Martin O'Malley Governor

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Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serev Executive Director

STATE OF MARYLAND CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338 www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2009

Roland Limpert, Environmental Review Unit

Cc: Mike Bonsteel, Dorchester County

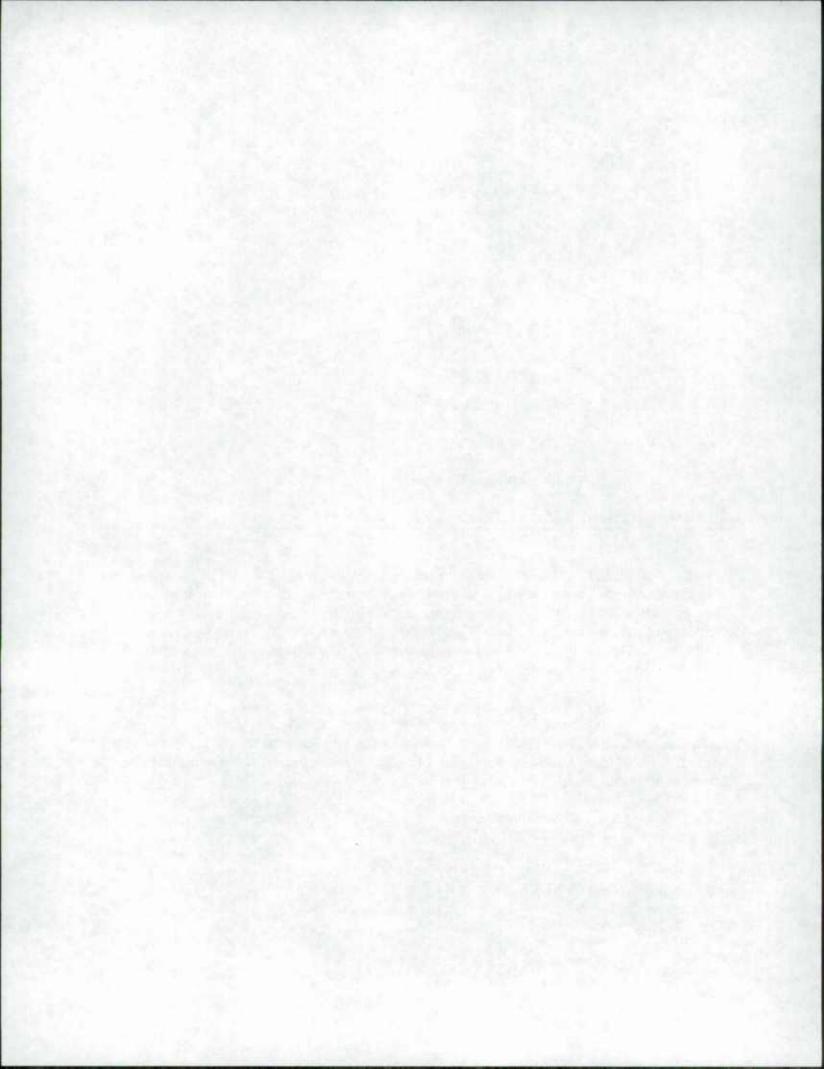
From: Julie Roberts, Natural Resources Planner

Charles Powell, Dorchester County (200864976) Re:

Thank you for forwarding the above-referenced project. The applicant has applied for a joint federal/state application for the alteration of a floodplain, waterway, tidal or nontidal wetland. This application is specifically for a road crossing, including filling, excavating and grading of a nontidal wetland and its 25-foot Buffer. The subdivision associated with the proposed road is currently under review by this office. Our last letter was sent to the applicants on August 2,72008 (enclosed). To date, we have not received revised plans.

Currently, there are two main issues which potentially jeopardize the ability to create the lots as proposed, and thus the necessity for a road crossing to access those lots: whether these proposed lots can be considered "buildable" and whether the Buffer for tidal wetlands has been expanded properly on this largely hydric parcel. Until these issues are resolved, we recommend that no permit be approved for this road crossing.

