Dublic Hearings - EKton-Panel on Proposed Plan for Town of Elkton 1987 MSA_51830-11

1	PANEL HEARING OF THE CRITICAL		
2	AREA CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION ON THE		
3	PROPOSED PLAN OF THE TOWN OF ELKTON		
4	* * * * * * * * *		
5	Public Comment		
6	*		
7	Critical Area Law Town Hall		
•	Section Elkton, Maryland		
8	8-1809 *		
9	* * * * * * * * Monday,		
10	November 23, 1987		
11			
12	The above entitled matter come on for hearing		
13	pursuant to notice.		
14	parbaane to notice.		
15			
16	BEFORE:		
17	RONALD A. KARASIC, CHAIRMAN		
18			
19	APPEARANCES:		
20	VICTOR BUTANIS, ESQ. (Representing Harford Co.)		
21	JAMES E. GUTMAN, ESQ. (Representing A.A. Co.)		
22	BARBARA O'NEILL (Former Commissioner for Cecil Co.)		
	ROBERT REED (Town Administrator, Elkton)		
	J. EVANS MCKINNEY (Commissioner, Elkton)		
Ì	(COMMITTED TOTICE) EINCOM		

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3	EXHIBITS	PAGE	•
4	Letter from McCrone to		
5		8	
6	Critical Areas Commission Exhibit #1		
7			
8	McCrone Map, Exhibit #2	9	
9			
10	TESTIMONY		
11	Robert Reed	7	
12	Steve Lambert	8	
13	Stephen J. Baker	9	
14	James E. Gutman	17	
15	Victor K. Butanis	22	
16			
17			
18	ATTENDANCE SIGN IN SHEET		
19	Listed names	3, 4	
20			
21			
22			
	2		

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ATTENDANCE

2		
3	NAME AND ADDRESS	TESTIFY .
4	Barbara W. O'Neill	No
5	1171 Winch Road Port Deposit, Md.	
6	rore populity ma.	
7	Janet A. McKinney	No
8	405 Park Circle Elkton, Maryland	
9	Elkcon, Maryland	
10	J. Evans McKinney	No
11	Town of Elkton	
12	Robert R. Reed	Yes
13	Town of Elkton	162
14		·
15	Steve Lambert 6 Kent Road	Yes
16	Elkton, Maryland	
17	· •	
18	George McSwain	
19	23 Kent Road	
20	Elkton, Md.	
21	Clyde E. Spengler	Possible
22	20 Kent Road	
	Elkton, Maryland	
		3

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ATTENDANCE

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3	NAME AND ADDRESS	TESTIFY

No

Elmer Mullen 24 Leedon Road

Elkton, Maryland

7

Stephen J. Baker, Esq. Yes

8 153 E. Main St.

Elkton, Maryland

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Virgin Lambert No

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PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN KARASIC: Good evening, my name is

Ronald A. Karasic. I'm chairman of the hearing panel

this evening for the Critical Areas Commission. I re
present Baltimore City and I'd like to introduce my

colleagues and fellow Commissioners: to my right is

Victor Butanis, representing Harford County and to my

left is James R. Gutman, excuse me, James E. Gutman

representing Anne Arundel County. I'd also like to recog
nize Barbara O'Neil (PH), former Commissioner for Cecil

County of the Critical Areas Commission. The purpose of

this hearing is a specific one. It's to hear public comment

from the town of Elkton as required under section 8-1809

of the Critical Area Law.

A decision will be made on the local program on Elkton's local program within 42 days of today's date. The transcript of this hearing is being kept. We have a court reporter who will record the comment and any testimony given this evening and that record will be kept open for a period of one week from this evening. The one week period for which the record is kept open, during that one week period statements may be mailed to the Critical Areas Commission

1 specifically to the Chairman of the Critical Areas 2 Commission, Solomon Liss (PH), and the address is: 3 Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, 580 Taylor Avenue, 4 D-4, Annapolis, Maryland and the zip code is 21401. 5 The complete public record of this hearing will be kept open at the commission office once it's completed. 6 7 Chairperson, I would also like to recognize a number of officials who've attended the hearing this evening. 8 9 ally I'd recognize Robert Reed, Town Administrator of 10 Elkton and Commissioner McKinney, Commissioner of the town 11 of Elkton. In order to facilitate an orderly hearing we 12 would request that all speakers limit their remarks to 13 approximately three (3) to five (5) minutes and we would 14 also request that public comment be made and focused upon 15 the program as a whole, the local program as a whole rather 16 than a specific individual problem. 17 Normally in these hearings we have the opportunity 18

