

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #15: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. LETTER TO GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE SUPPORTING INITIATIVES RELATED TO RECURRENT FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE

Recurrent flooding and sea level rise are significant challenges facing many communities in Hampton Roads. There are currently several efforts at the state level that are related to recurrent flooding or sea level rise, including the Recurrent Flooding Sub-Panel of the Secure Commonwealth Panel, the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding, and the Governor’s Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission. The City of Norfolk has requested that the HRPDC staff draft a letter to be sent to the Governor on behalf of the Commission. This letter would urge the Governor to continue his support for these efforts and his engagement and leadership on these issues.

Attachment 15-A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chairman to send a letter to Governor McAuliffe supporting his continued engagement in efforts addressing recurrent flooding and sea level rise.

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

July 17, 2014

CHESAPEAKE

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor
The Commonwealth of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

FRANKLIN

GLOUCESTER

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

HAMPTON

As you know, coastal storms and recurrent flooding are major problems for Hampton Roads communities. Therefore, we appreciate your recent directive to Secretaries Layne and Moran to oversee emergency hurricane evacuation plans for Hampton Roads and your recent Executive Order convening the Governor's Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission. Both efforts will help make Hampton Roads more resilient.

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

NEWPORT NEWS

While major storms such as Isabel, Sandy, or even Arthur earn national attention, flooding that results from heavy rainfall or extremely high tides can also cause significant damage to personal and public property, in addition to disrupting daily life for our residents and our economy. While much is being done to address recurrent flooding at the local level, state support and coordination is needed to implement long-range comprehensive strategies.

NORFOLK

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

To that end, we encourage you to continue supporting two ongoing state-level efforts, the Recurrent Flooding Subpanel of the Secure Commonwealth Panel and the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding. The Subpanel's work has resulted in a number of recommendations for state agencies to adopt and implement that will address recurrent flooding. We urge you to strongly consider implementing these recommendations.

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

The Joint Subcommittee's role is to formulate recommendations for the development of a comprehensive and coordinated planning effort to address recurrent flooding. As an official body of the General Assembly, the Subcommittee is a significant opportunity to move the Commonwealth forward on addressing recurrent flooding and sea level rise from a statewide perspective. We encourage you to support the legislature in this effort.

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

The Honorable Terrance R. McAuliffe

July 17, 2014

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While much in the way of planning, funding, or regulatory changes can be done at the state level, most adaptation planning and implementation will be done locally. Please consider additional support and participation in local and regional efforts, such as those occurring in Hampton Roads, through state agency assistance and support for appropriate legislation.

Recurrent flooding and sea level rise are issues that will not be solved soon, but your continued involvement in effective planning, policy development, and infrastructure investment is needed. We thank you for your leadership on these issues as we work to make the Commonwealth more resilient and sustainable.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Wright
Chairman, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

BJM/jc

DRAFT