

Green Sea Blueway and Greenway Management Plan

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Executive Board Meeting

Virginia Beach Department of Planning and Community Development/
Environment and Sustainability Office
September 17, 2015



Chesapeake
VIRGINIA



VB City of
Virginia Beach



WHAT IS THIS PLAN?

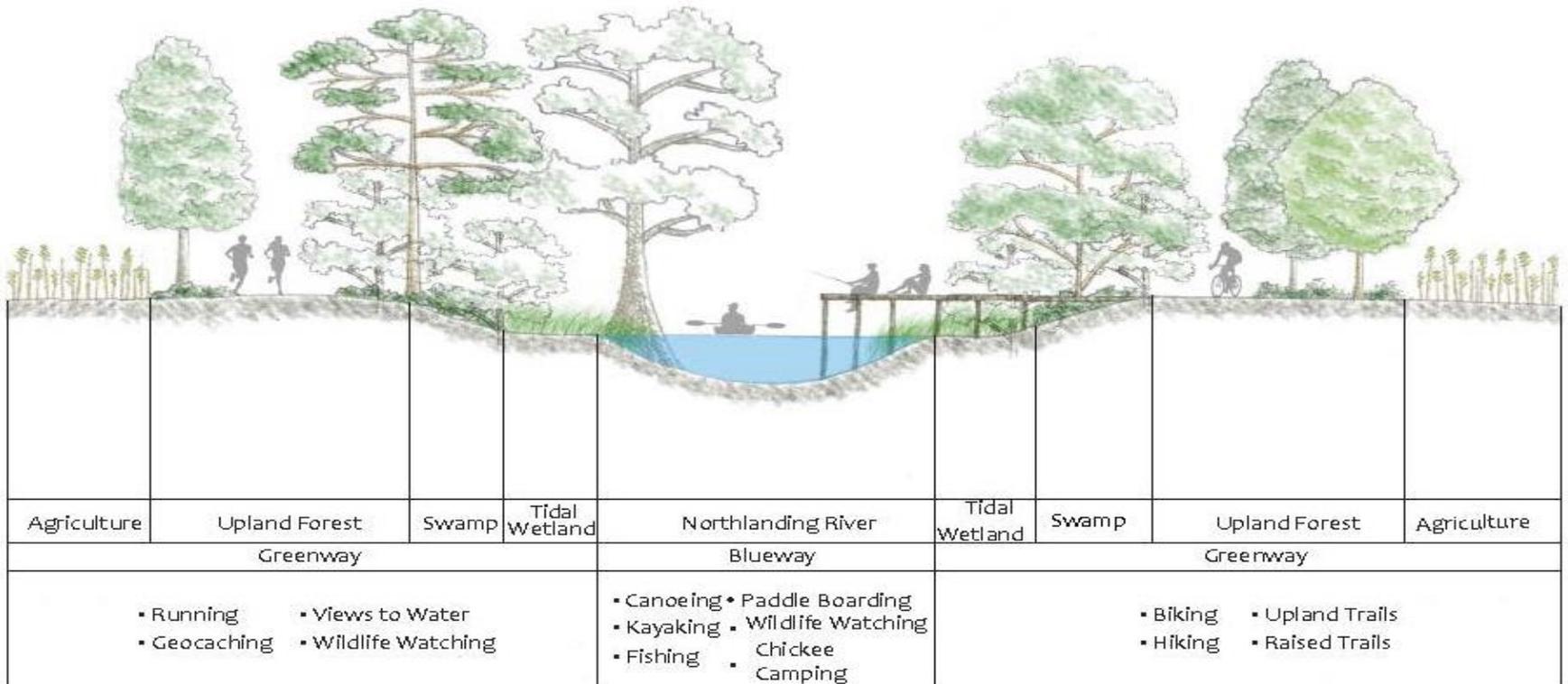
- Regional collaboration to protect and manage a system of resources
- Environmental Stewardship and enjoyment of area
- Enhanced tourism and economic development
- Establishment of a non-governmental entity to implement, manage, maintain and promote the Green Sea area



HOW COULD THIS PLAN IMPACT THE THREE LOCALITIES?