We appreciate your continued efforts to provide Commission staff notice of these projects. Please call me at (410) 260-3476 if you have any questions.



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August 7, 2008

Mr. Steve Dodd
Dorchester County Planning and Zoning
County Office Building
P.O. Box 307
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Re: Local case number 1195 – Fishing Point

Dear Mr. Dodd:

Thank you for forwarding the above-referenced project. Your notification indicates that Parcels 234 (Lot 3) and 235 (Lot 2) were created as "agricultural lots" immediately prior to the adoption of the Critical Area Program. The applicant proposes to convert these agricultural lots to buildable lots and serve Lot 2 and 3, as well as Lots 1 and 4, with a shared Bermed Infiltration Pond (BIP). The property is located within the Resource Conservation Area (RCA). I have the following comments regarding the applicant's subdivision proposal:

- 1. Please provide deed and/or plat book and folio references for each of the existing parcels of record. This information was left blank on the plat. In addition, since parcels 234 and 235 were created as agricultural parcels and not as buildable lots or with the intent to be built upon, the applicant and County must demonstrate that the parcels had sufficient upland areas which could be legally built upon at the time of recordation in order to qualify as a nonconforming lot of record in the RCA currently and qualify for an upgrade to a buildable lot. Not withstanding this information, parcels 234 and 235 appear unbuildable without a variance, would be substandard per the RCA density restrictions, and would not be upgradable to building lots in the RCA.
- 2. It is not clear whether Parcels 214 and 215 are also currently designated as agricultural parcels. If so, please provide information for these parcels identical to that requested in comment # 1 above.
- 3. It does not appear that the applicant has expanded the 100-foot Buffer to include the contiguous areas of nontidal wetlands on Lots 2 and 3. Please have the applicant revise. In addition:

Mr. Steve Dodd 8/7/2008 Page 2 of 2

- a. No topography or soils information has been provided on the plat. The Buffer may need to be expanded for contiguous hydric or highly erodible soils, as well. Please have the applicant include this information in the next submittal.
- b. As the General Notes section indicates, any impacts to the nontidal wetlands or their buffer will require a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).
- c. It appears that the proposed driveways for Lots 2 and 3 propose impacts to the expanded 100-foot Buffer, when properly delineated on the plat. As such, a variance would be required. If the County and/or applicant is not able to demonstrate that the existing parcels can qualify as nonconforming parcels of record in regard to density and buildable areas, thereby entitled to a development right within the RCA as requested in comment #1 above, this office will not support variances to develop lots 2 and 3 as proposed.
- 4. Plat note #18 indicates that the wetlands were delineated in the field, but the plat contains a statement saying that the tidal wetland line was scaled from the State Wetlands Inventory Map. The tidal wetland limits, as well as the limits of State versus privately-owned wetlands, and the limits of the 100-foot and expanded 100-foot Buffer must be delineated in the field and cannot be taken from maps. Please revise and provide information once available.
- 5. A letter must be provided by the from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage program indicating whether there may be the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species on or in the vicinity of the site. Our records indicate that may be a sensitive species in the vicinity of these lots. If species are present, the applicant must address any protections for the species made by DNR through submission of a Habitat Protection Plan (HPP). If applicable, the HPP must be submitted prior to preliminary plat approval.
- 6. Future submittals should contain information regarding proposed clearing, and proposed lot coverage onsite. Please note that if the applicant is able to provide documentation supporting the upgrade of these parcels to buildable lots, the property is limited to 15% lot coverage.
- 7. It does not appear that Lots 1 and 4 are currently forested. Per COMAR 27.01.02.04, the applicant is responsible for establishing 15% forest cover on this site at the time of building permit, or preferably, at the time of subdivision approval. Additionally, this forest must be placed in a protective easement or restrictive covenant. Please have the applicant include a plantings plan with the next submittal.