Normally in these hearings we have the opportunity to hear a presentation from the local jurisdiction, however in the case of this evenings hearing we understand that the consultants are unavailable to present the program and we further understand that the commission will hear a presentation at a later date by the consultants who are

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hired by Elkton to prepare the local program. We would also ask that for anyone testifying that they step up to the microphone which is located at the table at the side, that they speak loudly and clearly. And also that they identify themselves by name as well as by address. Now have all those individuals who intend to testify signed the sign-in sheet? Are there any individuals who have not signed the sign-in sheet who intend to testify? I would recognize at this time Mr. Reed.

MR. ROBERT REED: Mr. Chairman you touched briefly on the matter which we wish to bring to your attention and that's is the consultant due to the mix-up in vacation schedules, could not attend this hearing this evening. And on behalf of the town and the consultant I would ask that if any questions do arise that cannot be answered tonight they be deferred 'til your meeting with our consultant and I'd like to enter their letters to you.

CHAIRMAN KARASIC: So noted.

MR. REED: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KARASIC: We would indicate for the record the receipt of a letter from McCrone (PH) to the Critical Areas Commission.

D.C. AREA 261-1902 BALT. & ANNAP. 974-0947 1

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(Whereupon, the document referred to as Exhibit #1 was
introduced and accepted into the
record.)

The next individual indicated on the list who expressed a desire to testify was Steve Lambert. Mr. Lambert.

MR. LAMBERT: My name is Steve Lambert and I live in Elkton, Maryland. Ah...at the Critical Area meeting with the McCrone, the ah...people that are doing the survey for Elkton ah....there were some questions raised as to the ah....area what area they are mapping, which is ah...area 27 R and ah....there was some discrepancies that I believe that were on there and ah I said, you know what are you going to do about this to fix it and they said well, you know, we've done our part if you want to change the mapping, you know, we'll send you a map and you can do it for yourself. So, they sent me a map and I did a detailed mapping of the area, 27 R, and ah...I want to present this to the Commissioner and ah...for them to ah...use for their judgement as far as this area is concerned. Ah...this area here is totally marshlands and woods, preparing as far as tidal and non-tidal and they

1 have made a good portion of this area LDA and I believe 2 from the use of the area as of December 1, 1985 that this 3 area should be RCA, think it's a major, you know, a flaw in what they've mapped, so I wanted to bring it to your 5 attention. 6 CHAIRMAN KARASIC: Very well, The commission will 7 accept the exhibit. 8 (Whereupon, the document re-9 ferred to as Exhibit #2 was 10 introduced and received into 11 the record.) 12 MR. LAMBERT: That's all I have. Thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN KARASIC: Thank you. Mr. Baker. 14 Would you step up to the microphone. 15 MR. BAKER: I'd like to take a look at the map. 16 I'm interested in what he's, in what ah....I'm sure he's, 17 I've got my map numbers mixed up. Which map does this 18 point, 7 R? I thought that was 27 R, I may have them 19 mixed up. 20 MR. BUTANIS: Where is this identified as 27 R? 21 It is better we look up that. 22

MR. BAKER:

It's right over here in the corner.

1	MR. BUTANIS: Okay, right here is 27, is it
2	right here?
3	MR. BAKER: Yeah.
4	MR. BUTANIS: This map here
5	MR. BAKER: That is all I ever mentioned to 'em.
6	MR. BUTANIS: Is this the one you want?
7	MR. BAKER: Yeah, that's fine. What do you
8	want, to speak from here?
9	CHAIRMAN KARASIC: Please.
10	MR. BAKER: My name is Stephen Baker. My
11	address is 153 East Main, Elkton, Maryland. I am an
12	attorney and I represent the Arundel Corporation. Ah
13	they represent or own property which would be located
14	on the map 27 I, I had, a couple of 'em mixed up, that
15	would be down at the end of White Hall Road and at the
16	Elk Creek ahand this is a very large tract of land ah
17	consisting of, I'm not sure exactly, some four hundred and
18	fifty acres. With a large portion of it is wet lands or
19	water.
20	As such the Arundel Corporation ahdoes not
21	oppose and in fact is in favor of the Critical Land Areas
22	Plan as it's proposed by ah the town of Elkton and their

consultating engineers with a very, very large portion of the property being designated as an RCA but there is a portion of the propterty which is designated as a limited development area.