- Increase awareness of the rivers - the Currituck Sound, North Landing River and the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal
- Increase economic development opportunities
- Increase water access
- Enhance property values
- Improve water quality in the watersheds
- Enhance educational opportunities for all ages
- Increase recreational opportunities
- Collaborative annual Green Sea area festivals and events
- Promote health and wellness
- Establish a nonprofit entity to manage and maintain resources and facilities
- Increase tourism opportunities
- Ensure no long-term capital improvement expenditures to the county and cities

WHAT ARE BLUEWAYS AND GREENWAYS?



Typical Cross-Section of a Blueway and Greenway System

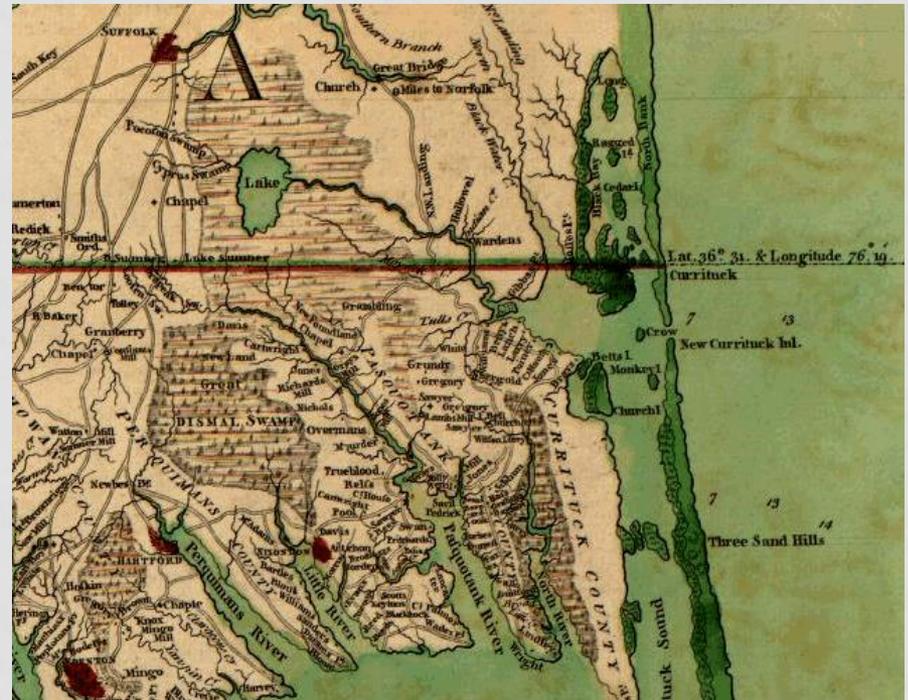
Courtesy Lindsey Konchuba

PLAN ALIGNMENTS

- Southern Watershed Area Management Plan, 2000
- Memorandum of Agreement to Improve Water Use Conflict Education for the North Landing River, 2001
- Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan, 2008
- City of Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan, 2009
- Virginia Beach Bikeways and Trails Plan, 2011
- Commonwealth of Virginia Outdoors Plan, 2013
- City of Chesapeake 2035 Comprehensive Plan, 2014
- Currituck County/Moyock Small Area Plan, 2014

WHY THE NAME GREEN SEA?

In 1728 Colonel William Byrd II was surveying the boundary between the Virginia and North Carolina colonies, discovered a large area of jungle-like vegetation with green cane which grew up to 15 feet in height, and named the area the “Green Sea”.

