

# Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan

HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee

August 4, 2016

# Project Background

- CZM Section 309 Strategy for 2011-2016
  - Cumulative and Secondary Impacts: Developing a Working Waterfronts Plan for Virginia's Coastal Zone
  - Years 1 and 2: PDC working waterfronts inventories in ANPDC, HRPDC, MPPDC, and NNPDC
  - Years 3 and 4: Planning and Policy Development in rural PDCs
  - Year 5: Completion of final Working Waterfronts Plan for all four PDCs

# Current Work

- Final Development of a Coastal-Zone wide Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan
  - What are working waterfronts in Virginia?
  - Where are working waterfronts and related infrastructure located?
  - What are the long-term costs associated with the loss of working waterfronts?
  - Recommendations on policies and tools that should be considered by the Commonwealth, localities, and private industry to address working waterfronts
- HRPDC Role: Reformatting of Hampton Roads Working Waterfronts Inventory and assembly of a chapter for the Virginia Working Waterfronts Plan

# Plan Organization

- State of the Commonwealth
- PDC Chapters (NN, MP, HR, AN)
  - Introduction
  - History
  - Current Status
  - Project Background
  - Future
- Working Waterfront Resiliency
- Recommendations

# Threats to Working Waterfronts

- Natural
  - Sea level rise
  - Subsidence
  - Storm surge
  - Channel siltation
  - Shoreline erosion
  - Habitat loss
- Economic
  - Global competition
  - Domestic regulatory changes
- Land Use
  - Conflicts between working waterfronts and other uses
  - Transitions to other uses
- Institutional
  - Policies that are barriers to working waterfronts development or preservation
  - Lack of policies to support working waterfronts

# Recommended Actions - Federal

- Congress should adopt a national Working Waterfront Preservation Act.
- Congress should reinstate funding for the shallow channel-dredging program of the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The US Maritime Administration should designate additional America's Marine Highway Program corridors in Virginia.
- The National Park Service should more actively promote the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay Historic Trail.

# Recommended Actions - State

- The Virginia General Assembly should:
  - Enact a Working Waterfront Preservation Act,
  - Establish a legislative study commission with members representing a broad cross-section of stakeholder groups to review the long-term viability of Virginia's working waterfronts,
  - Establish a shallow channel dredging matching grant program,
  - Dedicate the marine motor fuel tax and other marine related taxes/fees to working waterfront improvements,
  - Enable localities to establish Working Waterfront Development Areas.
  - Enable localities to classify commercial fishing vessels and related equipment as a separate class of personal property,
  - Expand the Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Fund to include private investment a smaller commercial harbors, and
  - Establish a state Working Waterfront Preservation income tax credit.

# Recommended Actions - State

- The Governor should:
  - Issue an Executive Order establishing priority for working waterfront improvements in numerous State administered grant programs – Community Development Block Grant, Transportation Alternatives Program, Clean Water, etc.,
  - Establish an advisory group to evaluate the relaxation of State storm water and Chesapeake Bay Act regulations related to development at working waterfront locations, and
  - Charge the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency with the long-term planning for the resiliency of select working waterfronts of regional importance.

# Recommended Actions - State

- The VA Port Authority should expand funding for small port and harbor improvement throughout Tidewater Virginia.
- The Commonwealth should continue active fishery resource management and Chesapeake Bay cleanup programs.
- The Commonwealth should establish adequate workforce development programs and facilities for the changing marine related industries.

# Recommended Actions - Regional

- The coastal Planning District Commissions should:
  - Continue research and planning for the preservation and redevelopment of working waterfronts,
  - Increase technical assistance to local governments towards the preservation and redevelopment of working waterfronts,
  - Serve as the test demonstration organization/site for working waterfront preservation methods, and
  - Create revolving loan funds for commercial waterfront development and equipment financing.
- Use the Public Access Authorities for future acquisition and development of select working waterfront sites.

# Recommended Actions - Local

- Coastal local Governments should:
  - Adopt a working waterfront policy as a part of the comprehensive plan or as an independent policy,
  - Establish permissive, by right, zoning policies for working waterfronts,
  - Establish local taxation policies that stimulate water dependent business development (personal property, real estate, BPOL, and machinery and tools taxes),
  - Extend local zoning provisions to cover land and water uses to avoid future conflicting water uses,
  - Establish a set of development incentives to encourage the appropriate use of working waterfronts,
  - Invest in the development of select working waterfronts,
  - Use the appropriate development districts (EZ, Technology Zone, CDA, TIF, etc.) to achieve the desired development objectives along the working waterfront, and
  - Plan for adaptation and resiliency of public facilities along the waterfront.

# Recommended Actions - Private

- Education of the public, community leaders and decision makers on the importance of our working waterfronts to our economy and our culture.
- Conduct sufficient succession planning to ensure continuation of marine businesses.
- Plan for the resiliency of private waterfront businesses at our working waterfronts.