Thank you for forwarding this information for comment. Please forward revised materials as they become available. I can be reached at 410-260-3476 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Roberts

Natural Resources Planner

Cc: DC 429-08

Roberts, Julie

From: Michael Bonsteel [mbonsteel@docogonet.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 1:29 PM

To: Roberts, Julie

Subject: Fishing Point subdivision, P&Z #1195

Julie,

I met with Tom Moore today about the Fishing Point subdivision (Charlie Powell; P&Z #1195). He had a couple of questions about your comment letter. I have listed them below with some information regarding the history of the site, in response to your letter:

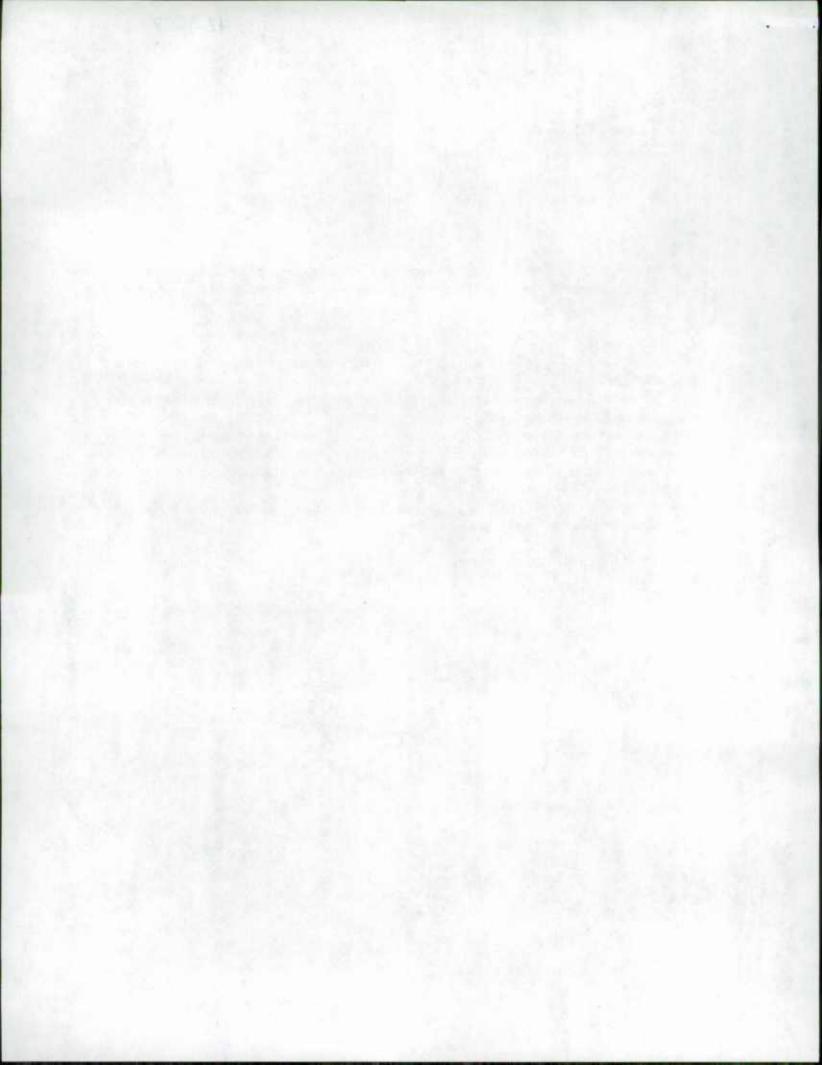
1. Grandfathering:

