

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE **SHORELINE**

*A News Journal of Natural Resources, Public Affairs and
Community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia*

Volume 28

October 2015

Number 10

Community Turns out for Poultry Discussion

By Sue Mastyl

Approximately 200 citizens attended a Community Conversation on Chicken Houses, hosted by Jay Ford, Executive Director and Shorekeeper for the Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper, on September 9 at the Workforce Development Center of the Eastern Shore Community College.

Ford stressed that, with such a “contentious issue,” he wanted this to be “an honest conversation about what the grower process is,” and to avoid an adversarial tone. Representatives from Tyson Foods and several chicken growers were present, as well as Bill Satterfield, Executive Director of the nonprofit trade association Delmarva Poultry, Inc.



Eastern Shore citizens at ESCC listen to presentations by poultry industry representatives as well as those who offered information about potential environmental risks associated with greater numbers of chicken houses in Accomack and Northampton.

was once the biggest poultry grower in the country, but was wiped out in the 1955 hurricane. An economic impact study conducted in 2014 for the Second Congressional District showed a direct impact of 3,100 jobs, \$120 million in wages, and \$1.6 billion in economic impact, with a total (direct and indirect) impact of 5,400 jobs, \$264 million in wages, and \$1.96 billion in economic impact. He noted that the poultry industry provides “a good living for a lot of people”; most grain grown on the Eastern Shore is used for feed, and Accomack County is second in Virginia in the production of meat chickens. However, one citizen noted that economic studies assume that the poultry litter does not pollute groundwater or our bays.

Satterfield took issue with the 2011 Pew Research study that indicated that 70% of chicken growers live below the poverty line, calling it “bogus data” and

See Poultry, cont'd on p. 6

Meet the Candidates Forums Scheduled

By John Ordeman

As we have done with all contested local elections in recent years, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore will conduct Meet the Candidates Forums for the candidates for offices in Accomack and Northampton and for the two State legislature positions this November.

The forum for the two legislative offices will be held at 7 PM on October 27 at Occohannock School. Incumbent Senator Lynwood Lewis, a Democrat, will meet his Republican opponent, Richard Ottinger; and incumbent representative in the House of Delegates, Rob Bloxom, a Republican, will meet his opponent, Willie Randall, a Democrat.

See Candidates, cont'd on p. 3

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23rd Annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival

Free activities for children and families at Kiptopeke State Park

Oyster Roast at the Harvey Building Oyster, VA

By Bonnie Mahl, Festival Chair

Visit Cape Charles, Virginia, to experience a migration sensation at the 23rd Annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival! Every fall, millions of songbirds, hawks, shorebirds, butterflies and dragonflies migrate through the narrow Delmarva Peninsula on their long journey south to warmer wintering grounds, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia is right in the middle of the action. The Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival gets you a front and center seat to view this migration with guided hikes, boat trips, and free family activities.

Festival headquarters open on Friday, October 9, at the Cape Charles Fire Station, 501 Mason Avenue, Cape Charles, VA 23310, where vendors, exhibitors and free activities for families will also be located throughout the weekend. The popular "Flight of the Raptor" live bird of prey demonstration will be held in Cape Charles Central Park on Saturday, October 10, at 3:00 p.m. On Saturday, October 10, take a free shuttle bus to Kiptopeke




Sarah Cashwell's painting of a peregrine falcon won this year's Birding Festival Poster Art contest.

State Park from the Fire Station for more free activities for families and children. Fee-based guided hikes and boat trips begin Thursday, October 8, at 7:30 a.m. and run through Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 p.m. This year, the festival includes a traditional Eastern Shore Oyster Roast, at the Harvey Building, in Oyster VA, on Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person, available by presale only. For a complete schedule of events, to purchase Oyster Roast tickets, and to pre-register for field trips and boat trips, please visit the Birding Festival website at: <http://www.esbirdingfestival.com/>.

