Anthony G. Brown Lt. Governor



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey 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/

May 24, 2010

Ms. Mary Kay Verdery Talbot County Office of Planning and Zoning 28712 Glebe Road, Suite 2 Easton, Maryland 21601

Re: Nourse Buffer Management Plan M1086 (TM 41, P 6)

Dear Ms. Verdery:

Thank you for providing the Buffer Management Plan (BMP) on the above referenced subdivision. The applicant is proposing to build a three-lot subdivision that is partially located in a Rural Conservation Area (RCA). The parcel is 113.369 acres in size, with 64.432 acres located in the RCA.

Based on the information provided, we have the following comments on this BMP:

- 1. COMAR 27.01.09.01 requires Buffer establishment on a new lot with an existing dwelling unit based on the amount of total lot coverage. Therefore, Lot 1 will require 0.954 acres of Buffer establishment in addition to the full establishment of the Buffer on Lots 2 and 3.
- 2. The applicant previously received a variance to widen an existing driveway and replace a culvert pipe within a 100-foot stream Buffer. As a result, mitigation at a 3:1 ratio is required. The applicant is proposing to use this mitigation to meet establishment requirements. We note that an applicant is not permitted to use mitigation to meet establishment requirements. Therefore, an additional .038 acres of Buffer establishment is required.
- 3. Prior to recordation of the subdivision plat, the applicant must meet COMAR 27.01.09.01-2.M, which details signage requirements.
- 4. Since the applicant is proposing natural regeneration on the property, the following information is required from the applicant:

- a. A supplemental planting plan for subsequent implementation if the natural regeneration does not succeed.
- b. A financial assurance for the natural regeneration that covers the cost of planting an equivalent area, and specifies that the release of the financial assurance may not occur until the later of 5 years after the date of the approval or the areal coverage of the Buffer is at least 300 native woody stems, on a per-acre basis, that are at least 4 feet in height.
- c. A statement that, should at the end of 5 years after approval of a natural regeneration plan, that the applicant shall implement a supplemental planting plan for at least 2 years if the areal coverage of the Buffer is not, on a per-acre basis, at least 300 native woody stems of at least 4 feet in height.
- 5. Due to the amount of Buffer establishment required (greater than 5,000 square feet), the applicant is subject to the requirements of a Major Buffer Management Plan (COMAR 27.01.09.01-3.J). Accordingly, the applicant must include the following information in the BMP:
 - a. A maintenance plan for the control of invasive species, pest and predation that pest control practices that includes a 2-year provision for monitoring;
 - b. A reinforcement planting provision if survival rates fall below the standards in Regulation .01-2J and K of COMAR 27.01.09.01;
 - c. A long-term protection plan that provides a financial assurance that adequately covers the cost of planting and survivability, including a 2-year provision for monitoring;
 - d. An anticipated planting date before construction or sale of each lot, or in the case of existing Lot 1, the date of the next planting season;
 - e. An inspection agreement that grants permission to the County to inspect the plantings at appropriate times;
 - f. The signature of the party responsible for the proposed activity and for the survival of the planting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this Buffer Management Plan. Please provide a revised copy of this plan to our office at your earliest convenience. We note that final subdivision approval may not be granted until this Buffer Management Plan is approved. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 260-3483.

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Nick Kelly Natural Resource Planner cc: TC 652-08

Anthony G. Brown Lt. Governor



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey 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/

May 6, 2010

Ms. Mary Kay Verdery Talbot County Office of Planning and Zoning 28712 Glebe Road, Suite 2 Easton, Maryland 21601

Re: Nourse Subdivision M1086 (TM 41, P 6)

Dear Ms. Verdery:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced subdivision. The applicant is proposing to build a three-lot subdivision that is partially located in a Rural Conservation Area (RCA). The parcel is 113.369 acres in size, with 64.432 acres located in the RCA.