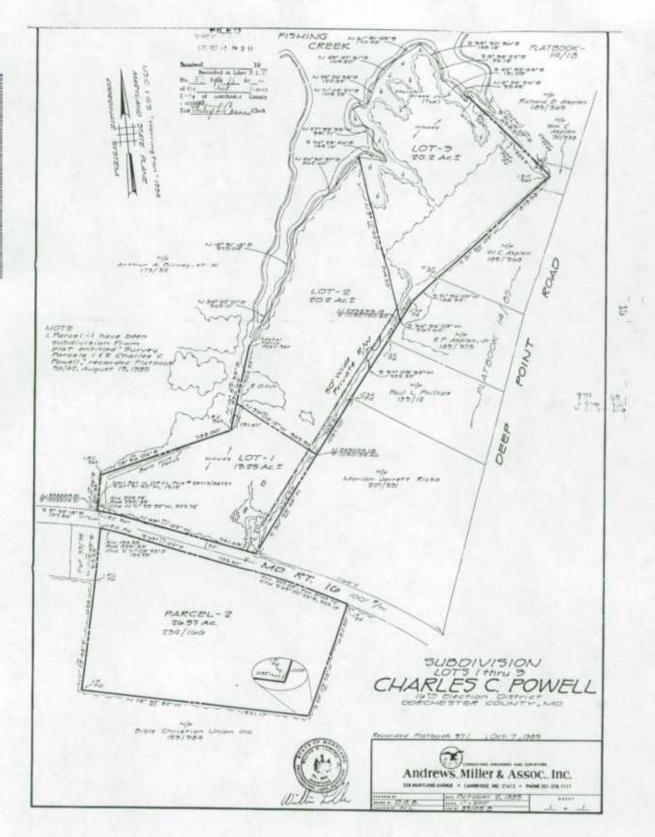
- Lots 1 and 4 were subdivided in 1973 as the lands of Ralph Asplen (Book PLC 14, pg. 85, see attached plat)
- Lots 2 and 3 were created as agricultural lots in 1985 as the land of Charles Powell (Book PLC 36, pg. 62, see attached plat)
- 2. Lots 1 and 4 on the subdivision plat are also known as lots 215 and 214, respectively.
- 4. Tom wanted to know if the project could be handled alike Mr. Markey's intrafamily transfer (P&Z #1116) where the tidal wetlands are counted towards total acreage but not included in lot coverage calculations.

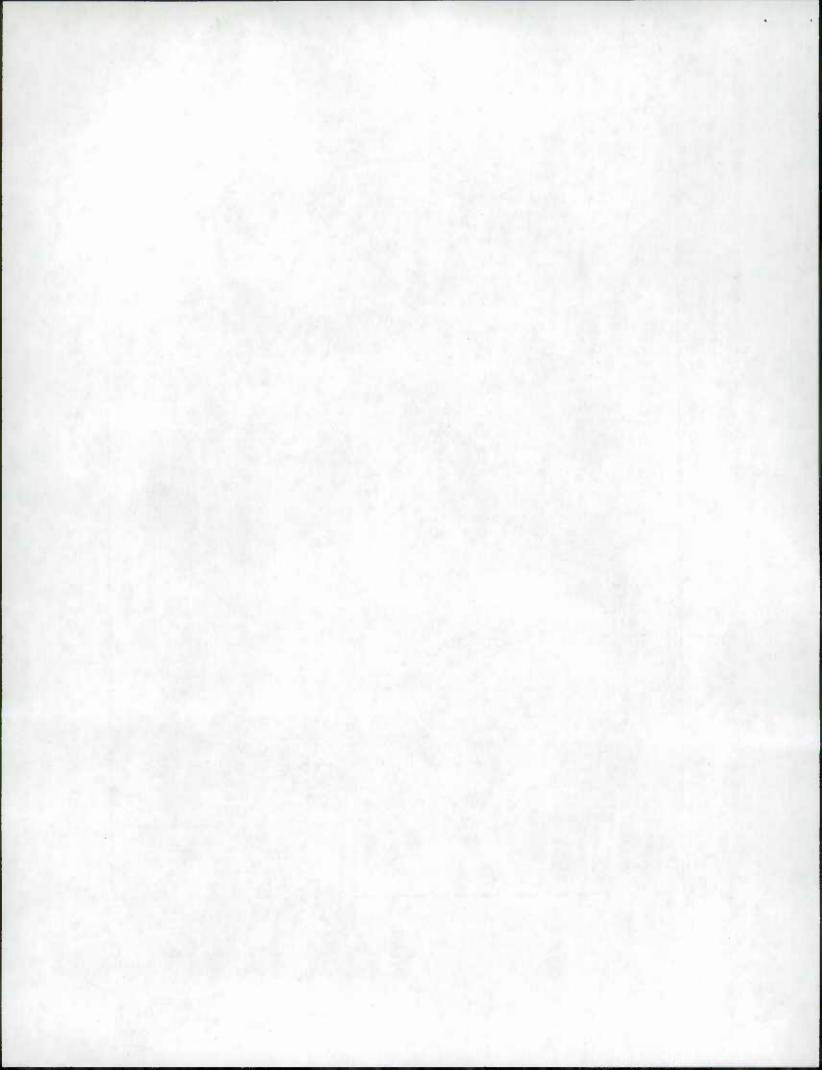
 8 cores of plot | P | St ?
- 5. This project may require mitigation for FIDS habitat. Does the County need approval from your office for developing a mitigation fund or program?

