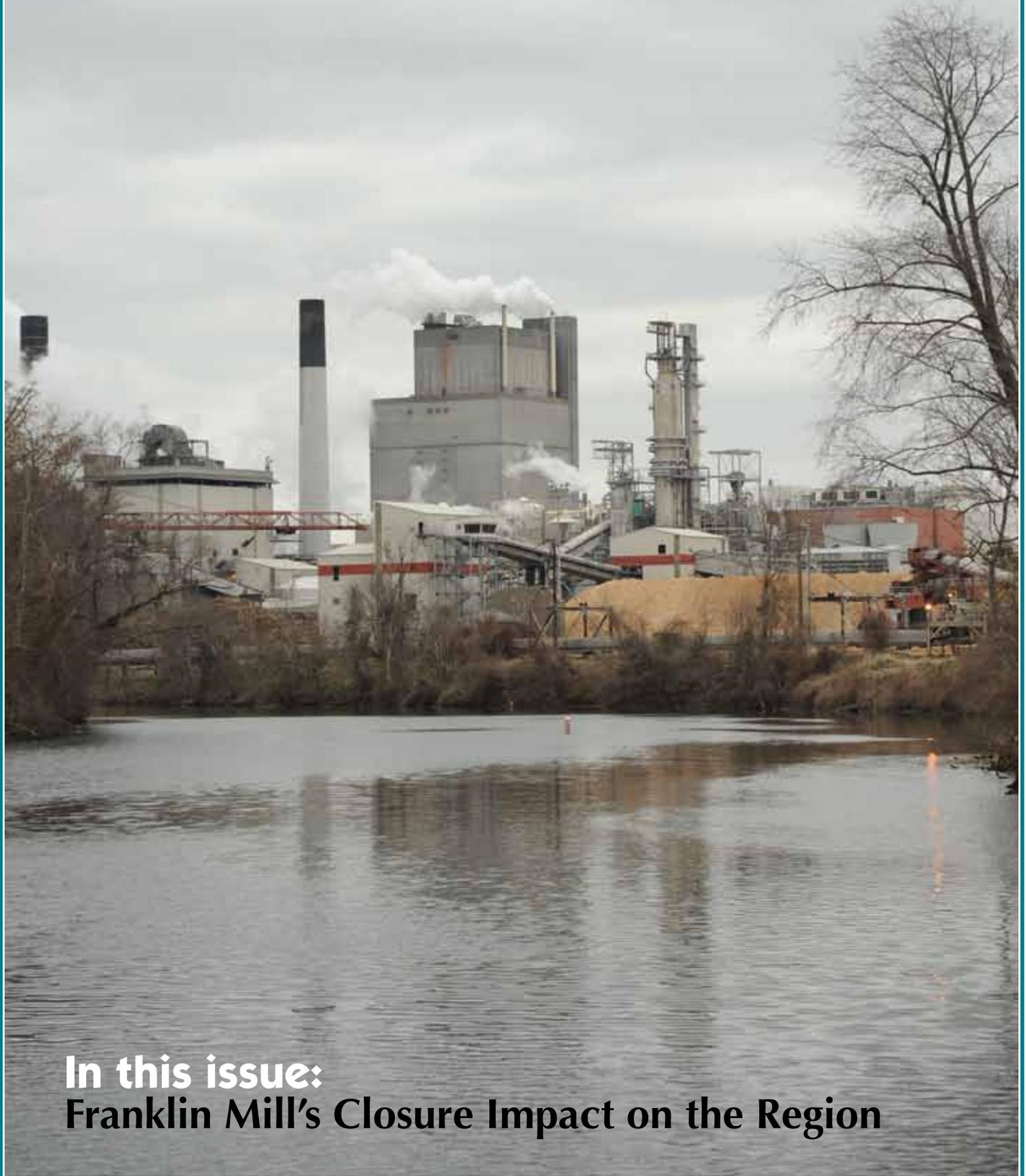




HAMPTON ROADS REVIEW

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION • Winter '10



In this issue:
Franklin Mill's Closure Impact on the Region



The Hampton Roads Review is published quarterly and is available at no cost. The HRPDC is a voluntary association of sixteen local governments. The purpose of the HRPDC is to provide a forum for local governments to address issues of regional importance and to encourage regional cooperation and coordination. For more information contact the HRPDC at 757.420.8300 or visit our website at www.hrpdcva.gov.

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The Hampton Roads Review, a quarterly publication of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and local area governments.

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HRPDC Editor's Note:

Happy New Year! I hope you and yours had a wonderful holiday season. As we start 2010, many of the challenges that developed in 2009 remain, and the full effects of other challenges are yet to be realized. For example, our western localities are facing a future without a long-time corporate citizen, International Paper's Franklin Paper Mill. IP's October 2009 announcement regarding the Mill's pending closure in 2010 signaled the end of an era that stretches back to the 1800's when the mill was founded by the Camp Brothers. The Mill has been a source of employment and civic funding for generations. The HRPDC Economics staff has been examining the effects of this closing not only on the western communities, but the Hampton Roads region as a whole. (Page 9) We're hoping that the Mill's closure will not be viewed as an end of the era for long, but rather as the beginning of a new and promising future.

Jobs and revenues are not the only thing at stake with the closure of the Franklin Paper Mill. As it turns out, it takes a lot of water to make paper. IP's Franklin Mill has the largest permit to withdraw groundwater in the entire Coastal Plain aquifer system. Our Senior Regional Geologist looks at the impacts the Mill's closure will have on regional groundwater levels. (See Page 8)

Staying with our western Hampton Roads theme, our Emergency Management staff is working with officials in the city of Franklin and Southampton County to update hazard mitigation plans for those communities. In addition, such work is also underway for the Southside communities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Suffolk, and Isle of Wight. Such plans are required for jurisdictions to be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) hazard mitigation assistance funds which fund strategies such as minor flood control projects to limit losses in the event of a disaster. (See Page 15)

Hope you enjoy this quarter's review, and as always, feel free to drop me an email with comments and suggestions.