Based on the information provided, we have the following comments on this project:

- 1. The applicant is currently providing a 100-foot Buffer on the site plan. It is our understanding that the applicant submitted an application for subdivision prior to July 1, 2008. Please note that Ch. 119, 2008 Laws of Maryland at 765 contains provisions in regards to a new 200-foot Buffer which may be applicable to this subdivision. Under these provisions, a subdivision located in the RCA must provide a new 200-foot Buffer *unless* an application for subdivision was submitted before July 1, 2008 *and* is legally recorded by July 1, 2010. Should the applicant fail to have the subdivision plat recorded by the July 1, 2010 deadline, then a 200-foot Buffer will apply to this project. Please ensure that the applicant is aware of this requirement as stated in Chapter 119 of the 2008 Laws of Maryland. This is of particular concern, as the development envelopes on Lot 2 and 3 may be compromised as a result of the increase in size of the Buffer.
- 2. Regulations concerning the 100-foot, 200-foot, and expanded Buffer (COMAR 27.01.09.01) are now effective. Since this project is covered by the new State regulations, the project must meet the requirements found in the aforementioned sections of COMAR in order to be approved by the County. This information

must be included in an approved Buffer Management Plan. We request that the applicant forward a copy of the Buffer Management Plan to this office for review and comment. We note that final subdivision approval cannot be granted without an approved Buffer Management Plan

- 3. COMAR 27.01.09.01 requires Buffer establishment on a new lot with an existing dwelling unit based on the amount of total lot coverage. Therefore, Lot 1 will require 0.954 acres of Buffer establishment in addition to the full establishment of the Buffer on Lots 2 and 3.
- 4. It is our understanding that the applicant has requested a biological evaluation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine if Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS) habitat exists on the property. Please forward a copy of the response from USFWS as soon as you receive this info. Final plat approval should not be given until any issues surrounding DFS habitat are resolved.
- 5. Please provide on the plat the source of the wetlands delineation and stream delineation for the property.
- 6. The applicant must remove the following sentence from the "Shoreline Development Buffer Management Statement": *Upon change of land use.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this subdivision request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 260-3483.

Muh Helly Nick Kelly

Natural Resource Planner cc: TC 652-08

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Anthony G. Brown Lt Governor



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey 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/

February 24, 2010

Ms. Mary Kay Verdery Talbot County Office of Planning and Zoning 28712 Glebe Road, Suite 2 Easton, Maryland 21601

Re: Nourse Subdivision M1086 (TM 41, P 6)

Dear Ms. Verdery:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced subdivision. The applicant is proposing to build a three-lot subdivision that is partially located in a Rural Conservation Area (RCA). The parcel is 113.369 acres in size, with 64.432 acres located in the RCA.

First, Commission staff would like to notify both the County and the applicant that regulations concerning the 100-foot and expanded Buffer were published in the Maryland Register on November 20, 2009 (COMAR 27.01.09.01- COMAR 27.01.09.01-7). It is expected that these regulations will be finalized, and thus become effective, on March 8, 2010. Since this project is covered by the new State regulations and will be reviewed by the County's Planning Commission after this effective date, the project must meet the requirements found in the aforementioned sections of COMAR in order to be approved by the County. Please note that, within the Buffer regulations, there are no grandfathering provisions for projects in-progress.

The County may in the future adopt alternative procedures and requirements for the protection and establishment of the Buffer if:

- The alternative procedures and requirements are at least as effective as the regulations found in COMAR 27.01.09.01- COMAR 27.01.09.01-7 and any additional requirements of the County program; and
- The Critical Area Commission has approved those alternative procedures and requirements as an amendment to the County's Critical Area Program

However, until such measures are approved, the County must utilize the requirements found in the State regulations, and the submitted Buffer Management Plan (here titled by the applicant as the "Critical Area Afforestation Plan") must be revised. We recommend that the applicant be proactive in applying the planting standards required within the Buffer in order to expedite the final approval process for this project. ۴.