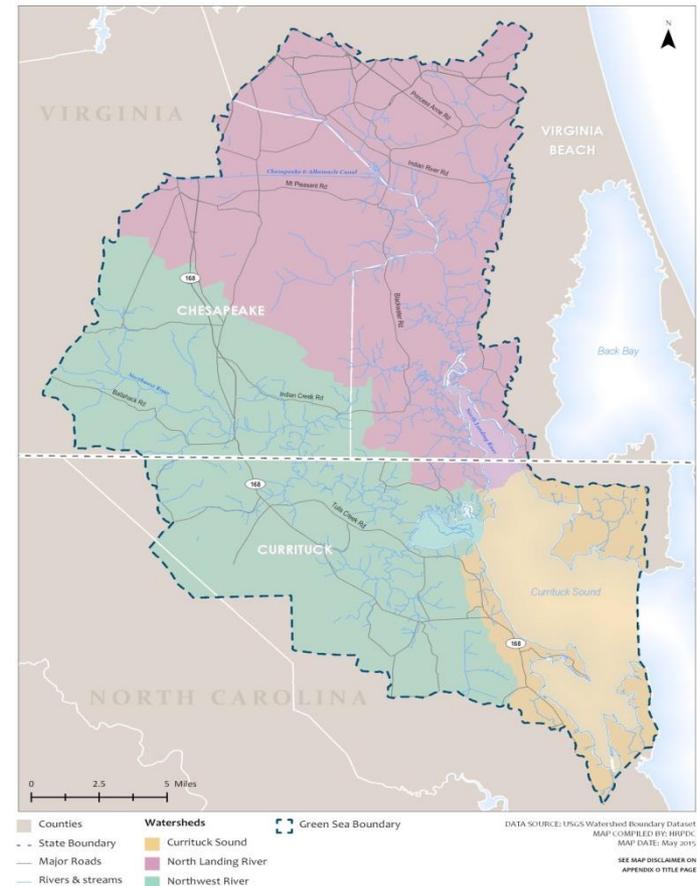


STUDY AREA

General Study Area Boundaries:

- Northwest River is the largest watershed in Chesapeake
- Northwest River/Tulls Bay/Currituck Sound of Currituck County is the northeastern most watershed in North Carolina
- North Landing River is the largest watershed in Virginia Beach
- Protected lands in the watersheds total 51,658 acres

GREEN SEA STUDY AREA



PLAN MISSION AND VISION

To conserve, protect and manage open space lands and waterways in the Green Sea area for the enjoyment of future generations