The festival kicks off with a fun and informative Friday night program with this year's Keynote Speaker, Jeff Bouton, at 5:30 p.m. at The Palace Theater, 305 Mason Avenue, Cape Charles, VA 23310. A self-described "Bird Junkie," Jeff began working as "binoculars for hire" as a teenager. He has been at various times a re-

search assistant, professional birding guide, and photographer. He now works as the Marketing Manager for Leica Sport Optics, a job which enables him to travel around to various festivals and educate birders about the world of optics. Over the past decade, Jeff has written more than 50 articles and had hundreds of his digi-scoped wildlife images published in major birding magazines.

He is a contributing author on past ABA Birdfinding guides to Alaska & Florida respectively, and the Houghton Mifflin title "Good Birders Don't Wear White." Jeff's Keynote address will be a humorous and anecdotal presentation of Birding Through the Ages. He will be available throughout the Birding Festival weekend at the Leica booth in Festival headquarters. The Friday night program is free and open to the public, and will also include recognition of local high school students who participated in the annual Birding Festival Poster Art contest, along with the winner, Sarah Cashwell of Broadwater Academy. Join us for a reception prior to the program at 4:00 p.m. at the Cape Charles Fire House, for a chance to mingle and meet the guides, vendors and exhibitors.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Birding and Wildlife Festival is sponsored by Eastern Shore Eventacular, Inc., the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, Northampton County, the Town of Cape Charles, ESland, the Virginia DEQ Coastal Zone Management Program, Virginia State Parks, Kiptopeke State Park, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. 

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Staff Writers

Joyce Mendel
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Dr. Mike Peirson

Production Editor and Design

Sarah Morgan, *Savoy Studio*

How to reach CBES

P.O. Box 882, Eastville, VA 23347
(757) 678-7157
info@cbes.org • www.cbes.org

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Candidates, cont'd from p. 1


On October 29 at 7 PM, there will be a forum for the Accomack candidates at Nandua High School. The contested elections in Accomack are for the representatives for four districts on the Board of Supervisors. The candidates are: for District 2, Ron Wolff and Stephen Corazza; for District 4, Kay Lewis and Paul Muhly; for District 5, Jack Gray and Harrison Phillips; and for District 7, Laura Belle Gordy and George Lawson.

The Northampton forum, which will be at Northampton High School, will also be held at 7 PM on October 29. Two seats on the Board of Supervisors are being contested: Richard Hubbard is opposed by H. Spencer Murray in the 4th District, and Gwen Cummings-Thompson is running against Robert Duer in District 5. Two constitutional offices are being contested: Garrett Dunham is challenging

Bruce Jones for Commonwealth Attorney, and Charlene Gray and Bonny Lewis are competing for Commissioner of Revenue. The last contested election in Northampton is for the at-large position on the School Board, for which Nancy Proto is competing against Rodney Walker.

The format for the forums that has been developed over the years is intended to give all candidates an opportunity to make their best case for election. In advance of the forums, the candidates are sent several questions that will be put to all of them at the event, the intention being to give them time to consider the questions and prepare their answers. On the evening of the forum, each candidate initially has an opportunity to introduce himself to the audience, and then they will all be asked to give their responses to the questions they received in advance.

Members of the audience will then be invited to submit questions in writing for the candidates, and a CBES representative will screen these questions to eliminate any that might be redundant, trivial or offensive. The program concludes with each candidate making a summary of his qualifications and an appeal for the citizens' votes.

The Meet the Candidates Forums give voters in the two Eastern Shore counties an opportunity to observe the candidates and hear their positions on matters of concern and consequence so that citizens will be prepared to make informed decisions when they vote. Sponsorship of these forums is one of the most valuable services CBES provides for the community, and we welcome and encourage all residents of both counties to attend. 



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Virginia's Freedom of Information Act—FOIA

How it works....and when it doesn't

By Mary Miller

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act's Preamble states that the "affairs of government are not intended to be conducted in an atmosphere of secrecy." The presumption is that government records and meetings are open and available for public scrutiny unless a specific, lawful exemption applies.

