

July 13, 2012

To the Development Community:

Pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget approved by the City of Chesapeake City Council on May 8, 2012, the staff position responsible for the enforcement of the local wetlands regulations was deleted. As a result, actions are being taken to initiate a code change to delete the local wetlands ordinance. This action will transfer the enforcement of the State wetlands regulations back to the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) in Newport News. The proposal to change the ordinance will be on the July 24, 2012, Council agenda.

If approved by Council, the proposed effective date of code change is proposed for August 1, 2012. As of the effective date, wetlands Joint Permit Applications (JPA's) will no longer be managed by the City of Chesapeake and will revert directly to the state VMRC and the Army Corps of Engineers for action. The current combined City of Chesapeake Wetlands/Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Board (Wetlands/CBPA Board) will be changed to the City of Chesapeake CBPA Board where CBPA issues will still be heard.

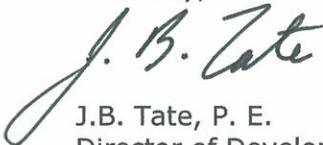
In order to be proactive and continue assistance to the citizens of Chesapeake, relating to wetlands development and best management practices, the City of Chesapeake will utilize the Water Stewards program through our local Agricultural Extension Service. The Water Stewards will assist private homeowners in managing storm water runoff and shoreline erosion, and will recommend to the homeowner the best approach to shoreline stabilization. They will also recommend to the homeowner if a JPA (to be submitted by the homeowner or their agent directly to the VMRC) is required. Please contact the Agricultural Extension Service at (757) 382-6348 for more information.

For those areas that are out of tidal wetlands, but a structure or other impacts are proposed within the 100' protected Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area (CBPA) buffer, a CBPA permit will still be required from the Department of Planning at (757) 382-6042.

Building and zoning permits are still required for wetlands projects and those projects within the CBPA. The Department of Development and Permits should be contacted at (757) 382-6018 to obtain these permits.

For additional information about these proposed changes, please contact the Environmental Coordinator at 382-6531.

Sincerely,



J.B. Tate, P. E.
Director of Development and Permits

JBT/RS/jcc