Framework to manage a system of resources

Stewardship, protection and enjoyment of area

Partnership to coordinate promotion and management

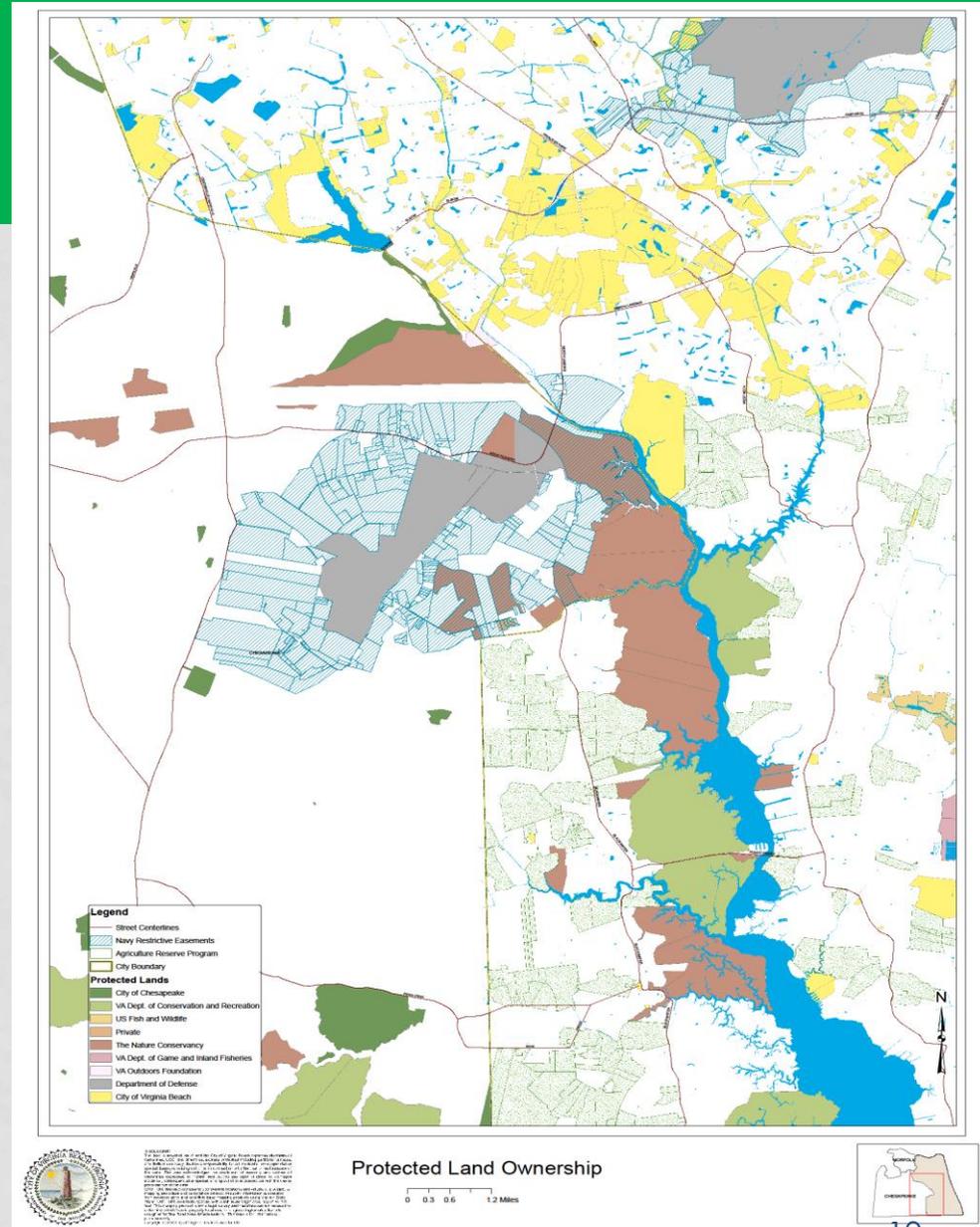




EXISTING RESOURCES AND CONDITIONS

PROTECTED LAND HOLDINGS

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Non-Profit



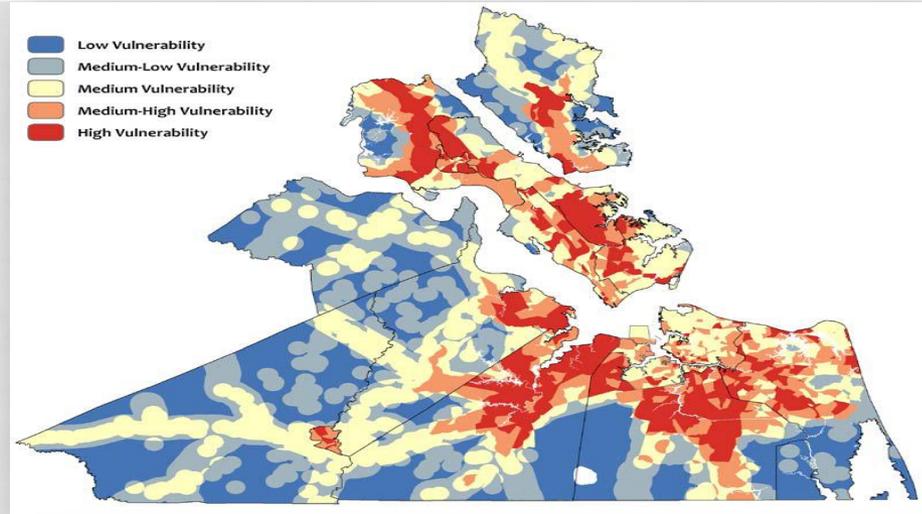
EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCES

- Unique wetland communities support a variety of rare species of plants and animals
- Area provides important habitat for breeding and wintering waterfowl



SURROUNDING INFLUENCES

- Suburban and rural setting
- Development pressure on unique resources
- Interfacility Traffic Area (ITA) between Fentress and Oceana
- Intracoastal Waterway
- Commercial Fishing
- Arboriculture
- Agriculture



MANAGEMENT PLAN CORE COMPONENTS

Core Components:

- **Administration**
(Governance, Cooperation, and Finance)
- **Land Protection**
(Conservation Easements, Agriculture Preservation and Land Acquisition)
- **Promotion**
(Branding, Marketing and Ecotourism)
- **Natural Resources Management**
(Water, Land, Plants and Wildlife)
- **Learning**
(Education, Outreach and Research)
- **Facilities Development and Management**
(Recreation, Security and Maintenance)
- **Plan Implementation**



ADMINISTRATION

Governing Board

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graph TD; GB[Governing Board] --- ED[Executive Director and Staff]; GB --- AC[Advisory Committees];
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Executive
Director and Staff

Advisory
Committees

PLAN ADOPTION AND ENDORSEMENT



June 15 – Currituck County Board of Commissioners Adopts Resolution to Endorse Plan