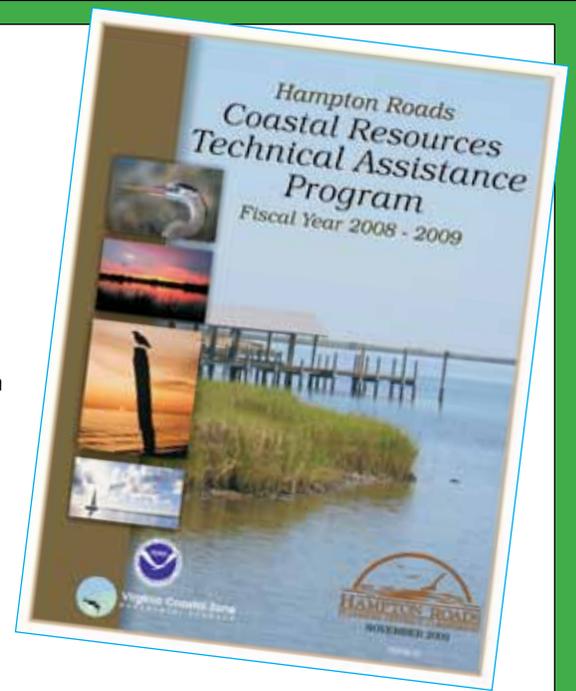
Joe Turner,
Editor

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Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program

By Claire Jones, cjones@hrpdcva.gov
Physical & Environmental Planner

The HRPDC recently completed activities for the Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Through funding from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, the HRPDC has provided technical assistance on a variety of environmental and coastal resources management issues to the cities, counties, and towns of the Hampton Roads region since 1986. The program supports consensus building efforts, environmental impact reviews, and education and training for a variety of constituents. The final report for this year's project has just been completed and highlights HRPDC's efforts to deliver public information and education on environmental issues to the citizens and government officials of the region. The report was released by the HRPDC in December 2009. For more information contact Claire Jones at cjones@hrpdcva.gov or 757-420-8300.



Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations Passed by State Board

By Julia B. Hillegass, jhillegass@hrpdcva.gov
Senior Environmental Planner

On December 9, 2009, the Virginia Board of Soil and Water Conservation adopted new stormwater regulations to oversee construction activities across the Commonwealth. These new regulations maintain the current statewide water quality standard for phosphorous discharge, while providing enhanced stormwater design practices that will reduce pollution from newly developed sites. New information soon to be released by the Environmental Protection Agency played a role in the board taking a more conservative approach.

Localities and the business community have opposed the proposed .28 pounds of phosphorus per acre, per year standard because of its limiting factors, most notably the increased costs to comply. Many projects evaluated locally using the proposed standard would not have been feasible from a technical or economic standpoint.

The new version of the stormwater regulations calls for not more than .45 pounds of phosphorus per acre, per year to run off of newly developed properties throughout the state. Although new construction is not the only source of polluted runoff to the Bay, according to Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), it is the fastest growing source.

The board also initiated a new regulatory action that allows for the development of a new phosphorus standard for the

Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Board will develop this new standard in conjunction with the DCR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA is developing a cleanup plan for these areas based on updated Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) levels, often called a "pollution budget" for the Bay and its tidal waters. The EPA is currently updating its computer modeling and draft outputs to determine appropriate discharge levels for the Bay's watershed.

The EPA is using a newly calibrated watershed model to develop new nitrogen, sediment and phosphorus loadings, specifically for lands in the Bay's watershed, or the levels of those pollutants allowed to enter the state's Chesapeake Bay waterways on an annual basis. Once the EPA issues its new loadings, they will serve as a guide for development of state regulations.

The new stormwater regulations will now undergo an administrative review and are expected to be approved by Governor Kaine prior to the end of his term. The regulations do not take effect until July 1, 2010 and allow localities time to update their existing programs as needed. The regulations can be viewed at: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/lr2d.shtml>.

Annual Regional Stormwater Effectiveness Indicators Report

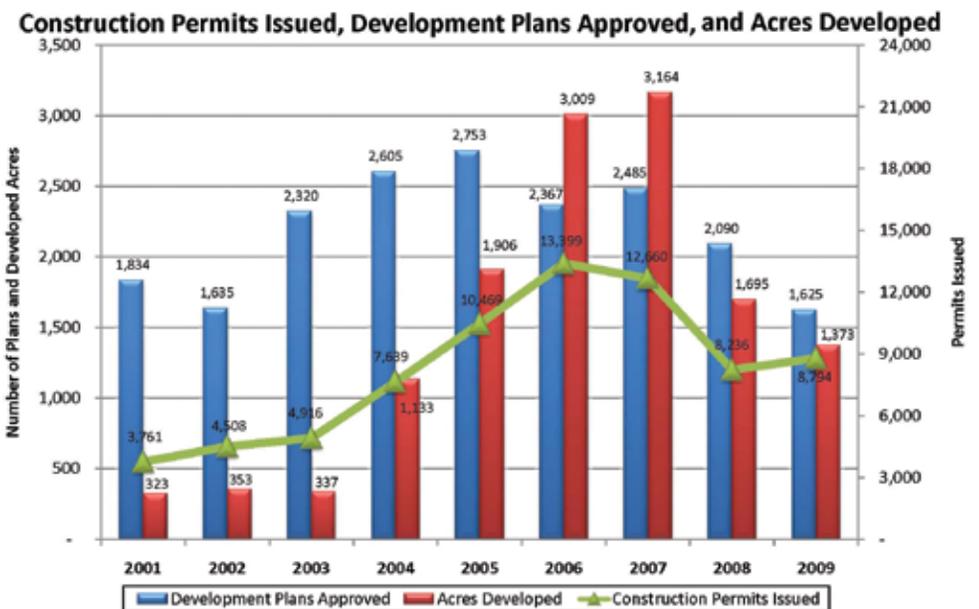
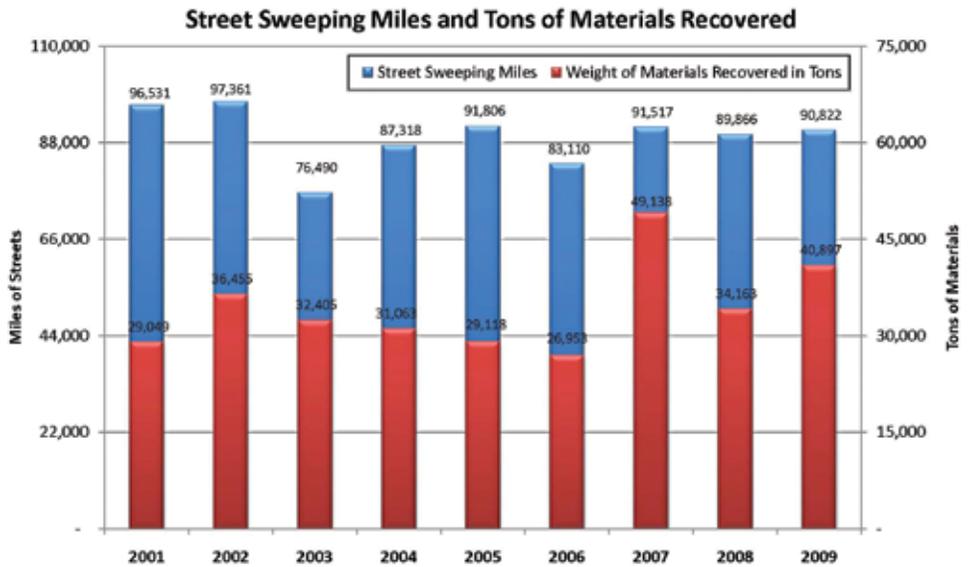
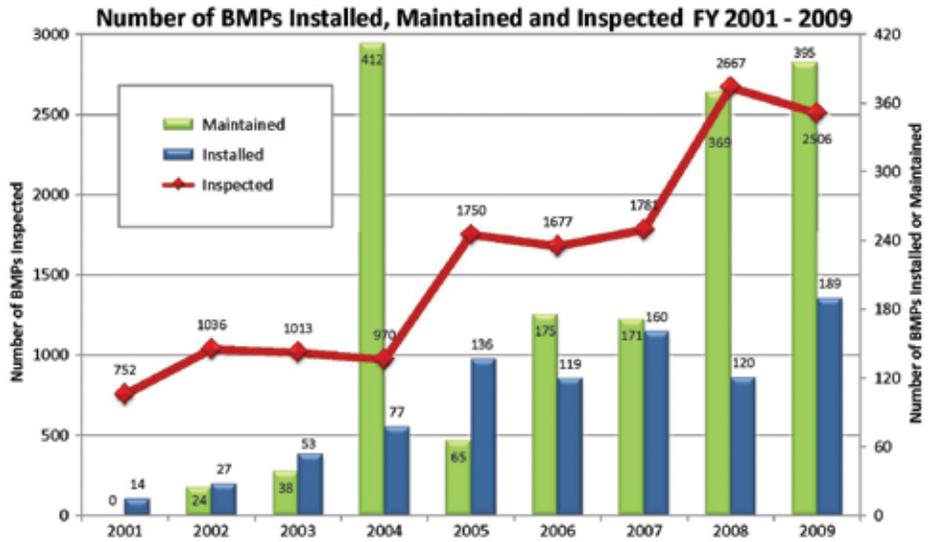
By Jennifer Tribo, jtribo@hrpdca.gov