Obviously it is this LD area that they are concerned about and would like to keep because if ah...this was to go then essentially you'd be taking their four hundred and some acres and making it all park land. Ah... under the Constitution some of the more recent cases have held that a person is entitled to a reasonable investment expectation ah...from their property. Obviously they can't do anything they want to do with their property even current zoning stressed that but but to designate this all as an RCA, I think that would take away all reasonable investment expectation that they would have had for their property. Ah...the property is reasonably adjacent to water and sewer ah..facilities. They ah...are available basically at two ends of the property.

The town property which abuts this ah...into
the rear along the Elk Creek they have existing water and
sewer lines there ah...additionally water and sewer lines
are along White Hall Road in the vicinity of an apartment

1 project there, so the ah...utilities are available ah.... 2 MR. BUTANIS: Mr. Baker how much of the property 3 is designated LDA? MR. BAKER: As far as acreage is concerned? 5 MR. BUTANIS: Right. 6 MR. BAKER: Ah..the engineers didn't give us 7 help. 8 Do you know, how about percentage? MR. BUTANIS: 9 MR. BAKER: Ah...I don't know, I could show you 10 the Plat there but of....ah, not a real large area, ah... 11 would that help you if I showed you? 12 MR. BUTANIS: Do you know Caroline? 13 CAROLINE WATSON: About 74 acres. 14 MR. BUTANIS: 74 acres? 15 CAROLINE WATSON: About approximately 74 acres. 16 MR. BUTANIS: Is LDA? That's okay, you, I just... 17 MR. BAKER: Okay. Ah...and the area which isn't 18 design...is designated is what I would call upland, it's not 19 you know, down in the, the low lying area but candidly (PH) 20 a large portion of the property is low lying. Ah..however 21 the area which is upland is not ah...environmentally 22 sensitive area has been not designated ah...on the map as

being environmentally sensitive or having any of the particular species or woodlands or things which are of a ah...critical nature. Now on the property part of it where it is designated RCA there has been designated one species bearing marigold but this is away from what we're talking about with the LDA so if there is any future development it would not be impeding or interfering with that. Ah...the town of Elkton has seen fit to designate this area as an area which they see ripe for future development by the current zoning.

I believe that it is mostly zoned R-3 which is very dense, ah..R-2 and R-3 at least, are dense residential categories. R-1 being less dense. R-3 would support apartments ah..things of that nature, R-2, single familes, duplexes, and things of that nature. Obviously we are constrained by the LDA designation which we are taking down from that, that density. But nonetheless it's something the town has felt that it ah...it's an area good for development as far as location, ah...additionally as I indicated, water and sewer is recently available and the town has recently increased their capacity at their water and sewer treatment facilities in the anticipation of future

development ah...in the town and of course this is an undeveloped parcel or tract within the town.

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Ah...again, I guess that would be basically all I would have to say. Ah...as far as utility lines or houses I think might have been involved at one point as to their reasonable proximity. Like I said they go across the back and they are reasonably available within - Elkton is sorta, is, is unique type of town, is unique but is more like, like a, a lot of, more rural type municipality in that utility lines have not been run ah....past properties in advance of their need for utilization because of the small town does not want to have use to put out there generally developed over extended to the property but ah...it's very, very close and it's, it's, this property here is essentially one of the next links out of the town on the distribution tank chain for the water and sewer system; in other words, it's not like there's a development here, there's a big lot of land here and we're way over here we're the next door reproduction (PH) to go. So therefore, we they would be in favor with the existing designation. Ah...also, with respect to the other tracts of ah....which Mr. Lambert just put the map in existence, I also represent those developers

as well, which is route 213 ventures. It's two completely different entities and different people that are involved. Ah...and essentially that area again is, these two properties are adjacent and the same arguments that I would have advanced before as far as utilities being available and about those utility lines actually crossed that property in part ah..., currently some old lines that the town has as well as some new lines; ah...additionally, the town has seen fit to see that as a, an area which the town I think wants developed and it, it was previously zoned ah...R-1 and R-2 and they have recently rezoned that property to R-3, again to make it compatible with the existing neighborhoods that are there ah...so they have seen fit that this is an area for, for development. those developers would like to see a reasonable investment return or their expectations returned. Ah.... MR. BUTANIS: When was it rezoned?