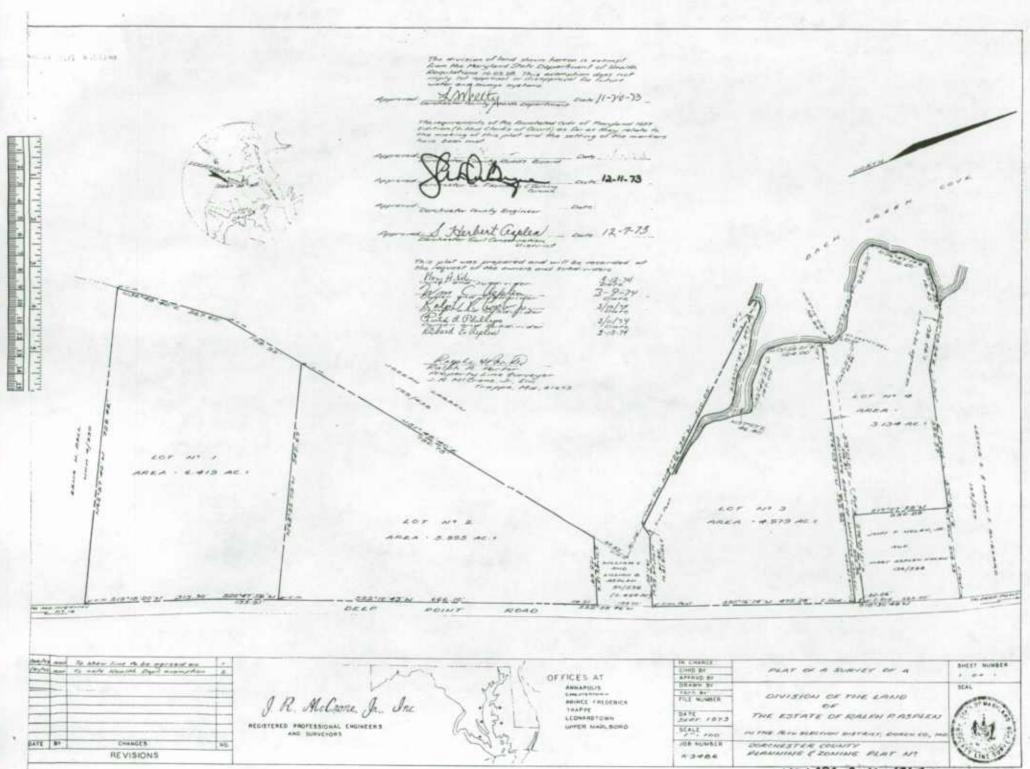
Please let me know if you need more information.

~Mike









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