Public Meetings:

Meetings of public bodies, Agenda packets, Minutes, including draft Minutes, and audio or video recordings, are all required to be open and available for public inspection. No votes are binding unless they are made in open meetings. Anyone may film or record meetings as long as they don't interrupt the meeting.

Government bodies may enter closed session meetings using statutory exemptions—for personnel matters; discussion of sale or purchase of public property, investment of public funds or publicly funded contracts, but only if public discussion would affect negotiations; prospective new business or expansion plans, but only if no public announcement has yet been made; for public safety related to terrorist activity or a similar threat; and for legal advice, but only if litigation has been specifically threatened, or there is a reasonable basis to believe an action will be brought by a known body.

The VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL further clarifies the exemption for "legal advice": "Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter."

Public Documents:

The Virginia FOIA guarantees citizens of the Commonwealth and representatives of the media access to public records held by public bodies, public officials, and public employees.

"A public record is any writing or recording -- regardless of whether it is a paper record, an electronic file, an audio or video recording, or any other format -- that is prepared or owned by, or in the possession of a public body or its officers, employees or agents in the transaction of public business. All public records are presumed to be open, and

may only be withheld if a specific, statutory exemption applies." (*Virginia FOIA*)

The most commonly-used exemptions, as contained in the Virginia Code, are personnel records, records subject to attorney-client privilege or an attorney work product, vendor proprietary information or records relating to a contract prior to the contract being awarded.

Access to records

Citizens and the press may request copies of public documents, or request to have access to review documents. Public bodies may charge reasonable copying fees and charge for assembling requested documents. A request

may include an estimate of those charges. A response to a request must be made within five working days—an additional seven working days is permitted if a response is impossible within the original five day window. The response to the request must be one of the following: access to the documents, a request for an additional seven days, or a

refusal to provide some or all of the documents and with the proper statutory exemptions listed. If a citizen or the media believes that their FOIA rights have been violated, they may file a petition in district or circuit court to compel compliance with FOIA.

When FOIA doesn't work

Just because an exemption *could* apply, however, doesn't mean it *must*. Exemptions are discretionary. They are intended to be interpreted narrowly to increase awareness by all citizens of government activities.

The *Virginian Pilot* is currently attempting to obtain records from the Norfolk Public School system through a FOIA request. In an August 15 article they contended that Norfolk Public Schools had failed to satisfy legal requirements under public records laws—first by saying the documents, text messages and emails, didn't exist, then that the District didn't own the phone on which the messages were recorded, then by refusing to provide documents with no legal exemption cited, and then failing to respond at all. The paper is continuing its month-long battle to obtain the requested records.

The Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville is currently suing the state of North Carolina after

See FOIA, cont'd on p. 9



Agritourism...

...how rural counties lost control of land use authority

By Mary Miller

Agritourism – a bucolic visit to a working farm, picking berries with the kids, a big country farm breakfast, a stroll through the dairy barn – a great idea for farm families trying to generate extra income and show off the farm.

So the Virginia General Assembly took the idea and ran with it. By the time they were done they had stripped every rural locality in the Commonwealth of a significant part of their land use authority. By declaring that county zoning could not generally regulate a broad class of activities called “Agritourism” on farms in Agricultural Districts, the good zoning practices localities now use to try to mitigate adverse impacts of intense uses on neighbors or the larger community, have been compromised or eliminated.

A farm owner in Fauquier County was told she needed a permit to host children’s birthday parties in addition to her permitted sale of farm products. There would be substantial fines without a new permit. She was not pleased. She went to her state representatives who agreed to push for change. Now every rural county in the state must adopt imprecise, wide-ranging Agritourism zoning language.