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Based on the information provided, we have the following comments on this project:

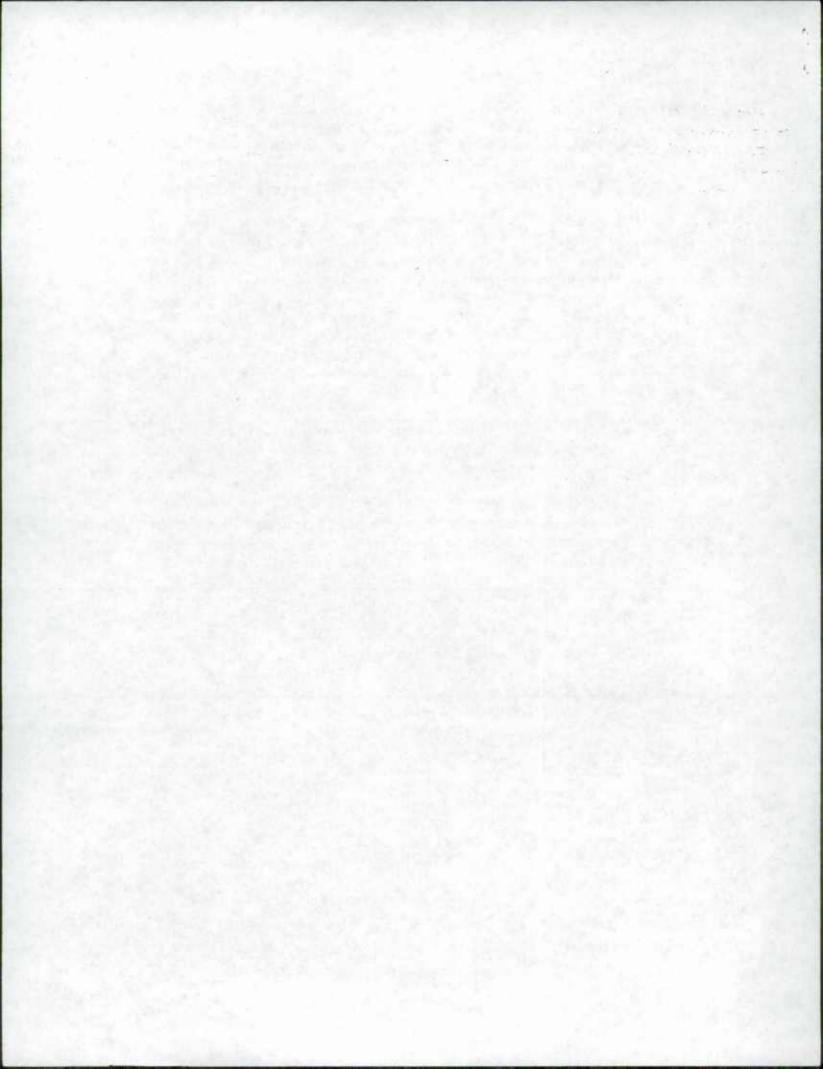
- The applicant is currently providing a 100-foot Buffer on the site plan. It is our understanding that the applicant submitted an application for subdivision prior to July 1, 2008. Please note that Ch. 119, 2008 Laws of Maryland at 765 contains provisions in regards to a new 200-foot Buffer which may be applicable to this subdivision. Under these provisions, a subdivision located in the RCA must provide a new 200-foot Buffer *unless* an application for subdivision was submitted before July 1, 2008 and is legally recorded by July 1, 2010. Should the applicant fail to have the subdivision plat recorded by the July 1, 2010 deadline, then a 200-foot Buffer will apply to this project. Please ensure that the applicant is aware of this requirement as stated in Chapter 119 of the 2008 Laws of Maryland. This is of particular concern, as the applicant is proposing a well within the 200foot Buffer area on Lot 3.
- 2. Please have the applicant revise all references of "impervious surface" on the site plan to "lot coverage."
- 3. Due to the location of a Delmarva Power and Light Co. Power Line right-of-way, an area of 6.008 acres has been deducted from the total site area when calculating 15% afforestation requirements. However, this right-of-way area was not deducted when the applicant determined the amount of impervious surface (lot coverage) permitted for the entire parcel. The County must make a determination as whether this right-of-way area will be included as part of the parcel. If so, then afforestation must be provided for the entire parcel, including the 6.008 acres of right-of-way. However, if the County determines that this area will not be included as part of the parcel, then the lot coverage calculations must be calculated on the same amount of net acreage (58.424 acres).
- 4. As stated earlier, the submitted Critical Area Afforestation plan must be revised to be in compliance with the Commission's Buffer regulations, as found in COMAR 27.01.09.01- COMAR 27.01.09.01-7.
- 5. The most recent DNR Wildlife and Heritage letter is dated November 9, 2007. The applicant must provide an updated letter from the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Division evaluating the property to determine if there is the presence of any rare, threatened, or endangered species. If present, the applicant must address all recommendations from DNR for protection of this species. Please forward to this office a copy of this updated letter.