MR. BAKER: Pardon me?

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MR. BUTANIS: Do you know when it was rezoned?

MR. BAKER: August, I think.

MR. BUTANIS: This past August?

MR. BAKER: Yes, I believe that was when the

1 hearing went through. Ah..I'm not exactly sure, but I think that is when it was. Ah...bast (PH?) was rezoned 2 on the ah..basis that the town's hall had built a mistake 3 in the original zoning. Ah...a petition, ah..not a 4 petition but a plan, a plan was adopted ah... 5 6 MR. BUTANIS: How long ago was the original 7 zoning, do you know? MR. BAKER: Mr. Reed, I defer to you, on'793, 8 Does that sound right? The county; is for '76. 9 10 MR. REED: I think the original zoning was placed by the county in 1963. 11 MR. BAKER: No the town zoning? 12 MR. REED: The town zoning, the last update is 13 14 a town zoning of '79. MR. BAKER: '79, that's what I thought. As far 15 as the existing of a , the existence of any ah...wildlife 16 17 habitats or ah ... species, or slopes or things of that 18 nature, I would not accept Mr. Lambert I would defer to 19 the engineers who are ah...experienced in that field and 20 have gone out and visited the site and done their mapping, 21 rather than do some markings on a, on a map that ah...was 22 done after the fact. I think that McCrone is a respected

and professional firm and that their, that ah..deference should be given to the maps as they have prepared and planned them. Again, you have to take into consideration normal evidentary rules and what not as far as ah the person having the expertise is there. Their expertise is deferred to and respected. And that will be all.

MR. KARASIC: Thank you. Mr. Gutman.

MR. GUTMAN: Mr. Baker what if I just ask you a question?

MR. BAKER: Sure.

MR. GUTMAN: Or two. Ah...That was as an attorney I'm sure you've read ah...very closely the criterion... was developed by the Commission and in defining the Limited Development Areas, just to refresh your memory, the paragraph begins where describing it with the sentence "Limited Development Areas are those areas which are currently developed in low or moderate intensity uses". Would you say that correctly describes that portion of the tract that you were talking about?

MR. BAKER: Absolutely, there is no development whatsoever on it at this point as far as housing, but the area is surrounded would, would, Ithink, would, would meet

MR. GUTMAN: No, no I'm speaking about the 2 area that you would hope would remain as Limited Develop-3 4 Ah...what I'm trying to ask, or saying is, today is there low development use of that property? 5 MR. BAKER: I would say that it's low, 6 if, if a tree were left. 7 MR. GUTMAN: Is it existent? 8 MR. BAKER: Well, well what do you mean? 9 MR. GUTMAN: Are there houses? 10 MR. BAKER: There are no houses on the property, 11 none at all. 12 MR. GUTMAN: Well then, that would, I don't 13 believe would be quite in agreement with a low or moderate 14 intensity use. It says, "are currently developed". Which 15 would mean if you went out there and looked you would 16 17 see development of either a low or a moderate intensity. 18 And if I understand you correctly, there is no development. 19 MR. BAKER: Not on the immediate tract, however, 20 in the immediate surrounds.... 21 MR. GUTMAN: Yes, I'm not, I'm only talking 22 about that tract.

that criterion. In other words....

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MR. BAKER: Well I think that the critical area is documented as a whole and when you read it totally ah... one of the goals of the critical areas, critical areas ah... plan is to provide for, well to provide for growth and, to provide for regulated growth. It's not, it's not to make everything stagnate ah...which I think is one of the misconceptions a lot people hade about this plan. In other words, we are going to enact this as critical areas and everything stays the way it is. And that is not the intent of that document at all.