Physical & Environmental Planner

The Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Indicator Tracking Program was developed in 1999 to replace chemical monitoring requirements in Phase I Stormwater Permits, and allow the region's local governments to assess their achievement of common stormwater goals. Previously, Tracking Program data was stored in a database, but now the data is input into the region's newly developed online tracking system, Permit Administration and Reporting System (PARS).

The HRPDC utilizes the data in PARS to create annual reports for each locality to satisfy their permitting requirements, and also compiles this information to create an annual regional report, "Indicators of Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness." The 2009 Report was released in January of this year and can be downloaded in its entirety from the HRPDC website, www.hrpdcva.gov.

These charts illustrate regional trends in stormwater best management practice (BMP) management, permitting and compliance, and operations and maintenance from 2001 through 2009.



Norfolk School Awarded HR Green Project of the Year Award

By Holly B. Miller, hmillers@hrpdcva.gov

Environmental Educator

Willard Model Elementary School received the 2009 HR Green Mini-Grant Project of the Year Award for the "Willards Saving the Earth Project." Ms. Melissa Walker coordinated a school-wide beautification project using funding from the HR Green Mini-Grant Program. Preschoolers potted and watered bulbs. Each grade planted and cared for its own garden. Kindergarteners also planted trees and bushes.

The beautification gardens were also tied to the standards of learning (SOL). First graders germinated seeds for the school to increase their understanding

Organization	Project	Coordinator	Location
Lynnhaven River Now	World Water Monitoring Day	Helen Kuhns	Virginia Beach
Western Branch Intermediate School	Marsh Grass Restoration	Karla Smith	Chesapeake
York High School	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education On-the-Water Experience for Limited English Proficiency Students	Leslie Bowie	Yorktown

of seed growth. The third grade applied math lessons by testing the soil and determining the best locations for the plots. The fourth grade conducted a study on the growth of plants, while the fifth grade learned about wetlands and erosion.

Pictures and additional project information are available at <http://www.hrwet.org/education/winners.shtml>. Applications for the HR Green Mini-Grants are accepted year-round. Apply online at http://www.hrwet.org/education/apply_online.shtml.

Wind Energy

By Eric Walberg, ewalberg@hrpdcva.gov

Physical & Environmental Planning Administrator

Wind energy in coastal Virginia has become a hot topic. Several studies and initiatives are underway in relation to the eventual development of wind energy projects in both the State and Federal waters off of Virginia. The combination of strong, consistent winds along the coast, the deep-water harbor and the presence of the industrial infrastructure associated with the ship building industry all make Hampton Roads a likely location for both the installation of wind energy facilities and the logistical support needed for Mid-Atlantic wind projects.

Minerals Management Service Task Force

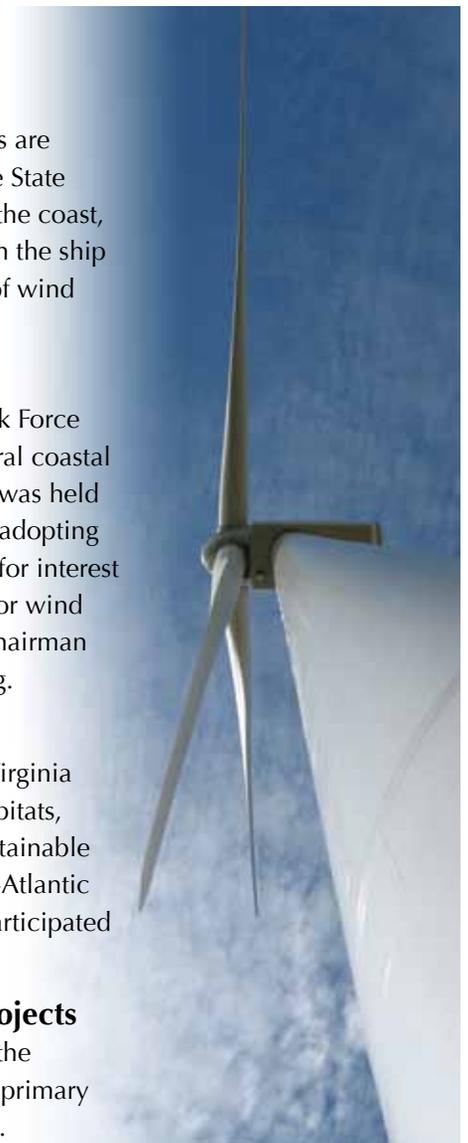
The United States Minerals Management Service (MMS) has established a Virginia Task Force on Renewable Energy Uses of the Outer Continental Shelf. Representatives from several coastal Virginia localities have been invited to participate. The first meeting of the Task Force was held December 9, 2009 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The meeting focused on adopting a charter for the Task Force and providing input to MMS prior to publishing a request for interest (RFI). Publishing the RFI is a preliminary step in leasing areas in the offshore waters for wind energy research and development. The HRPDC is represented on the Task Force by Chairman Bruce Goodson and Physical and Environmental Planning Administrator, Eric Walberg.