- 6. The 2007 DNR Wildlife and Heritage letter, as well as the submitted environmental assessment, state that the project is located in Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS) habitat. However, the applicant has provided no information as to how this sensitive area will be protected. Please have the applicant provide information as the measures that will be taken to protect the DFS habitat.
- 7. The applicant states that all tidal wetlands were delineated in the field by Environmental Concern, Inc. in February 2007. However, the site plan states that both tidal and nontidal wetland locations were taken from wetland maps. Please provide verification that this delineation was performed in the field, and please note this on the plat. If a wetland delineation has not yet been performed, we recommend that it be completed prior to final approval of this plan and that the applicant provide the amount of field determined State-owned wetlands, if any, that are located onsite. This is of significant importance, as the amount of Stateowned wetlands may impact the amount of acreage available for parcel development in the RCA.
- 8. The site plan states that all streams onsite were taken from quadrangle maps. The 2008 changes to the Critical Area law amended the definition of a tributary stream to mean a "perennial or an intermittent stream within the Critical Area that has been identified by site inspection or in accordance with local program procedures approved by the Commission". As of July 1, 2008 all the requirements of the Critical Area law shall apply, and be applied, by a local jurisdiction. Therefore, unless and until the County amends its Critical Area Program to include other provisions for identifying streams and these procedures are approved by the Commission, site inspection is the only methodology provided under the law for the identification of streams. Please have the applicant field delineate all streams onsite.
- 9. Please clarify whether this is a preliminary plat or a final plat.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this subdivision request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 260-3483.

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Nick Kelly O Natural Resource Planner cc: TC 652-08



Anthony G. Brown Li. Governor



Margaret G. McHale Chair

> Ren Serey 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/

December 2, 2008

Ms. Chris Corkell Talbot County Office of Planning and Zoning 28712 Glebe Road, Suite 2 Easton, Maryland 21601

Re: Nourse Variance 1512

Dear Ms. Corkell:

Thank you for providing information on the above referenced variance request. The applicant is proposing a variance to the 100-foot stream Buffer to widen an existing driveway that crosses a tributary stream bed, tributary stream Buffer, and existing culvert. The property is 113.72 acres in size and is designated Resource Conservation Area (RCA).

COMAR 27.01.02.04C(1)(b) and 27.01.02.05C(7) states that, for Habitat Protection Areas (HPAs) located in the RCA, "all roads, bridges, and utilities that must cross a habitat protection area shall be located, designed, constructed, and maintained so as to provide maximum erosion protection and minimize negative impacts to wildlife, aquatic life and their habitats and maintain hydrologic processes and water quality. Roads, bridges, and utilities may not be located in any habitat protection area unless no feasible alternative exists." In reviewing the site plan, however, it appears that the applicant may be able to avoid Buffer impacts completely by locating the roadway in the agricultural field east of the stream and outside the Critical Area. Therefore, we question whether no other feasible alternative exists onsite. Prior to making a decision, the Board should make findings on this issue.

Finally, we note that the Board of Appeals must find that the applicant meets all five variance standards in order for a variance to be granted. We recommend that the Board give particular consideration in this case to whether the application meets the standard that water quality will not be adversely affected, that fish, wildlife or plant habitat will be not impacted, and that the variance will be in harmony with the spirit and intent of the Critical Area Law, particularly considering that there appears to be an alternative location for the roadway onsite that will not impact the stream or stream Buffer. While we acknowledge that the proposed roadway is located generally in the same area as an existing driveway, the proposed roadway represents a significant

intensification of use in the RCA and is intended to service newly created lots in the Critical Area. In this regard, the Board should require every method of avoiding and minimizing impacts in the Critical Area to be fully explored by the applicant.

