



**Gloucester County
Environmental Programs**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2013

Wetlands Information Session
Offered to Contractors, Agents, and Community

On **November 7** Gloucester County's Environmental Programs Department, in partnership with Virginia's Marine Resources Commission and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, will provide an information session regarding wetlands. The session is targeted to inform shoreline property owners of the application process regarding property improvements along Gloucester's tidally-situated rivers, creeks, and marshes. **The session will be held November 07 from 1 pm to 4 pm in the Community Room of Gloucester County's Main Library.**

Corps of Engineers' staff Alicia Riley approached Gloucester County's Environmental Programs Administrator Scott Rae with the idea to hold a forum for the consulting and contracting industry. The Corps has placed a continued emphasis on informing applicants of the opportunity to have a pre-application visit prior to designing a project or submitting an application.

Applicants / property owners may not routinely be familiar with the extent of wetlands on properties. Wetlands are characterized by vegetation, soils, and characteristics of water presence. A project may be delayed based upon the unanticipated need to depict the presence or absence of wetlands. The Army Corps of Engineers is the jurisdictional reviewing authority for any proposed impacts to wetland areas.

Corps representatives (Alicia Riley and Keith Goodwin) will also be prepared to address pier permitting relative to navigational channel and lighting.

Chip Neikirk of the Marine Resources Commission will provide insight regarding the permitting of piers relative to cumulative area of "L" and "T" heads. Boathouse criteria will also be included in the discussion.

Gloucester Wetlands Staff Ron Owens and permitting support Linda Walthall will be present to briefly address the processing of Joint Permit Applications through the Environmental Programs and distribution to reviewing entities.

Event registration is not required; however, registration is encouraged to assist in planning. Please consider using the following web page to register or ask questions that may be addressed during the discussion <http://www.gloucesterva.info/EnvironmentalPrograms/QuestionsandRequestsOnline/tabid/914/Default.aspx>.