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

On June 4, 2009, the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia signed an agreement that outlines a coordinated approach to protection of critical habitats, promotion of improvements to water quality, a collaborative regional approach to sustainable development and preparation for the impacts of climate change. A workshop on Mid-Atlantic Ocean issues including wind energy was held on December 9, 2009. HRPDC staff participated in the workshop.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission Study of Renewable Energy Projects

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (MRC) is currently involved in a study of the location of renewable energy projects in Virginia's waters as directed by SB1350. The primary focus of the study is the potential for wind energy facilities and potential use conflicts.



Water We Take for Granted

By Julia B. Hillegass, jhillegass@hrpdcva.gov

Senior Environmental Planner

As we awaken each day to brush our teeth, make coffee or tea, take a shower, throw in a load of laundry, we don't even have to think about if we have enough water to perform any of these daily tasks. However, our tap water does so much more. Tap water delivers what no other water can:

- public health protection
- fire protection
- economic development and quality of life

Public Health Protection

Protecting public health is the number one priority of water suppliers in North America. What you may not know about the health benefits your tap water delivers:

- In North America, you can drink from virtually any public tap, while in the developing world an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease.
- The Centers for Disease Control names the disinfection of water as one of the top 10 public health accomplishments of the 20th century.
- In the United States, water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water safety and quality.
- Child cavity rates have been reduced by 20-40% where fluoridation of tap water has been implemented.
- The United Nations has dubbed 2005-2015 the 'Water for Life Decade,' and is seeking to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- Every year, water utilities provide customers with a detailed report on the quality of their drinking water.

Fire Protection

A reliable water supply plays an essential role in keeping our communities safe from fire. What you may not know about the fire protection your tap water delivers:

- More than a million and a half fires burn in the United States each year.
- In most communities, water flowing to fire hydrants is transported by the same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks that delivers drinking water.
- The ability to provide water for fire protection is essential to the development of communities. It can influence things like new home construction, business location decisions, and insurance rates.
- Most community water systems were first created for fire protection, not for drinking water delivery.
- In most communities, your water rates help pay for the maintenance of fire hydrants.



Support for the Economy and Quality of Life

A reliable water supply provides critical support for our economy and the overall quality of life we enjoy. What you may not know about the true value your tap water delivers:

- Water is the primary ingredient in hundreds of thousands of everyday products, including many foods and beverages, as well as items such as toothpastes and perfumes.
- Water is needed in the manufacturing of many products. For example, approximately 300 million gallons of water are needed to produce a single day's supply of U.S. newspaper.
- Total water use (both indoor and outdoor) in a typical single-family home is 101 gallons per capita per day.
- Only 3 percent of the tap water we use on a typical day is used for drinking. The rest goes for outdoor watering, bathroom uses, clothes washing, etc.

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

It is important to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. So often, we take this important daily resource for granted. The infrastructure that delivers water to our homes and businesses is mostly underground, so we don't see the pathway that water takes to get to our homes. Hampton Roads Public Utilities Departments are working diligently every single day to ensure that when you turn on your tap there will be clean, safe drinking water for all of us to enjoy.

*Statistics from American Water Works Association

How to Recycle Cooking Oil

By Holly B. Miller, hmillier@hrpdcva.gov

Environmental Educator

Did you know that used cooking oil can be recycled? Large quantities of household fats, oils or grease accumulated from cooking, frying and general food preparation purposes can be taken to your local Household Hazardous Waste or Household Chemical Collection sites.

Vegetable and peanut oils are not hazardous waste, but they are liquids and should not be discarded in volume with solid waste.



Recycled oil is processed and used to make fuel, pet food, poultry seed, soap, cosmetics, perfumes, antifreeze, glues, cement, and inks.

To find the nearest cooking oil collection site, visit www.FatFreeDrains.com/residents/recycling.html.

Climate Change Research Moves Into Second Year

By Benjamin McFarlane, bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov

Physical & Environmental Planner

HRPDC Physical & Environmental Planning staff is preparing to move into the second year of research on the impacts of climate change on the region. The first year's study, which focused on the impacts that climate change will have on the region, including sea-level rise, heavier precipitation, and stronger storms, is being finalized. The second year's focus will be on specific impacts to the regional economy, built environment, and natural environment. HRPDC staff will also be working to coordinate the development of a tool to assess the impacts of sea level rise on the region. The main focus of the second year will be the development and analysis of specific policy recommendations as well as the continued development of a framework for a regional response to climate change. Regional stakeholders will be consulted throughout the process.

To wrap up the first year of work on the climate change study, the HRPDC hosted a meeting of researchers, local government staff, and stakeholders to discuss the current state of the regional study, advancing research in the field, and the process for moving into the second year of the project. The meeting featured several presentations. Dr. Harry Wang of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science presented on storm-surge modeling advances. Barry Stamey of Noblis discussed research into storm surge impacts on regional infrastructure. Duane Apling of Northrop Grumman Corporation discussed the firm's research into regional climate modeling and adaptation decision aids. Following the presentations, Eric Walberg of the HRPDC staff briefed the attendees on plans for the next stage of the HRPDC study.

The first major step for the study's second year will be the formation of a stakeholder working group that will work closely with HRPDC staff to develop a regional framework to address climate change impacts. The group will assist staff in identification of issues and potential solutions for in-depth study. Composition of the group will be determined over the next few months.

HRPDC Welcomes New Physical & Environmental Planner

Lisa Hardy has recently joined the HRPDC's Physical and Environmental Planning Department as an Environmental Planner. She will be working on the Regional Water Supply Plan, the Help to Others Program (H2O), and other water resource initiatives.

Lisa has a Master's degree from the University of Virginia in Urban and Environmental Planning. While completing her degree she worked at the University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation. During her free time Lisa enjoys running, hiking, biking, and canoeing.

Welcome Aboard Lisa!



International Paper Mill Closure Impacts Regional Groundwater Levels

By Whitney Katchmark, wkatchmark@hrpdcva.gov

Senior Regional Geologist

International Paper's (IP) Franklin mill has the largest permit to withdraw groundwater in the entire Coastal Plain aquifer system. The Coastal Plain is the portion of Virginia east of the Fall Line which runs north and south through Richmond. The southeastern part of the Coastal Plain is in the Eastern Groundwater Management Area. Withdrawals greater than 10,000 gallons per day in the Groundwater Management Area require a permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The last annual report published by DEQ stated that the total permitted withdrawals in the Coastal Plain were equal to approximately 158 million gallons of water per day. IP is permitted to withdraw 37 million gallons per day. In 2008, IP reported an average withdrawal of 33 million gallons per day. For comparison, IP used roughly the same amount of water as the city of Virginia Beach.

The Coastal Plain aquifer system includes seven aquifers that provide significant amounts of water to commercial, industrial, agricultural, and public water supplies. The aquifers are stacked like a layer cake with confining units in between each aquifer. The aquifers primarily consist of sand which water seeps through easily. The confining units are primarily clay which absorbs water and acts as a barrier between aquifers.