Thank you for again for providing information on this administrative variance request. Please include this letter in your file and submit it as part of the record for this variance. Also, please notify the Commission in writing of the decision made in this case. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (410) 260-3483.

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Nick Kelly O Natural Resource Planner cc: TC 652-08



Talbot County Board of Appeals

STAFF MEMORANDUM

November 7, 2008

Elisa Deflaux

Prepared by:

Date:

Appeals Case #:

1512

Variance

BOA Meeting Date: December 08, 2008

General Information:

Owner:

Applicant:

Stephanie Nourse 5624 Oak Place Bethesda, MD 20817-3526

Tyler & Stephanie Nourse

Requested Action:

Purpose:

Existing Zoning:

Tax Map No:

Location:

Property Size:

Applicant, Stephanie G. Norse requests a variance to permit the widening of an existing driveway through a buffer abutting a tributary stream bed and lying within the 100' buffer to provide access to the proposed residential lots. The creation of the proposed residential lots requires the establishment of a private road.

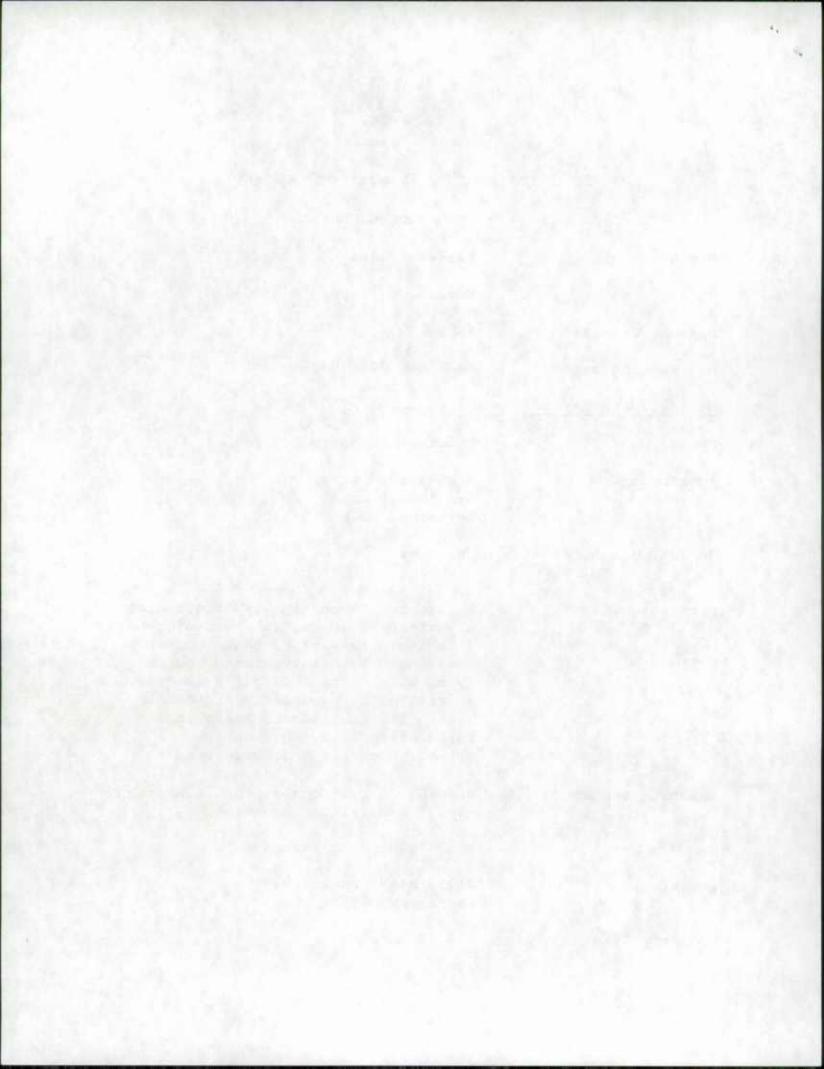
RC/WRC - Rural Conservation & Western Rural Conservation