I think it is to provide for, for growth and for regulated growth in, in conformity with the environmental

I think it is to provide for, for growth and for regulated growth in, in conformity with the environmental concerns that the critical areas is trying to adjust to to ah...make plans for, but it is not to prevent any further development. I'll disagree there one hundred percent.

MR. GUTMAN: Well, then if I understand you correctly....

MR. BAKER: Otherwise, I mean if, if you've got development already you, you can't have any more. I mean basically the concern with these critical areas legislation is how is our undeveloped property going to be developed if it's already developed, you can't do anything more

with it. 1 MR. GUTMAN: Well, if I understand you correctly 2 then, what you're really suggesting is that the growth 3 allocation that would be available to the county, to the town.. 5 MR. BAKER: To the town. 6 7 MR. GUTMAN:....would be on the parcel you're speaking of. 8 MR. BAKER: Both parcels I'm speaking of. 9 MR. GUTMAN: On both parcels. That, that would 10 be the location of the growth allocation ah...in the, 11 from the perspective of the clients that you represent. 12 That's correct. Ah...ah...again, MR. BAKER: 13 14 ah... MR. GUTMAN: Alright, why can't we.... 15 MR. BAKER:again, now to refer back to 16 the tract which is owned by the 213 venture, there has 17 18 been some recent development on that property. 19 ah...was in the past few years, there were around 40 units 20 is that how many there are, Mr. Reed, at the White Hall 21 Circle?

MR. REED: Yes.

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BALT. & ANNAP. 974-0947

MR. BAKER: Ah...this is around a 40 unit ah.. apartment complex on 4½ acres. Ah...ah...this is not within the critical areas but it is on the same parcel one was in the ah...very close proximity.

MR. GUTMAN: Well, we, we ah...

MR. BAKER: It's on the same parcel if that's what you're concerned about but I think you can't just look parcel by parcel. You have to take this thing as a concept, the whole thing. Just because Mr. X owns a hundred acres and he hasn't done anything and Mr. Y next door has developed his in limited, in, in development ah...Mr. Y shouldn't be able to continue to develop because he already has and Mr. X, he, he automatically becomes Mr. ah...park land; in fact, it's Mr. X with no development should be permitted some consistent with ah...critical and not...

MR. GUTMAN: Of course, you understand that our authority is limited to that which is within the critical area, we, we ...

MR. BAKER: I understand. What you were just asking about what was being done on the parcels analysis.

MR. GUTMAN: Well, I meant that portion of the

parcel that is totally within the critical area boundary. 2 Ah...thank you very much Mr. Baker. 3 MR. BAKER: Right. Thank you. MR. KARASIC: Thank you Mr. Baker. 5 anyone else who desires public comment? 6 MR. BUTANIS: I would just like to ask Mr. Baker 7 one more question. 8 MR. KARASIC: Alright. 9 MR. BUTANIS: As I understand, you're merely 10 speaking out of favor of a designation of these parcels 11 at the present time. You are not looking to expand any? 12 MR. BAKER: Not, none whatsoever. 13 clients are, are, obviously.... 14 MR. BUTANIS: You're content with the way they 15 have been managed? 16 MR. BAKER:they would rather be designated 17 ah...intensely developed area, but everybody would like 18 to have that category even if they are not going to use 19 it because it obviously makes their land more valuable. 20 Ah...but they can live with the designation as it is, as 21 it is now. Were it to be changed, they can't live with 22 it because it would basically, make their, you know,

Is there

I said my

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several hundred acres so they can't really do hardly anything with it. I mean, like I say, there's been 2 3 nothing, you look at the map basically that designates 4 the property as ah...having any of the magic criterion to take it away. Other than that portion that is RCA, we're, 5 6 we're not saying that. The RCA area is low area and it's 7 growing wild and it's marshland. It's a habitat, there's no question about it. 8 9 MR. BUTANIS: Thank you. 10 MR. KARASIC: Anything else. 11 MR. BUTANIS: No. I just think we can close 12 the meeting and if you want to ask questions, I guess I 13 could go over the record later. 14 MR. KARASIC: If there's no further public comment, we'll call the meeting, the hearing to a close. 15 16 Thank you very much for attention this evening. 17 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: You made a comment that 18 the record would be left open? 19 MR. KARASIC: Yes. 20 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Inaudible). 21 MR. KARASIC: Alright. Again, as I stated