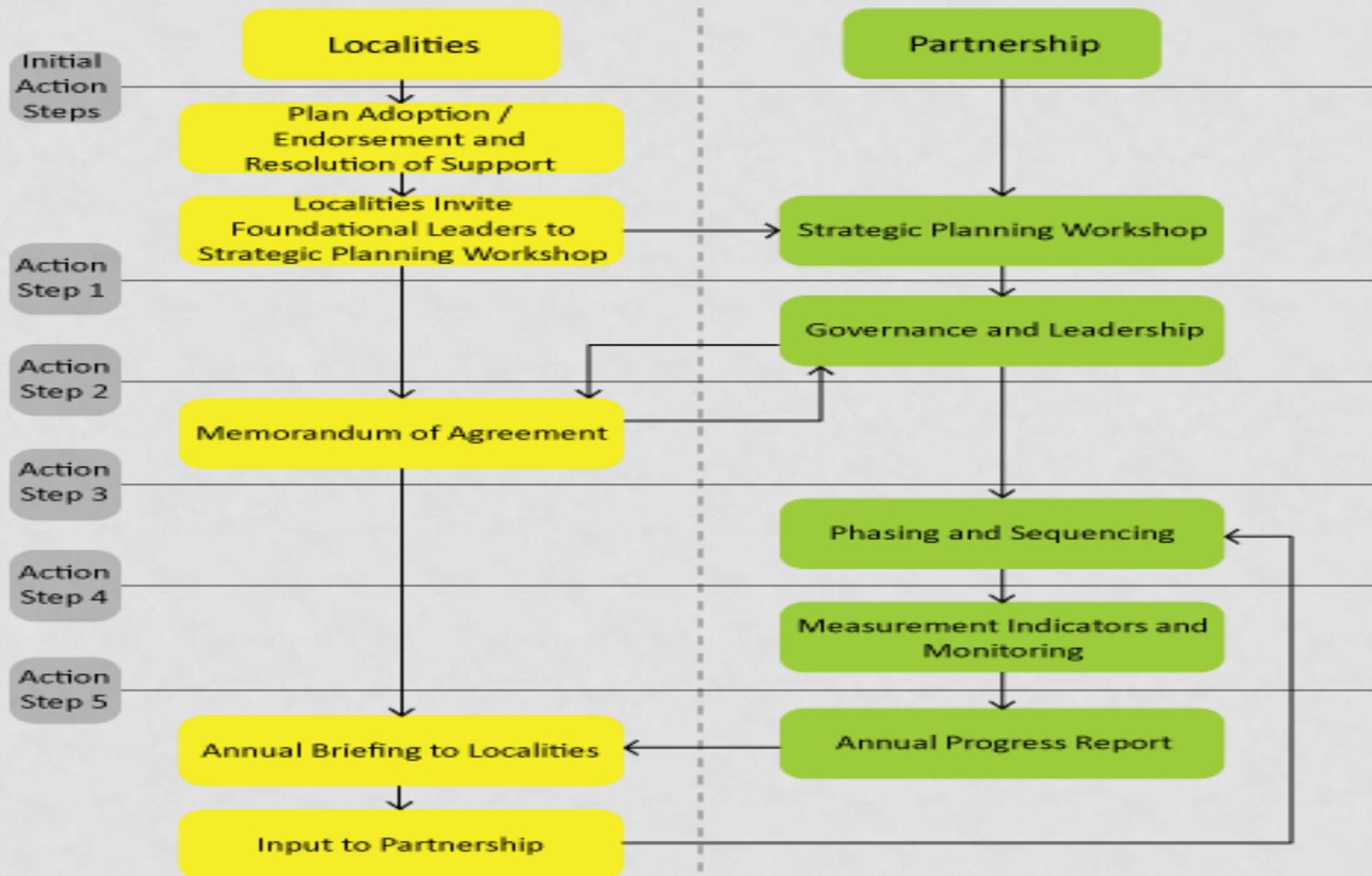


June 16 – Virginia Beach City Council Adopts Plan



July 28 – Chesapeake City Council Adopts Resolution to Endorse Plan

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



NEXT STEPS

- **September - Brief Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Executive Board on Plan**
- **September - Local Government Staff Team Kickoff Meeting**
- **October – Finalize Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)**
- **October – Localities Adopt MOUs**
- **November – Hold Ceremony between the Localities to Formally Announce Plan**
- **November – Hold Community Leadership Forum**
- **January – Formally Establish the Green Sea Partnership**



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

www.vbgov.com/greensea