Counties try to balance farm activities with community impact

The Code states that no local permits are needed for agritourism (the enjoyment of rural activities), or for the incidental sale of farm products or food, or other activities that are “usual and customary” on a working farm. Additionally, the Code states that no permits shall be required for these activities on working farms which are “on property that is zoned as an agricultural district or classification unless there is a substantial impact on the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.”

Many rural Virginia counties have already added Agritourism zoning language and have followed the very broad Code directives, while attempting to insert reasonable guidelines to maintain some control over impacts to nearby home owners.

All ordinances researched include farm stands, pick your own activities, sale of farm products, home businesses, educational activities and farm visits as specified by-right uses.

Most Zoning Ordinances researched for this article follow the Code and permit Agritourism as a by-right Use *only* on working farms that are located in an Agricultural District, as designated in the locality’s ordinance – and they permit many of the same low-impact uses in residential or other non-agricultural districts.

Localities have stated that just because a Use happens on a farm, it is not automatically “agritourism.”

Localities have stated in their ordinances that there would be “a substantial impact on the health, safety, or general welfare of the public” by such activities as skeet shooting, camping, amplified music and gatherings of more than 50 people, so they have chosen to require permits for those and other high-impact uses.

Some ordinances state that uses like helicopter rides, restaurants, wedding reception venues, a farm resort, a shooting range or rental of farm land for commercial activities are not agritourism “because such uses are not customarily associated with farms.”

A few ordinances have specific guidelines for vineyards and micro-breweries.

Agritourism—sales of produce and farm products.



Will Northampton County find the right balance?

A 12-page recommendation for a draft Agritourism Ordinance was presented by the Planning Commission to the Northampton County Board of Supervisors. Both the recommendation and statements by Staff interpret the Code language to mean that Uses labeled Agritourism are required to be permitted *not only* in the Agricultural/Rural Business Districts, about 80% of the county, but also on farms which are located in almost every other current zoning district, including Waterfront Hamlets and Existing

Subdivisions on parcels previously zoned agricultural.

What appears to be left out of the Northampton County ordinance is consideration of the Code language that states that agritourism activities won’t need permits “on property that is zoned as an agricultural district” if it’s a working farm. County Staff said their interpretation of that language was to include working farms in

See Agritourism, cont’d on p. 8

Poultry, continued from p. 1

“very biased.” “A new chicken house costs \$400,000; they wouldn’t go into the business if they were going to be below the poverty line,” he noted.

Environmental Impact of Poultry Litter

Jay Ford presented an overview of the process of growing chickens, noting that “the fact that these are independent contractors is an important distinction,” including the fact that all waste is the responsibility of the grower. The waste is partially composted in place in the chicken houses, using a process known as windrowing. This removes dangerous bacteria, and results in an ammonia-dominant byproduct, which can be applied to fields as fertilizer. Alternative methods of disposal for the manure include commercial composting, incineration (which produces “nasty byproducts”), and anaerobic digesters. He noted that none are currently economically viable for the Eastern Shore. Satterfield added that more than 70 proposed uses for poultry litter have been researched, and none are cost-effective.

Ford reviewed the status of new chicken houses on the Eastern Shore, noting that a new zoning proposal for Northampton County would include 1,000-foot setbacks, with 1,500-foot setbacks from any residential building. These setbacks have not been adopted as of press time. Accomack County in 2012 had 48 operations growing 6.7 million chickens; as noted in last month’s *ShoreLine*, applications are pending for at least 75 new houses. Tyson Foods has indicated they would like up to 200 new houses in place over the next two years. A report released earlier this month indicated that 84 new houses in Accomack could represent an additional 1.3 million chickens, “a 150% increase over 2012 production numbers,” Ford noted.

Ford reviewed the environmental concerns associated with the poultry industry, noting that “the integrators

(Tyson, Purdue, etc.) and growers are in compliance with all permits,” but we can “still be in compliance and imperil the waterways.” He added, “We need to look at the regional level – what do we do when we reach a certain density?” Maryland has introduced new regulations to halt the application of poultry litter to fields already saturated with phosphorus. The usage of poultry litter will be phased out over the next seven years.

