

The Virginia division first received notice in June 1964, from the Corps of Engineers that an application had been received for a permit to do bulkheading in the Dyke marsh area, Hunting Creek estuary, consisting of some 30-odd acres. Because the notification was very general, because the southerly portion of the Hunting Creek area is quite large and lies adjacent to existing Federal park, the League voted to oppose the application based on those general terms.

At a later date, in 1966, we learned that the application had been reduced and we then obtained copies of the map showing the exact location and extent of the proposed bulkhead and fill to be placed in the northerly portion of Hunting Creek near Hunting Towers.

Inspection by representatives of the Izaak Walton League reveal the fact that the fill would be placed adjacent to existing bulkhead and would, for the most part, cover the area where some old docks had been erected in connection with a marina.

There it was noted that the area is very odorous due, at times, to an overflow of raw sewage from Royal Street.

At low tide, much of the area is out of the water and appears to be fresh mud, which is recently silted in.

Obviously, the silt is accumulating at a rapid rate, which indicates that if nothing is done to the area, it will be a mud flat sticking out of the water in the near future.

In the absence of any proposal to restore this area to a productive condition, it appears to us to have little, if any, value as a conservation area as not even marsh grass has been able to establish growth on this area.

In contrast to the proposed plan for development, it would devote some of the area to recreational purposes, provide a boat channel out to the main river, and create a marina adjacent to bulkhead, thus putting this land to a recreational use.

If this type of operation is carried out, ugly mud flats will be eliminated and the silt which has ruined the area to the south as well as this area would be carried out through the channel to the river where it can be disposed of without ruining the remainder of this little bay which possesses demonstrated wildlife values on the southern portion.

As a result of receiving the reduced application, as a result of field inspection and seeing this area, and seeing that this area will be used in part for recreational purposes in connection with the proposed apartment development, the Virginia division of the Izaak Walton League withdrew its objection to the application for permit.

However, sir, the league wishes to emphasize three additional points:

One, it would look with disfavor upon any effort to extend the fill area north of Hunting Creek close to Jones Point than proposed under the present application;

Two, it would vigorously object to any application for permit to encroach upon the area south of the Hunting Creek channel;

Three, it expects the development of the present proposed fill area will be subject to Corps of Engineers control adequate to prevent silt or other impairment of the area south of Hunting Creek as well as to the east, and urges the corps or any other public agency to institute a comprehensive conservation program necessary to preserve and enhance the value of the estuary.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you, Mr. Harris.

Congressman REUSS. Colonel Rhea, may I address a couple of questions to the witness?

Colonel RHEA. If he wants to answer them.

Mr. HARRIS. I thought it wasn't to be a question period.

Congressman REUSS. I will ask the questions—

FROM THE FLOOR. Nobody has ever asked you any question.

Colonel RHEA. Congressman Reuss, we really don't have a cross-examination. You can present statements you desire to present; Mr. Harris can present statements. If Mr. Harris wants to answer any questions, it is really up to him. But I don't think we should really get into what it is not, this is not really a court of procedure where, as I explained at the beginning, we will not attempt to settle this matter today. We will hear all the evidence presented today and study this evidence, weigh it, and I will present a report through my channels to the Chief of Engineers.

I don't know whether Mr. Harris wants to answer any questions or not. I leave it up to you, Mr. Harris.