IP's groundwater withdrawals lower water levels throughout the Coastal Plain. The IP wells withdraw water from deep aquifers, the Upper and Middle Potomac aquifers. However, the groundwater model simulations indicate that IP's withdrawals lower water levels in several of the shallower aquifers as well as the deep aquifers.

DEQ's report shows maps of the model cells with violations of the 80% Drawdown Criteria. The number and distribution of the violations are general indicators of how difficult it is to get a permit for new withdrawals. New permits can only be issued if the technical evaluation of a requested withdrawal meets the criteria. If a new permit would lower water levels in a cell that is already in violation, then the permit cannot be issued.

The criteria were chosen to protect the aquifers from being dewatered. If an aquifer is dewatered, the sand and clay layers collapse and cannot hold as much groundwater. The aquifer system would permanently lose some of its capacity to store and transmit groundwater.

If IP stops withdrawing water, the number of cells violating the 80% Drawdown Criteria are reduced from 54 cells to 28 cells in five of the aquifers. The table shows the number of model cells that violate the 80% Drawdown Criteria in each of those aquifers. The cells in violation are located along the Fall Line where the aquifers are very thin. Where the aquifers are very thin, the water levels can only drop a few feet before they violate the 80% Drawdown Criteria. This data raises several questions such as "Is the application of the 80% Drawdown Criteria the most appropriate way to manage the groundwater resource?" and "How much groundwater is left for allocation?" These questions and more are being considered by the DEQ Groundwater Regulatory Advisory Panel which has been meeting since September 2009.

The 80% Drawdown Criteria means the proposed withdrawal in combination with all existing lawful withdrawals will not lower water levels in the confined aquifers below a point that represents 80% of the distance between the historical prepumping water levels in the aquifer and the top of the aquifer.

Number of model cells violating DEQ's technical criteria		
	With International Paper's withdrawals	Without International Paper's withdrawals
Yorktown-Eastover	3	1
Chickahominy-Piney Point	15	10
Aquia	22	12
Upper Potomac	2	0
Middle Potomac	12	5

International Paper Announces the Closing of the Franklin Paper Mill

By Greg Grootendorst, ggrootendorst@hrpdcva.gov

Chief Economist

On October 22, 2009, International Paper (IP) announced the imminent closing of the Franklin Paper Mill. The mill has been part of the community since 1887, when it was founded by Camp Manufacturing. Camp Manufacturing merged with the Union Bag Company to become the Union Camp Corp. in 1956. International Paper executed a takeover of Union Camp in 1999. In 2001, IP began

shedding assets to pay down debt, and in 2005 they underwent a considerable restructuring, selling off significant forestland holdings as well as several product lines and subsidiaries. The Franklin Mill is one of four plant closures announced by IP, and represents a significant reduction in capacity as a piece of their broader restructuring effort. IP began shutting down machines at the Franklin Paper

Mill in November of 2009, and plans on closing the plant in the Spring of 2010.

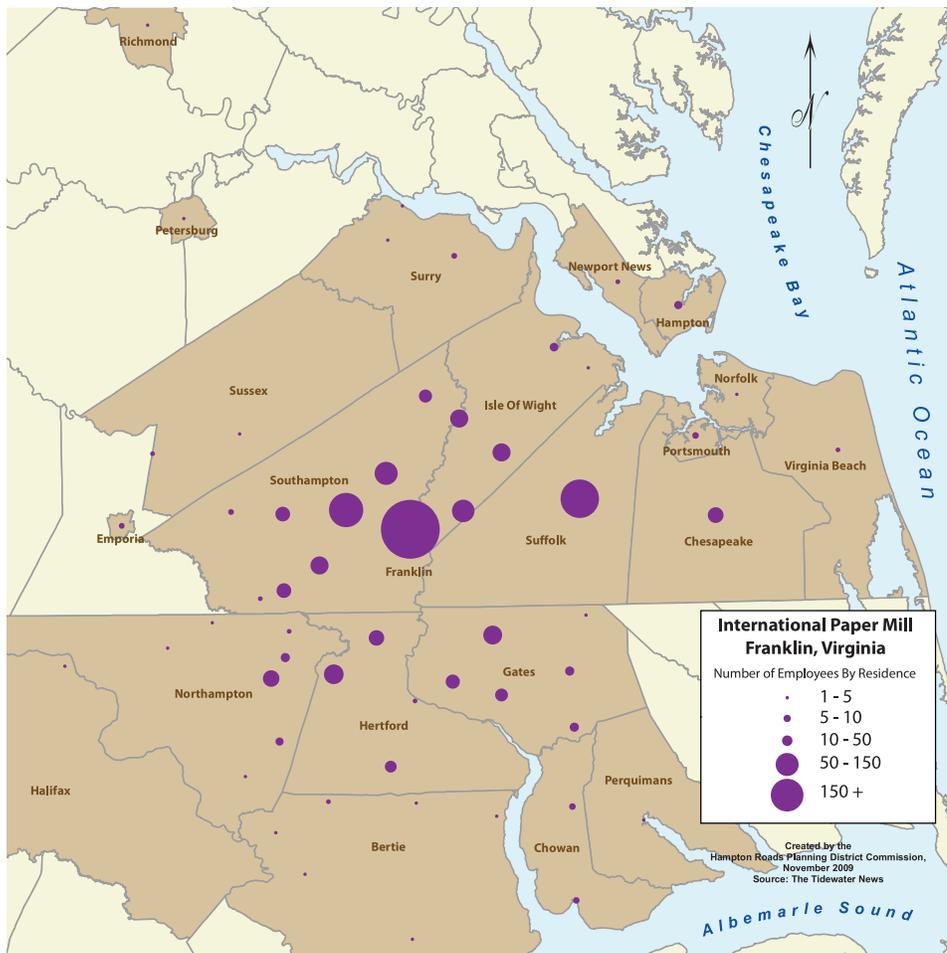
The closing of the mill will have a myriad of social, environmental, and economic impacts on the region. With respect to the regional economy, employment at the mill constitutes a large part of the workforce in and around the surrounding jurisdictions. IP announced that 1,100 employees will lose their jobs at the mill as a result of the closure. This substantial loss in employment will have direct and indirect effects in employment throughout the region. Mill employment constitutes almost 9% of all employed residents in the city of Franklin, and approximately 3.5% of all employed residents in Isle of Wight. In addition to the 1,100 jobs cut by the mill, HRPDC economics staff estimates an additional 1,750 jobs will be lost in the Hampton Roads region as a result of lost spending by both IP and its former employees.

National, state, regional, and local officials have responded to the closure, including the region's congressional delegation, the governor's office, numerous state agencies, and regional organizations. Local governments and economic developers are working with IP and are looking to future plans for the site. Some proposed ideas for potential reuse of the site include biomass, logistics, precision manufacturing, information technology, and food manufacturing.

For the Hampton Roads Region

Total Employment Loss	2,850 Jobs
Private Non-Farm Employment Lost	2,526 Jobs
Loss in Gross Regional Product	\$246M
Loss in Regional Personal Income	\$143M
Decline in Regional Population	628 persons

Derived using the REMI model.