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earlier the record will be left open for an additional

week. If there are any of you or anyone else you may know who wishes to add to the record, they may do so for 2 a period of one week. Thank you very much. 3 MR. BAKER: I have one other question. 4 MR. KARASIC: Mr. Baker. 5 MR. BAKER: You indicated that the critical areas 6 McCrone just want to have an opportunity to speak before 7 you folks? 8 MR. KARASIC: 9 MR. BAKER: Ah...I would be interested in being 10 a, ah, being notified as many of you other folks would when 11 that's going to be; we're sorta not given a shot at this 12 guy. Ah...you know, and we're not going to know what they 13 are going to say at that hearing...ah, we haven't had any 14 of the rights whatsoever so far but ah if our comment period 15 is up for one week and they come in three weeks from now 16 and say something that's 180 degrees out from what every-17 body has been saying all along we don't have an opportunity 18 which concerns me. 19 20 MR. KARASIC: Mr. Gutman would you like to address 21 that?

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MR. GUTMAN: Well, Mr. Baker we have not ah...

firmed up a particular date when we hope to have the consultant either speak directly with the panel nor has the consultant, to the best of my knowledge, been advised of a coming meeting of the full commission. I would say that when the commission meets and if the consultant is added to that agenda, all of those meetings are open to the public and we could certainly make every effort to insure you were advised of an agenda item that would include the consultant ah...giving further information about the town of Elkton's plan.

MR. BAKER: Okay, good.