Map 41, Grid 2, Parcel 6

26259 St Michaels Road Easton, MD 21601

113.72 Acres

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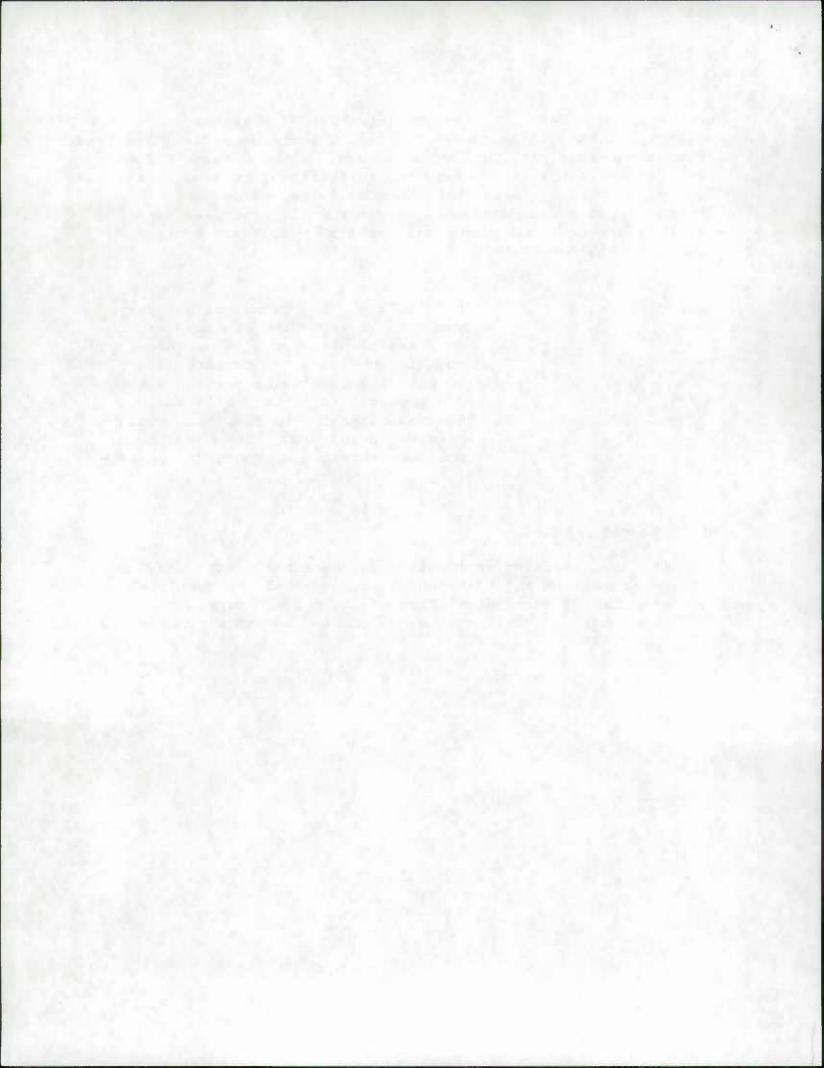
Comprehensive Plan: The Comprehensive Plan states in Chapter 7, "Natural Resources Conservation and Sensitive Area Protection" that "The County should continue to enforce buffer requirements for all tributary and intermittent streams in the County". It also states that "The County recognizes the importance of stream corridors as water quality buffers, and wildlife habitat; and encourages protection of these buffers in their undisturbed state".