**Water Usage, Air Quality, Avian Flu**

Many citizens raised specific concerns about the increase in poultry houses. One concern was the increase in water usage that the new chicken houses may represent. Representatives from Tyson Foods indicated that the processing plant currently uses 1.2 million gallons a day; there will be no increase in usage with the increased number of birds: “we’ll just run the line faster,” they said. A new house with 40,000 chickens will use 645,000 gallons of water a year.


Air quality was another concern expressed by several citizens. Satterfield noted that the vegetative buffers are designed to address the air quality issues, and there are Best Management Practices in place “to maintain good neighbor relations.”

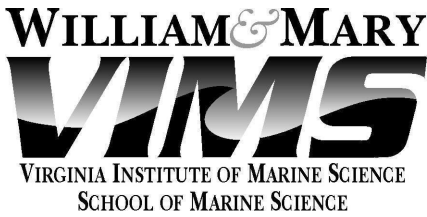
The recent rise of avian flu was also addressed; Satterfield noted that a plan is in place for the Eastern Shore should the problem arise. All chickens in an affected house would be destroyed and composted in place, and then moved to the manure storage shed.

Additional information regarding avian flu and its impacts in a recent outbreak was given by Dr. Garrison Brown, a retired veterinarian. Citing a June, 2015, article in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA)* entitled “Devastating Flu, Ongoing Harm,” Brown noted that when the Iowa poultry industry was hit last spring by avian flu H5N2, a particularly virulent strain, composting 6 million hens of the roughly 30 million chickens killed during the outbreak required compost piles that were 6 feet high, 12 feet wide, and together, 6 miles long.

Adding to the difficulties of controlling or eradicating the disease was the fact that only two landfills in Iowa would accept the carcasses; the closest to many of the farms was four hours away. “Some of the carcasses were buried, and others were burned by the truckload in modified incinerators originally designed to heat asphalt.”

Jay Ford concluded the meeting by noting, “these are solvable problems; by sticking to the facts of the matter, we can make it work.” The key issue is “figuring out how much the land can take and what we do with the excess” of poultry litter. The Shorekeeper is tasked with protecting ground and surface waters.

Ed. note: *The recent avian flu outbreak is predicted to happen again this fall when wild bird migration brings infected birds over densely-populated poultry houses in the mid-west and elsewhere. Prudent citizens and elected officials would be wise to request further information about the “plan” referenced by Satterfield; composting and/or burying carcasses pose potentially catastrophic impacts on our water quality, both in the shallow aquifer and in the creeks. A growing number of Northampton citizens feel that environmental impact studies should be conducted before welcoming the poultry industry, even in a limited capacity.* 



Public Seminar Series

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 • 7:30 PM

Tracking the activity of mysterious microbes from Cuban corals to the deep sea

Dr. Alyson Santoro

Assistant Professor

*University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Horn Point, MD*

In the deep ocean, a mysterious group of organisms called the Archaea become very abundant. The activities of this 'third domain' of life are important for keeping the ocean ecosystem functioning. This talk will discuss the discovery of these mysterious organisms and the latest research describing their abundance and activity in the ocean and on coral reefs.

Help Wanted: CBES Bike Tour Coordinator 2016

Keen organizational skills, detail-oriented person needed to manage multi-faceted event with large team of volunteers. Year-long tasks involved, and intensive push week of the tour. 200-280 hours. Need to work with Excel spreadsheet. Event-planning experience preferred. This is a paid position.

Contact CBES: donna@cbes.org, [757-678-7157](tel:757-678-7157)

Let there be light!

CBES is in need of several strings of white lights to illuminate the venue for the Bike Tour Oyster Roast. Please consider sharing any extra lights you might have with us—you may drop them off at the office in Eastville or email donna@cbes.org to arrange for a possible pick-up. There is a receptacle next to the door of the office if no one is there. Thanks!



Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

Public Summit to Address Ground Water Issues and Conditions for Central Accomack County Scheduled for October 22

“Is there enough water to support our community for generations to come?”

Ground water is the sole source of drinking water on the Shore and its sustainability and quality are essential for residents and communities.

The October 22 Northern Accomack Ground Water Summit is an educational forum that will seek to answer the question, “Is there enough water to support our community for generations to come?” and explore other topics crucial to understanding groundwater conditions specifically focusing on Hallwood, Temperanceville, Saxis, New Church, Chincoteague, and surrounding areas.

Participants will learn where their water comes from, how and when it got there, what is being done to ensure its quality, and the threats to our future water supply and quality. Other presentations will touch on the area’s geologic evolution, and what is - and is not -known about the resource.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee invites the public to this FREE SEMINAR on Thursday October 22, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the NASA Wallops Visitor Center, Chincoteague Rd (RTE) 175, Wallops Island.

Britt McMillan, Consulting Hydrogeologist to the Eastern Shore Ground Water Committee, and Curt Smith, Director of Planning for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, will be presenting and responding to questions from the audience. There will be ample opportunity for participation from local government officials and the public.

This event is the final in a series of community-focused ground water summits presented by the Ground Water Committee.

For additional information, please contact Hillary Essig at 787-2936. 

Agritourism, continued from p. 5

almost any district, with no guidelines. Other Virginia counties have created ordinances which limit Agri-tourism by-right to only agricultural or other non-residential districts: the counties of Lancaster, Middlesex, Westmoreland, Mathews, King and Queen, Albemarle and Pulaski. A few of those same counties allow many agricultural uses in other districts—and this is true for Northampton County. Albemarle County requires a Special Use Permit even in the agricultural district for some high intensity uses. Regulation by any county for activities like concerts, shooting ranges and motorized vehicle events is permitted by the new Code requirement, if local ordinance language states that such uses would have a “substantial impact on the health, safety, or general welfare of the public.” The county’s right to regulate high-impact uses also appears to be absent from the Planning Commission’s recommendation. Further consideration of agritourism zoning is planned by the Board and the Planning Commission.



Agritourism? ---a farm-themed camping and cottage resort?

How will the courts look at this change?

The new Code language has yet to be tested by a legal challenge. A memo being circulated by the Shenandoah Valley Network outlining a possible court challenge on the constitutional grounds of elimination by the state of a local government’s right to manage local land uses, states this: the new Agritourism law “would undo years of legal precedent by taking from localities the presumption of the reasonableness of land use regulation. Localities now bear the burden of proof of the need to regulate activities” that have been labeled by the applicant as *agriculturally related*---whether they actually are or not.

ShoreLine will continue to follow the Agritourism topic as both Shore counties craft ordinance language.

REGISTER NOW!

23rd Annual Between the Waters Bike Tour
 Saturday, October 24, 2015
 Register online at www.cbcs.org

Well-marked 25 - 40 - 60 - 100 mile routes
 starting in Cape Charles at 8 AM




Volunteer Power – Plug In!

The **23rd Annual Between the Waters Bike Tour**, held Oct. 24 this year, is CBES biggest fundraiser. It’s also a fun way to meet new folks enjoying the Shore. Would you like to help welcome them and keep the Bike Tour rolling? Volunteer to work at the start or along the route. Tasks range from registration to distributing water and snacks.

CBES Bike Tour Oyster Roast, held on the evening of Oct. 24, is a traditional Shore event held in a historic barn on Cherrystone Creek. With a small guest list of 150, it makes for an intimate event, with great live music and much merriment! CBES needs extra hands to serve food, sell raffle tickets, help with set-up and clean up. Set-up will be a week before the event. Join us!

Photographers: Needed to capture the uniqueness and beauty of our Bike Tour and Oyster Roast.

Office Help is always appreciated, with tasks such as mailings, assisting with events and general admin work. We would love it if you shared your online expertise, too! In-office or from home.