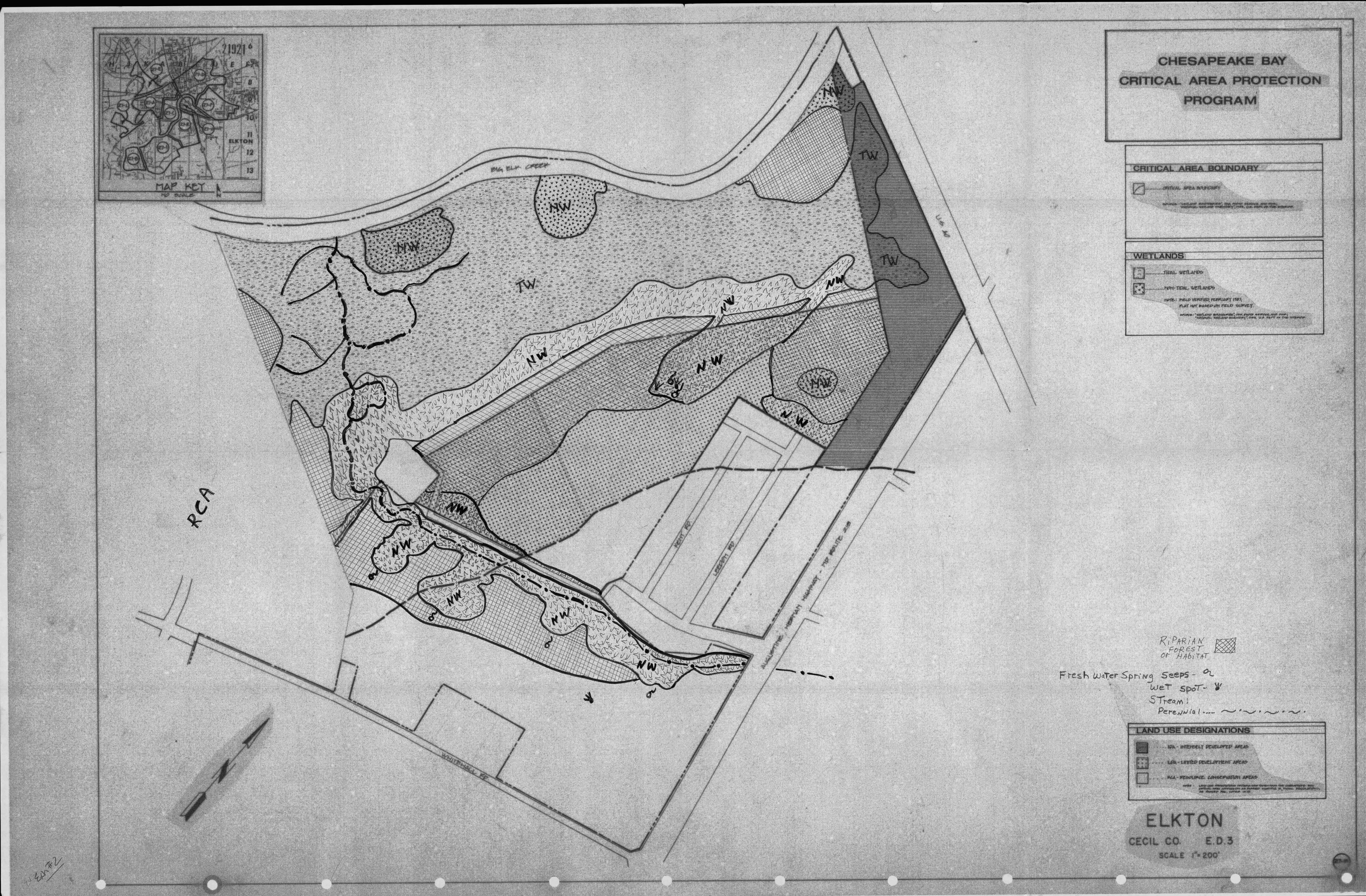
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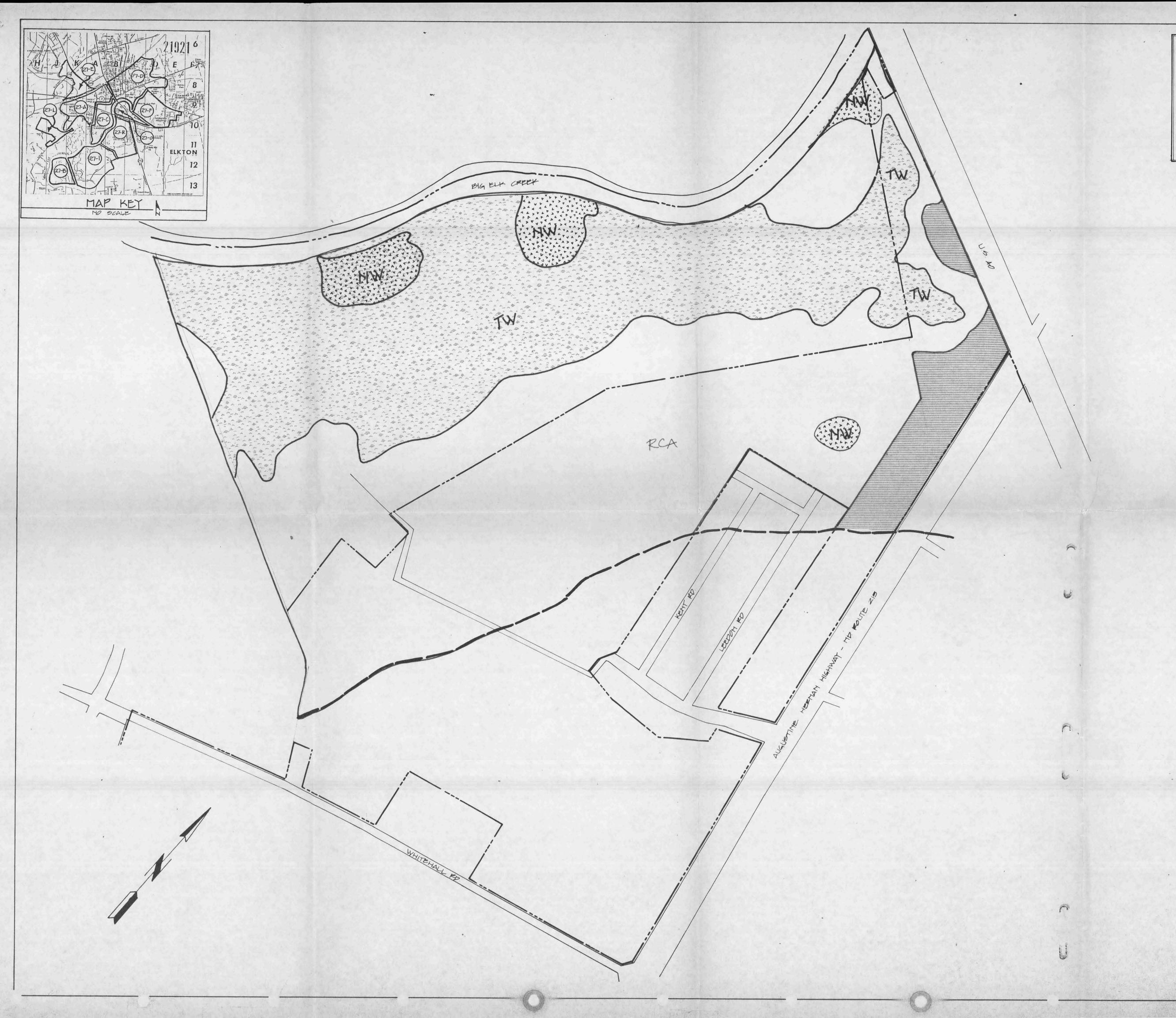
MR. GUTMAN: Ah...we generally meet on the first Wednesday of the month and we'll, in all likelihood be meeting on the third Wednesday as well in December. Those meetings taking place in Annapolis. In the past, the past several meetings have started at 1:00 o'clock and we've met at the Department of Agriculture, that's a state office building on Harry S. Truman Parkway. But ah...if you will make sure that, ask the person who's right behind you, ah...this is Carolyn Watson has your name and address and I think she could probably take care of insuring that you would hear about an agenda item that

