting.*