South Hampton Roads Disabilities Services Board Awarded Employment Awareness Grant

By Shernita Bethea, sbethea@hrpdcva.gov
Housing and Human Services Manager

The South Hampton Roads Disability Services Board (SHRDSB) was recently awarded a grant by the Virginia Disability Services Board to increase the ability of local governments to hire individuals with disabilities. As part of this initiative, the SHRDSB plans to survey and gather data from current employers concerning current statistics on employment of persons with disabilities as well as impediments and obstacles in hiring while developing training resources to assist employers. This initiative covers the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Suffolk and Portsmouth.

In June 2009, funding for SHRDSB was eliminated due to State budget cuts. Through planning sessions and locality support, the SHRDSB brainstormed on ideas on how the committee could continue their much needed work to advocate for persons with disabilities in the region. This initiative enables that work to continue and could have a great impact on assisting employers with preparation and future hiring. Combined with in-kind services from regional partners, this initiative may lead to the development of a tool-kit training module for employers.

The Disability Service Board (DSB) was originally mandated by the General Assembly in 1992 to assist localities in identifying and addressing the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities in their communities. The DSBs are instrumental in providing locally-based assessment and planning instead of decisions at the state level. Members are comprised of local government representatives, business representatives, and individuals with physical and sensory disabilities. Over the years, the SHRDSB had been instrumental in preparing a tri-annual needs assessment survey as well as identifying effective programs and initiatives that were recipients for Rehabilitation Services Incentive Fund (RSIF) funding that was pass through funding from the Department of Rehabilitative Services. The Board has also served as a clearinghouse on disability issues as well as a resource to localities and individuals on the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA)

On December 11, 2009, the SHRDSB met with various community partners including representatives from city governments, non-profit organizations, the Department of Rehabilitative Services, and local employment training organizations to discuss the initiative including plans for a one-day symposium that will include an enhanced job fair, vendors, and workshops for employers and community leaders. For more information regarding this initiative or for general information concerning SHRDSB, please contact Shirley Confino-Rehder, SHRDSB Chair at 757 625-0969 or scr@univdesign.com.



Regional Benchmarking Study Released

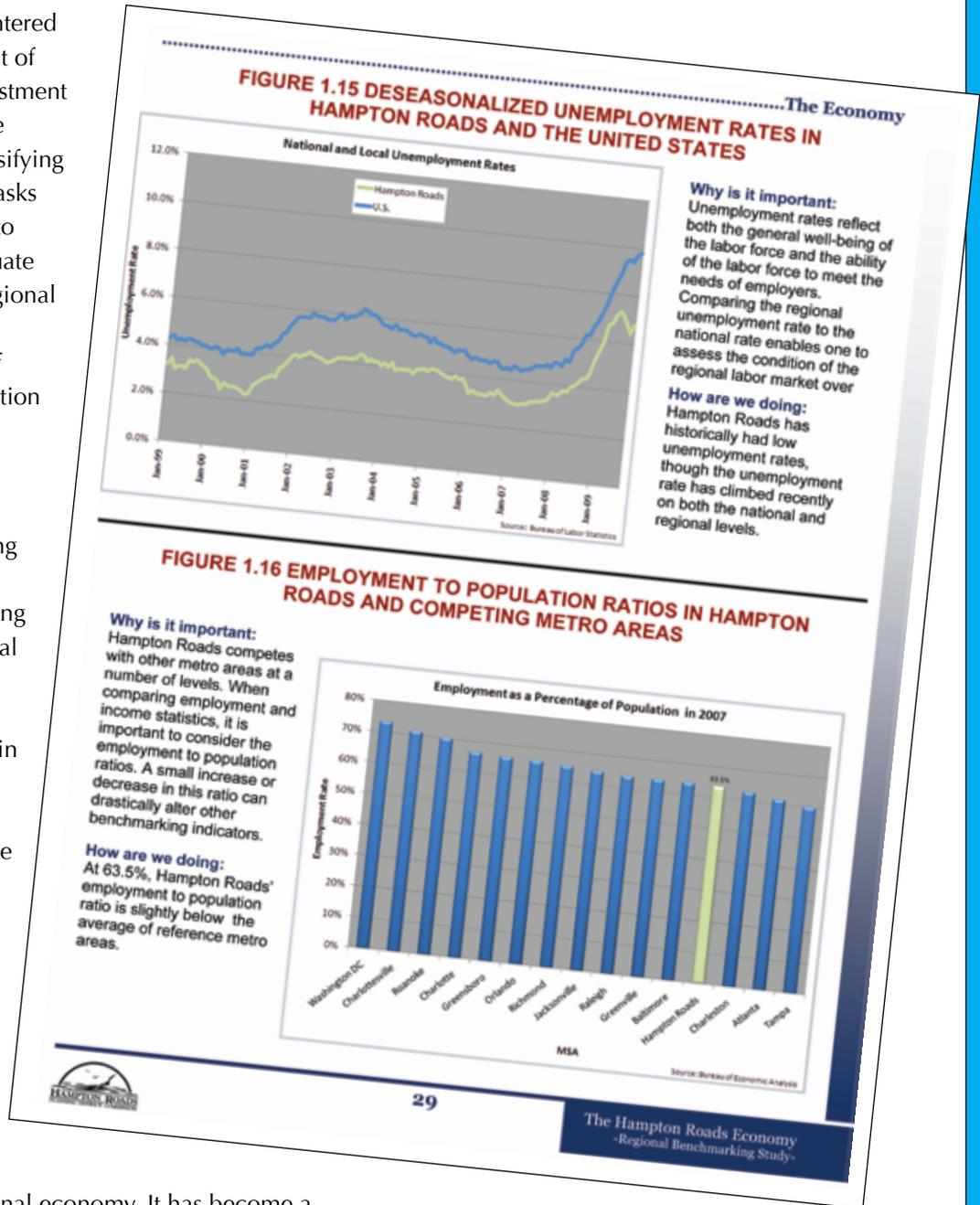
By Greg Grootendorst, ggrootendorst@hrpdcva.gov

Chief Economist

In October of 2003, the HRPDC entered into a contract with the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment to prepare a series of reports for the purpose of strengthening and diversifying the region's economy. One of the tasks outlined in the scope of work was to create a list of benchmarks to evaluate the current condition, and track regional progress across a variety of socio-economic indicators. In October of 2005, HRPDC released the first edition of the Hampton Roads Regional Benchmarking Study.

In addition to serving as a tool to measure progress, the benchmarking study also plays a role in fulfilling part of the state mandate for planning district commissions. In the Regional Cooperation Act, the Code of Virginia calls for planning district commissions to collect and maintain demographic, economic and other data concerning the region and member localities, and act as a state data center affiliate in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission. Information collected for, and included in the benchmarking study plays a part in fulfilling this role.