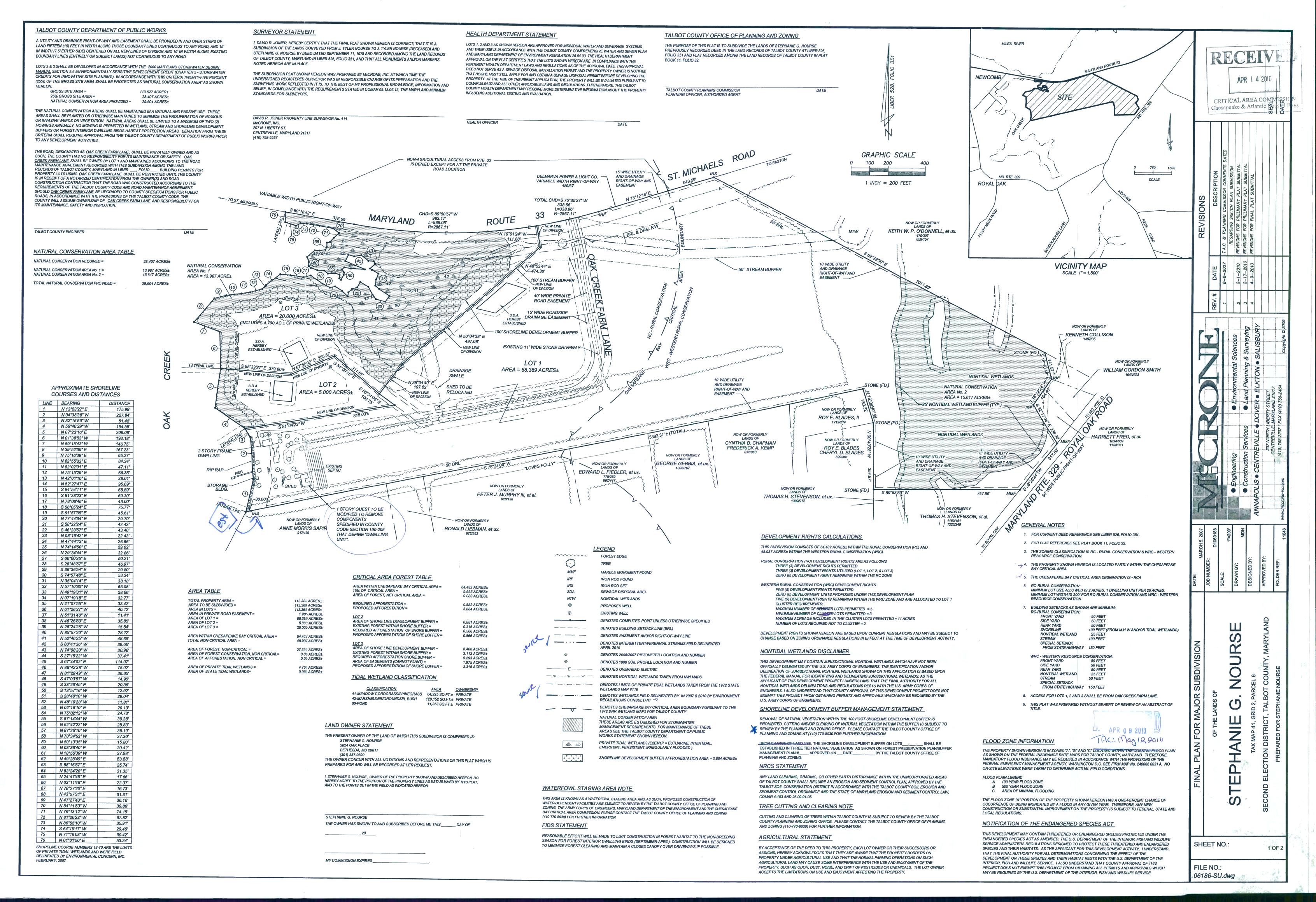
Zoning History:

