

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #4: SEA LEVEL RISE PILOT PROJECT

SUBJECT:

Old Dominion University has been in contact with the White House Council on Environmental Quality on a potential pilot project that would focus on standing up a team composed of appropriate Federal and State agencies, local governments, and representatives of key industries to develop a proposal for a Regional Interagency Task Force for the Hampton Roads region. This would be a "whole of government" approach to tackling the complex inter-governmental challenges of preparing for the impact of climate change.

BACKGROUND:

The HRPDC staff has been contacted by the staff at Old Dominion University about interest from the White House in developing a Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise Pilot Project that can be prototyped for similar efforts across the nation and overseas bases. The impetus for this project was an Executive Order by President Barack Obama on climate change, followed by a meeting between White House staff and Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, Mr. Ron Williams, City of Norfolk Assistant City Manager and Mr. Joe Bouchard, Member of the Recurring Coastal Flooding Subpanel in December 2013. The work that has already been done in the region on this important topic along with continuing concerns about the effect of sea level rise on our military bases made Hampton Roads a natural fit for this pilot project.

Mr. Ray Toll, Senior Project Scientist with the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography at Old Dominion University will provide a brief presentation on this proposal.

Note: this item is for informational purposes only.