1 would include the consultants. 2 MR. BAKER: Okay, thanks a lot. 3 MR. KARASIC: Thank you. Are there any other 4 individuals who wish to be notified about the circumstances 5 of the public, of the commission meeting at which time 6 the consultants will present the plan? 7 MR. REED: Yes, we would like to be in all right (PH). 8 MR. KARASIC: Thank you once again and the 9 hearing is adjourned. 10 (Whereupon, Monday, November 23, 1987, the 11 hearing adjourned.) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 26

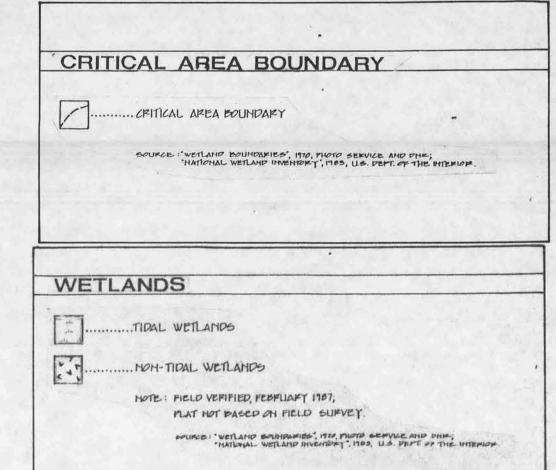
CERTIFICATE 1 2 This is to certify that the foregoing transcript 3 In the matter of: 5 The Critical Area Chesapeake 6 Bay Commission on the Proposed Plan of the 7 town of Elkton 8 BEFORE: Ronald A. Karasic, Chairman 10 DATE: November 23, 1987 11 12 PLACE: Town Hall, Elkton, Maryland 13 14 represents the full and complete proceedings of the 15 aforementioned matter, as reported and reduced to typewriting. 16 17 18 ellio Baken 19 20 Debbie Becker 21 FREE STATE REPORTING, INC. 22

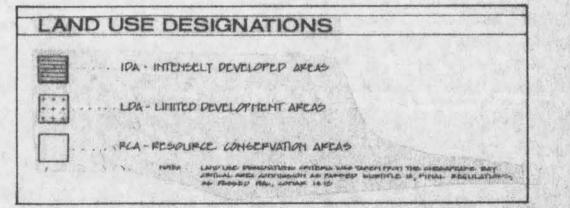
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CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AREA PROTECTION PROGRAM





ELKTON
CECIL CO. E.D.3

SCALE I"= 200'

17-1