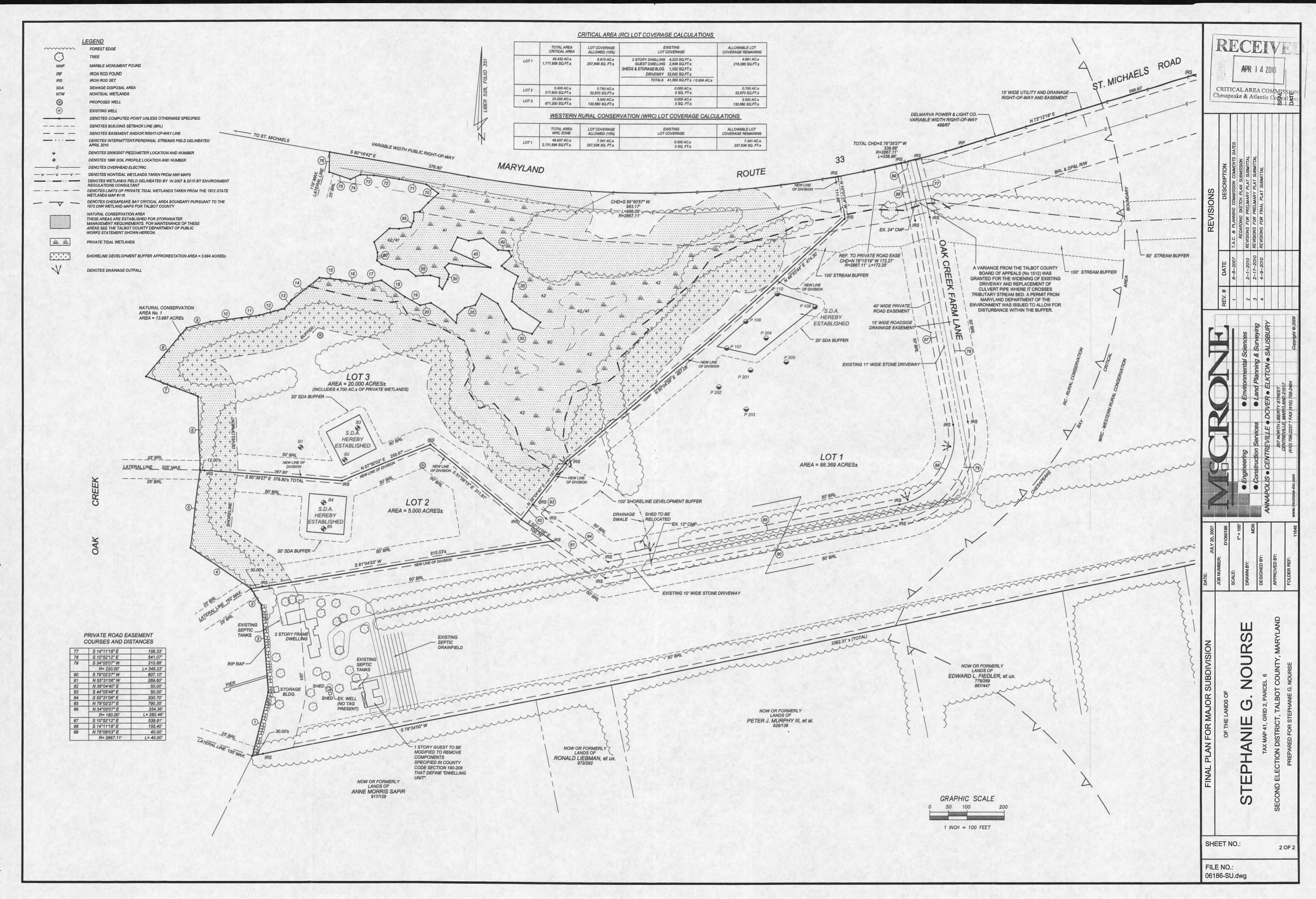
In July, 2007, the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the subject lands for a sketch plan for a major three lot subdivision with a new private road. The Planning Commission granted sketch plan approval in August, 2007 and a one-year extension to the sketch plan approval in July 2008. In 2008, the applicant received a license to operate a Short Term Rental.

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) The tree planting mitigation, as described in the Maryland Department of the Environment Permit, shall be completed at the time of the installation of the culvert pipe.
- 2) The applicant shall obtain all county and state permits and approvals.







* PLOTTED: Apr 09, 2010 - 9:30am Q:\D1060186 - Nourse\D1060186-NOURSE-pre 3d'files\DWG\06186-SU.dwg.......Tab:SHEET 2 - 24 x 36 wew.