Since 2005, the benchmarking study has come to be recognized as a valuable regional asset in assessing the condition of the regional economy. It has become a mainstay in the economics department, seeing production on an annual basis. The fifth edition of the Hampton Roads Regional Benchmarking Study was released in December of 2009. This most recent edition includes a locality profile for all 16 jurisdictions as well as graphical illustrations for 83 regional benchmarks covering the economy, demographics, housing, transportation, and various quality of life indicators. Each graph is accompanied by a brief explanation regarding the purpose of the benchmark and the current condition in Hampton Roads. Complete data tables for each of the data sets are included in the appendix.



ECONOMICS

HRHC Launches Newly Designed Website

By Shernita Bethea, sbethea@hrpdcva.gov

Housing and Human Services Manager

The Hampton Roads Housing Consortium (HRHC) recently launched its newly designed website, www.hamptonroadshousing.org, at its annual awards ceremony in October. The website was created to be a resource to both housing professionals as well as Hampton Roads regional consumers.



The HRHC's new website features a complimentary resources section, covering topics such as affordable housing, programs and services for the disabled, fair housing as well as information regarding mortgage default and foreclosure prevention. This area of the site is designed to help organizations looking for resources for their clients as well as consumers searching for available regional information. In addition to a comprehensive listing of resources and services, the website also contains information for housing professionals as it relates to trainings, conferences and updates in various housing issues. The HRPDC staff manages and updates the website for HRHC.

The HRHC is a regional association of public, private and nonprofit organizations serving the needs of low and moderate income households. Members include local governments, Redevelopment & Housing Authorities, nonprofit housing providers, mortgage lenders, realtor and builders associations, and a variety of other groups interested in affordable housing issues.

The HRHC provides a regional forum for information exchange, educational activities and cooperative action. In addition to providing an informational website, the HRHC holds quarterly meetings, conferences and other affordable housing outreach for the region.

Highlights from Governor's Housing Conference held in the Region

By Shernita Bethea, sbethea@hrpdcva.gov

Housing and Human Services Manager

The 2009 Governor's Housing Conference: Housing: The Key to Recovery, was held November 18-20 in Norfolk. The Governor's Housing Conference is the largest and most comprehensive housing-related event in Virginia. The primary purpose of the conference is to feature workshops, trainings, and updates to assist public and private sector representatives in developing effective solutions to Virginia's most pressing housing problems.

Speakers from across the state participate each year in the conference by presenting on various housing related topics and workshops. The Hampton Roads region had several local housing organizations and agencies that participated this year in workshops in line with the theme of economic recovery.

- Saving Smart Using EITC and Financial Literacy – The Stop Organization
- Planning for Affordability, Accessibility and Choice - Shirley Confino-Rehder
- Preventing Family Homelessness through Collaboration - City of Norfolk Homeless Action Response Team (HART), Norfolk Department of Social Services, The Planning Council and FOR Kids, Inc.
- Housing Options for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities – Endependence Center

An interactive bus tour was sponsored in part by the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority showcasing several community revitalization projects in Norfolk including the historically renovated Attucks Theater; Maplewoods at Olde Huntersville, the largest EarthCraft townhouse development in Virginia; Broad Creek; and Grandy Village, a 44-acre mixed income community located on several acres of restored wetlands.

The conference is made possible in part by sponsorships and donations to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support this yearly event. The Hampton Roads Housing Consortium (HRHC) has been a supporter for several years and provided two scholarships to local housing professionals to attend the conference. HRPDC staff attended the conference and assisted in the development of a regional exhibit that showcased affordable housing opportunities and activities in Hampton Roads. Other HRHC member volunteers that assisted with the exhibit were: Peninsula Community Development Corporation, Felicia Speller Jackson - Suntrust Mortgage, VHDA, Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Lives Empowered By Alliance, and Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation.

HOEPS 2010 Seminars Planned

By Jenny Redick, jredick@hrpdcva.gov

Regional Special Needs Planner

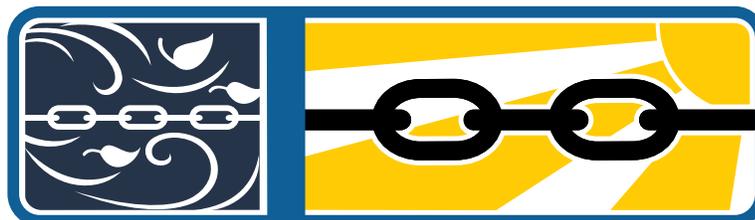
The Healthcare Organizations Emergency Preparedness Seminars (HOEPS) Work group is in its 4th year of successfully reaching out to organizations like nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and group homes by providing free emergency preparedness training opportunities. Professionals in the emergency management, healthcare/medical and even business fields volunteer their time and efforts to provide these free training seminars each year. This year's HOEPS 2010 theme will be *Holding Back the Storm: Forging Stronger Links*, and will focus on strengthening the area healthcare organizations as a force prepared to face any type of hazard.

Seminar objectives include:

- Fostering stronger relationships between similar types of organizations in the area so that all can utilize available resources for developing and maintaining all hazards planning.
- Identifying local resources (government & volunteer) and how they may be helpful to healthcare organizations in critical situations.
- Building links and improving communication between local emergency managers/planners and healthcare organizations to assist with preparing for the best possible outcomes.
- Strengthening employee and organizational awareness and involvement in preparation for any type of hazardous situation.
- Learning how preparedness can make a difference during a hazard.

HOEPS 2010 will be offered once on the Peninsula on May 6, 2010, and once on the Southside on May 7, 2010. The seminar, as well as breakfast and lunch, are provided free of charge to registered participants.

Visit www.hoeeps.org for updates as information about HOEPS becomes available.



HOLDING BACK THE STORM: FORGING STRONGER LINKS

Emergency Management

Hampton Roads Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Initiative

By Richard Flannery, rflannery@hrpdcva.gov

Emergency Management Administrator

Protecting and ensuring the resiliency of the critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR) of the United States is essential to the Nation's security, public health and safety, economic vitality, and way of life. Attacks on CI/KR could significantly disrupt the functioning of government and business alike and produce cascading effects far beyond the targeted sector and physical location of the incident. Direct terrorist attacks and natural, manmade, or technological hazards could produce catastrophic losses in terms of human casualties, property destruction, and economic effects, as well as profound damage to public morale and confidence. Attacks using components of the Nation's CI/KR as weapons of mass destruction could have even more devastating physical and psychological consequences.

To mitigate this, there is a need for a Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) program in Hampton Roads. In order to implement a CIP program, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), which provides the unifying structure for the integration of a wide range of efforts for the enhanced protection and resiliency, will be followed. The overarching goal of the NIPP is to build a safer, more secure, and more resilient America by preventing, deterring, neutralizing, or mitigating the effects of deliberate efforts by terrorists to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit elements of our nation's CI/KR and to strengthen national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery of CI/KR in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency.

