

**THE DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMITTEE, THE
REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
May 2, 2013**

1. Summary of the April 4, 2013 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay and Regional Stormwater Management Committees and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Subcommittee

The Summary of the April 4, 2013 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay and Regional Stormwater Management Committees and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Subcommittee was approved as distributed.

2. askHRgreen.org Update

Ms. Margaret Cahoon, Cahoon & Cross, gave a presentation to the Committee on the findings from a research survey conducted for askHRgreen.org in fall 2012. This was the second phase of research, with the first being conducted in fall 2010 as a benchmark. The survey measured awareness and knowledge of issues related to askHRgreen.org. There were signs of improvement in both knowledge and behavior, though the numbers did not vary much between the two surveys. AskHRgreen.org's campaigns are becoming more strategic. A goal for next is year is to get more people to go to and use the website. The survey results are broken down in a report by sector and topic, such as water awareness and stormwater. One issue identified through the survey is that people do not understand how their actions result in negative impacts to them. Another is the need to educate both homeowners and companies on fertilizer use. The survey helped identify target audiences for future efforts.

Ms. Connie Bennett, York, asked if the survey distinguished between gardens and lawns. The survey did not; questions only mentioned lawns.

Future efforts will utilize a cause and effect chart for targeting.

Ms. Lisa Hardy, HRPDC, commented that the existing committees and their budgets are not structured in a way that allows for the targeting of "low-hanging fruit" first. There are four distinct budgets. Mr. Clay Bernick, Virginia Beach, asked if this survey could help shift things in the future. Ms. Hardy stated that a first step will be to fact check some of the things from the survey, such as recycling rates. Mr. Bernick stated that the region should consider changing the committee structure to focus on implementing the most cost-effective measures.

Ms. Hardy stated that some data are hard to get, such as accurate recycling rates. Mr. LJ Hansen, Suffolk, stated that Suffolk has recycling data, including participation rates.

Ms. Ellen Roberts, Poquoson, stated that illicit discharges are a very big problem, and suggested developing a brochure for homeowners. An example of this issue is when residents rake or blow leaves into storm drains.

3. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail

Ms. Sara Kidd, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail, which was officially announced in Charleston, South Carolina, on April 19, 2013. The trail began with a trail around Florida, with the goal of connecting it to a proposed trail from Georgia to Virginia. An expanded concept has the trail extending from Hampton Roads to western Louisiana. The project involved many partners in four states (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia). The Virginia piece was coordinated by DCR and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, with help from local staff in Hampton Roads. The planning process included stakeholder meetings, an inventory of existing access points, mapping different routes, developing GIS data, and coordinating the link with North Carolina. The final route in Virginia begins at the Lynnhaven Inlet and connects to the North Landing River through several canals. Other routes were looked at, but had significant issues. HRPDC staff provided significant technical assistance to the multi-state planning process, including serving as the Virginia liaison, collecting GIS data from various partners to build a single database, developing the website and maps, and creating the new trail's logo. The final route is over 800 miles long on the main trail, with an addition 160 miles of alternate and loop trails. Spur trails total 100 miles. There are about 270 access points. For inland routes, the trail goes off of the Intracoastal Waterway when possible. HRPDC will continue supporting the website for one year. The various partners will continue to market the trail and website, and will be brainstorming long-term strategies for "owning" the trail. The partners will also be working to identify partners to extend the trail along the Gulf Coast.

Mr. Bernick stated that this could help increase appreciation for Virginia Beach's park resources. Mr. Bill Johnston, Virginia Beach, stated that West Neck Creek needs to be maintained better.

Mr. Hansen asked how people will navigate on the trail. Ms. Kidd stated that a GPS application is the next step, and that the map and website are meant as planning tools and not for on-the-boat navigation. One idea to be considered could be markers or buoys.

The website for the trail is www.secoastpaddlingtrail.com.

4. Climate Change Update

Mr. Benjamin McFarlane, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the HRPDC's Coastal Resiliency grant project. The project continues the work of the previous climate change focal area grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) and consists of three parts: ways to address sea level rise in local plans, adaptive

management as a sea level rise adaptation strategy, and public outreach and coordination efforts. The first deliverable focusses on policies and regulations that can be implemented through local comprehensive plans, ordinances, and capital improvement programs. The second deliverable defines adaptive management and describes how it can be used to address the uncertainty in sea level rise and climate change projections when making policy and decisions. The third deliverable describes the various outreach and coordination efforts HRPDC staff undertook as part of the grant and includes draft outreach materials for use in education efforts.

Mr. McFarlane also discussed the state of the science for sea level rise. The report features updated maps based on existing LIDAR data in the region and new global sea level rise projections developed for the 2013 National Climate Assessment. The scenarios are 0.2m (historic), 0.5m (intermediate low), 1.2m (intermediate high), and 2.0m (high) of global sea level rise between 1992 and 2100. Mr. McFarlane also discussed some of the coordination efforts HRPDC staff is engaged in, including the William & Mary Coastal Policy Clinic, the Hampton Roads Adaptation Forum, and the USACE North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study.

The Committee suggested including a robust explanation in the report of the science and methods used to project and map sea level rise. Mr. Hansen recommended incorporating observational data of sea level rise from tide gauges into charts showing sea level rise projections.

The Committee will receive another briefing on the report at the June meeting.

5. Coastal Zone Management Update

Mr. McFarlane briefed the Committee on several CZM-funded grant projects and opportunities. HRPDC's Coastal Technical Assistance program includes special projects (small-scale studies) and training opportunities for local government staff, so if any localities have suggestions or requests they should contact HRPDC staff. For the current year, the special projects are coordinating the development of a native plants promotion effort and updating the regional sea level rise exposure analysis. The special projects identified for next year include a review of HRPDC's environmental review process developing a step-by-step guide for localities to use when developing a sea level rise adaptation plan. HRPDC staff is also working with CZM partners on working waterfronts.

PDC competitive grant applications will be due sometime in June or July. Suggestions so far include funding a native plants campaign and working with Virginia Beach to develop a model sea level rise adaptation plan.

6. Local GIS Data Call Discussion

Ms. Jenny Tribo, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the Chesapeake Bay Program's request for local land use GIS data. Ms. Tribo previously briefed the Committee on this

data call. Virginia has officially forwarded the local land use data request to PDCs. The due date for receiving data is June 26, 2013. Data will be accepted on a rolling basis. Future data calls are expected later in 2013 and again in 2015. Data received now will inform future data calls. Requested datasets from local governments include current and historic (post-1980) land use, impervious surface, land cover, tree canopy, zoning, MS4 regulated areas, and targeted growth areas. HRPDC will send regional data to Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay Program. HRPDC will collect locality data through stormwater and GIS departments. HRPDC staff will work with localities to update the regional layers prior to the next data calls.

7. Status Reports

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, announced that six volunteers from the Committee will be meeting with HRPDC staff next Tuesday to develop recommendations for bylaws and guidelines for the Committee.

Ms. Gayle Hicks, Hampton, announced that she is now the official Water Resources Engineer for the City of Hampton.

Mr. Noah Hill, DCR, announced that all locality submittals have been looked at and response letters have been written; regional office staff is waiting on approval from Richmond to send them out. This has been a brief initial review of applications; a full review will occur later. Final approval of the requests will be at the June Board meeting. The Construction General Permit is out for public comment; the comment period ends June 7, 2013.

Mr. Johnston stated that an email from Joan Salvati was sent to the city clerk.

8. Other Matters

The next meeting of the Joint Environmental Committee is scheduled for June 6, 2013 at the HRPDC office in Chesapeake, Virginia. Materials will be sent in advance for review.