ShoreLine News Journal Writers/Proofers: Do you have editing experience or a passion for writing? CBES welcomes coverage of issues facing our citizens Shore-wide with a focus on sustainable economic development, environmental stewardship, education, engagement in local government, etc. You can contribute an article per issue or two a year – it’s up to you.

Contact Donna Bozza at donna@cbcs.org for more information, or call (757) 678-7157.

FOIA, continued from p. 4

the state failed to respond to nine FOIA requests for public records. The action states a “clear pattern of obstruction” with illegal delays and failure to provide documents. The suit also seeks to make clear that governments may not charge for “mere inspection of public records.”

...and how governments avoid FOIA compliance in the first place

The simplest, most effective way to avoid FOIA disclosure of public business, is to fail to create documents in the first place—in other words, to keep public business OFF the record.

Unrecorded phone conversations, closed door office visits with no contemporaneous notes, and unscheduled lunch meetings not noted on Staff calendars all fail to provide any written, recorded or electronically stored records. Since there are no public records of these meetings or conversations, there are no public documents to request.

Two years ago, when CBES filed a FOIA request with Northampton County, the request was to review all documents contributing to the development of the proposed county rezoning ordinance. The response from former Director of Economic Development Charles McSwain, included the following:

“The documents to which you will have access include letters, memos or other meeting notes maintained by each staff person pursuant to this topic. If any comments were received by outside entities, they may or may not be so identified. As the edits may have come from one or more sources, you may or may not be able to ascertain



where the edits have originated.” (McSwain to CBES, November 12, 2013)

Even though several hundred sheets of paper were provided for review, they were basically repetitious mark-ups of the current ordinance and references to other staff members’ markups. There were virtually no meeting notes, few relevant memos, no calendar notations, no phone records, and as noted by Mr McSwain, no identifiable outside comments or origins of edits.

If a government office policy provides no accountable process for keeping timely records, calendars, phone logs, an email index or notes from staff conversations or meetings concerning county business, then intentional or not, lack of notes or memos about that county business evades the intent of Virginia’s Freedom of Information Act.

More info about FOIA at: Virginia Coalition for Open Government vcog@opengovva.org



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CBES Membership 2015

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- * _____ Life Membership (includes *ShoreLine*) \$ 500
- * _____ Optional additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____
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MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

SHORELINE

Community Calendar - October 2015

Note: Please verify times and places prior to attending meetings.

CBES and Other Activities

- Oct 7** **VIMS Public Seminar**
7:30 PM, Wachapreague
- Oct 8** **Shorekeeper Meeting***
3 PM, Barrier Islands Center
- Oct 12** **CBES Exec. Committee**
5 PM, CBES Office
- Oct 20** **CBES Board Meeting**
7 PM, Eastville
- Oct 22** **ES Groundwater Summit**
6:30 PM, Wallops Is. VC
- Oct 24** **Between the Waters Bike Tour**
8 AM, Cape Charles
- Oct 27** **Meet the Candidates**
7 PM, Occohannock ES
- Oct 29** **Meet the Candidates**
7 PM, Nandua HS
- Oct 29** **Meet the Candidates**
7 PM, Northampton HS

Accomack County

- Oct 7** **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers
- Oct 14** **Planning Commission**
7 PM, BOS Chambers
- Oct 20** **School Board**
7 PM, BOS Chambers
- Oct 21** **Board of Supervisors**
5 PM, BOS Chambers
- Oct 22** **Wetlands Board**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers

Northampton County

- Oct 5** **Board of Zoning Appeals**
1 PM, Conference Room
- Oct 6** **Planning Commission**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Oct 13** **Board of Supervisors**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Oct 21** **Wetlands Board**
TBA, Conference Room
- Oct 26** **BOS Work Session**
5 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Oct 27** **School Board**
5:30 PM, Sup. Chambers

www.cbes.org

* Alternating between the ES Chamber of Commerce and the Barrier Islands Center