Another important component for a CIP program is the Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategy. The focus of this Plan is the enhancement of CI/KR protection and resiliency to ensure that essential governmental missions, state services, and economic functions are maintained in the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other type of significant incident. Through this plan, the Commonwealth develops and implements a CI/KR protection program, in accordance with the NIPP risk management framework, as a component of their overarching homeland security programs using criteria developed by the Commonwealth for Commonwealth specific CI/KR. By developing this program, Hampton Roads will establish regional criteria similar to those used by the DHS and the Commonwealth for identifying CI/KR important to the region for sector specific planning and develop a database of CI/KR as the foundation for this program.



This program is funded by State Homeland Security Grant Program funds from the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (OCP). The HRPDC Emergency Management Department will be the leading agency for this planning effort and will collaborate and utilize the Center for Risk Management of Engineering Systems at the University of Virginia, the Institute for Infrastructure and Information Assurance at James Madison University, and the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness Critical Infrastructure staff. Most importantly, public and private stakeholders for all sectors of CI/KR will be invited and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the planning.

The initial activities to establish this program will be to create a steering committee (made up of private and public stakeholders) to lay the foundation for a CIP program by developing a strategic plan and objectives, researching best practices for similar programs and identify existing data, developing capabilities and measures to ensure they are aligned with the NIPP and Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategy Plan, and developing a path forward to ensure the Hampton Roads CIP program has a clear direction towards protection and resiliency.

Establishing a program in Hampton Roads will not only be unique for the Commonwealth, but this also has not been done at any of the other DHS 60+ Urban Areas Security Initiative Regions. By developing a strong and functional program, this has the potential to mitigate some of the challenges between the public and private sectors and have a collaborative effect with other Emergency Management and Homeland Security plans and projects in Hampton Roads.

Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Planning Underway

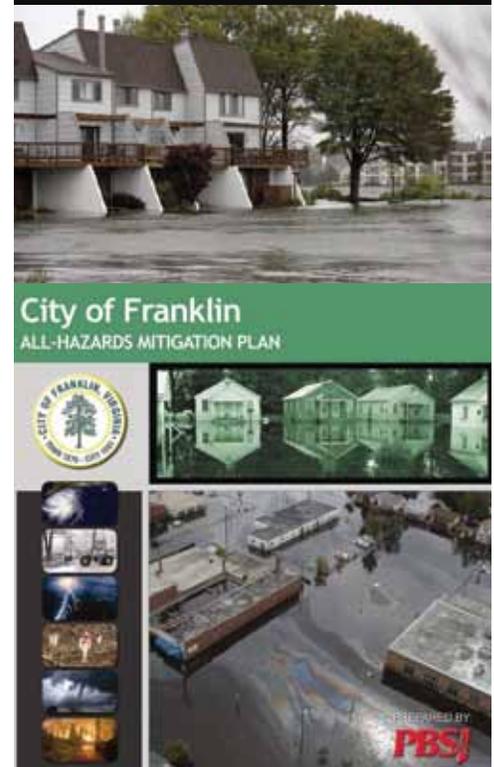
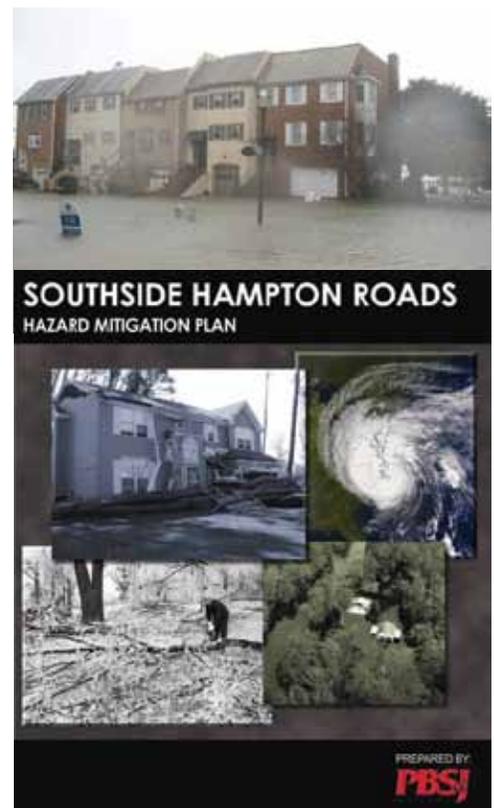
By Robert Lawrence, rlawrence@hrpdcva.gov
Senior Regional Emergency Management Planner

The FEMA Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was primarily intended to reduce or mitigate losses to property and life due to natural hazards such as flooding, hurricane, and earthquake. A mitigation plan lists known hazards and provides specific "Mitigation Action Plans" to reduce the impact (mitigate) of those hazards upon property and life.

FEMA requires these plans to be approved and in place for jurisdictions to remain eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation assistance funds. These funds include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims and Severe Repetitive Loss grant programs. After a major disaster strikes, these programs become federally funded and are designed to limit future losses to jurisdictions by implementing various mitigation strategies varying from improving minor flood control projects to buying out repetitive loss properties. Without a FEMA-approved mitigation plan in place, jurisdictions will not be eligible for this federal funding. The Congressional Budget Office (pub. no. 2926) indicates that on average for every \$1 spent on mitigation projects, \$3 of future loss is averted. The ratio of savings is more than double that (more than \$6 to \$1 in savings) if one does not count some of the more costly earthquake projects that are less applicable to the Hampton Roads region, where flooding is the more common hazard.

The HRPDC, has in the past, had limited participation in hazard mitigation planning. To facilitate the addition of this program as outlined in the FY10 Unified Planning Work Program, two emergency management planners obtained the certification as Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) through the national Association of State Floodplain Managers. The role of the floodplain manager is to provide subject matter expertise in floodplain management concepts, convey new concepts and practices, and build partnerships among organizations and agencies that share the goal of advancing sound floodplain management as part of the hazard mitigation planning process with emphasis placed upon mitigation to alleviate the cycle of damage-rebuild-damage.

As this new program begins, the HRPDC has applied for two FEMA Pre-Disaster planning grants through the Hazard Mitigation department at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management on behalf of multiple localities. When awarded, the grant funds will provide funding for updating current hazard mitigation plans which is required every 5 years. The first application accounts for the individual All Hazards Mitigation Plans in the city of Franklin and Southampton County. The second application accounts for the Southside Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan which encompasses the cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Isle of Wight County. This approach is intended to develop experience with mitigation planning and will hopefully allow for more effective regional planning in the future to encompass all Hampton Roads jurisdictions.



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* Executive Committee

Member

Feb 10

HRPDC Annual Retreat

held at: 9:30am, The Regional Board Room

Mar 17

HRPDC Executive Committee

held at: 9:30am, The Regional Board Room

Apr 21

HRPDC Quarterly Commission

held at: 9:30am, The Regional Board Room

MEETING CALENDAR

HRPDC
The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

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