



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

AUG 11 2009

Residents of Sandbridge, Ocean Lakes, and Lago Mar Subdivisions
with Water Access to Asheville Bridge Canal and Lake Tecumseh
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Re: Public Notice of Permit Application
for Proposed Weirs on Lake
Tecumseh, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Dear Resident:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is applying for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 404 permit to conduct habitat restoration work in the area of Lake Tecumseh. As discussed in a series of public meetings over the past year, the Service is proposing to stabilize an eroding strip of land and construct low weirs across a canal and small ditch between Lake Tecumseh and the Asheville Bridge Canal. The project includes a boat portage rollover or lift mechanism to allow boats to move between the lake and Asheville Bridge Canal. The purpose and goals of the project are to:

- Reduce suspended sediment contribution to Back Bay estuary from Lake Tecumseh.
- Enhance recreational fishing and boating opportunities in Lake Tecumseh.
- Avoid increasing or causing flooding on private property.
- Maintain private property values and public access.

Benefits of the project include reducing the magnitude of wind-driven drainage events up to 90%, increasing by 193 days the timeframe that motorboats can utilize Lake Tecumseh without shoaling due to insufficient water depth, and reducing by 2,000 tons annually the suspended sediment entering Back Bay estuary. These benefits are calculated from the results of 2008 water level monitoring data.

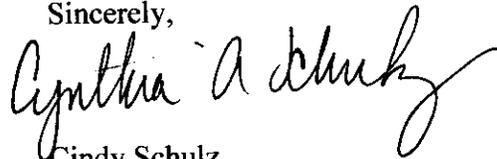
The permit application process includes a four-week public comment period during which you can submit comments on the proposed project to the Corps for consideration in their decision to issue or deny the permit. More information can be found on the Corps' website <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/technical%20services/Regulatory%20branch/PN/NAO> or you may contact Melissa Nash with the Corps at (757) 201-7489 or by email melissa.a.nash@usace.army.mil.

The boat portage rollover or lift mechanism is planned to be designed with input and approval by a team of local residents with the final design to be reviewed and approved by a professional engineer. If you are interested in assisting the team we welcome your input and ask that you contact us to participate.

This year the Service conducted extensive public outreach associated with the Lake Tecumseh proposal that included the creation of a brochure and website, mailing over 300 notification letters to waterfront residents, and two public meetings to inform residents. The meetings had approximately 60 attendees that included Virginia House of Delegates representative Barry Knight and a staff member from Congressman Glen Nye's office. We also briefed Councilmember Barbara Henley and City Manager Jim Spore on the proposal, received a letter of support from the City Manager of Virginia Beach and the Naval Air Station-Oceana, and obtained a unanimous vote of no objection from the Hampton Roads Sanitation District Commission.

We invite you to obtain detailed information about the current proposal for Lake Tecumseh by visiting our website at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/partners/tecumseh.html>. Please contact Will Smith of this office at (804) 693-6694, extension 124 or by email at Willard_Smith@fws.gov for further information.

Sincerely,



Cindy Schulz
Supervisor
Virginia Field Office

cc: The Honorable Glenn Nye, Virginia Beach, VA
The Honorable Barry D. Knight, Virginia Beach, VA
HRSD, Virginia Beach, VA (Ted Henifin)
NAS-Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA (Michael Farrell)
City of Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach, VA (Jim Spore)
City of Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach, VA (William J. Johnston)
Corps, Norfolk, VA (Melissa Nash)
Corps, Norfolk, VA (Bob Grabb)
ESG Companies, Virginia Beach, VA (Mike Gelardi)
Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia Beach, VA (Jared Brandwein)