# Next Steps

- Local and regional review of plan
- Consideration of plan by local government bodies
- Adoption of resolution supporting the Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan by localities and planning districts

# CBP Climate Resiliency Work Group

HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee

August 4, 2016

# Background

- CBP undertaking midpoint assessment to make sure everything is on track to meet 2025 CB TMDL
- 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement commits CBP partnership to “increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed...to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.”
- Midpoint assessment requires enhancing CB Watershed Model and Water Quality Sediment Transport Model, including incorporating climate change

# Participants

- Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
- STAR Modeling Workgroup
- WQGIT Source Sector Workgroups
- Science and Technical Advisory Committee
- CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup

# Timeline

Deliverable/Decision	Decision- Making Lead(s)	Timeline
Technical Workshop on climate change projections for use in CBP assessments	STAC, STAR Modeling Workgroup	March 7-8, 2016
Recommend CBWQSTM model data inputs related to: sea level rise projections and tidal wetland loss assessment methodology	CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG)	May –August, 2016
Develop initial climate change analysis with all CBP models	CBP Modeling Team	June-July, 2016
Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Review (initial review of climate data and analysis)	STAR Modeling Workgroup	August 9-10, 2016
Independent review of the CBP climate change modeling approach	STAC, Modeling Workgroup	September, 2016
Exploration of options for incorporating climate change findings in Phase III WIPS	CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup	September 19, 2016
Modeling Workgroup Quarterly Review (review of climate data and analysis)	STAR Modeling Workgroup	October 4-5, 2016
Review of CBP climate modeling approach and initial formulation of options for Phase III WIP incorporation	WQGIT	October 24-25, 2016
EPA releases draft expectations for Phase III WIPS	EPA	January, 2017
Final calibration of Phase 6 model, including all climate change components	Modeling Workgroup	January – March, 2017
Partnership decisions on how to factor climate change into Phase III WIPs	WQGIT, Management Board (MB) and Principle Staff Committee (PSC)	January - March, 2017
Partnership fatal flaw review of final Phase 6 model	CBP	March – May, 2017
EPA releases final expectations for Phase III WIPS	EPA	April, 2017
Release of final Phase 6 model	Modeling Workgroup	June, 2017
EPA releases draft Phase III WIPS Planning Targets	EPA	June, 2017
EPA releases final Phase III WIP Planning Targets	EPA	December, 2017

# Recommendations - SLR

- The CRWG recommends that the CBP leadership consider the application of the plausible range of sea level rise projections for CBWQSTM modeling efforts, with upper and lower limits, for the years 2025 and 2050.
- The upper bound should be consistent with a higher emissions scenario (but not the extreme upper scenario). This would result in the upper bound corresponding with the 99.5% probability, plus 0.1m to account for interannual variability.
- The lower range value should be within the “likely” range consistent with a lower emission scenario (RCP 2.6), but not be the extreme lower scenario which depicts historical tide gauge trend.
- The CRWG recommends that the following range of sea level rise projections:
  - For 2025 (.2 - .4 m)
  - For 2050 (.3-.8 m)
- Model runs using sea level rise projections of .2 and .4m for 2025 and .3 and .8 m for 2050 should be conducted to correspond with upper and lower sea level rise projection limits.

# Recommendations – Tidal Marshes

- Use a multi-model approach, tied to the CRWG's recommended range of sea level rise projections for 2025 and 2050, to gain estimates of current wetland area and projected wetland loss/gain. Use these estimates to inform watershed loads in the CBWQSTM modeling effort.
- To estimate project wetland gain/loss, analyze data results available through the National Wildlife Foundation, Sea Level Affecting Marsh Model v.5 of the Chesapeake Bay (2008) and data available through NOAA's Office for Coastal Management Sea Level Rise Marsh Impacts and Migration Tool.
- In interpreting the data available through these two products, assess whether the sea level rise projections used for the studies were consistent with the 2025 and 2050 SLR projections (as recommended by the CRWG); or, in the case of the NOAA Marsh Tool, whether data runs could be acquired for a different SLR scenario.
- The USGS/CBP GIS Team, which is working to compile the land use/land cover data set for the Midpoint Assessment, should work with the EPA/CBP Modeling Team to ensure there is consistency among the wetland classifications included in the marsh loss modeling outputs (NWF SLAMM (2008) and the NOAA Marsh Tool) to allow for side by side comparison of results.

# Next Steps

- CRWG will stay informed on emerging science
- CRWG will engage with partners, including academic and governmental scientists and others to develop recommendations for refined methods and modeling processes to better gather and inform current acreage estimates and projections of future marsh change
- Next meetings
  - August 15 (Conference Call)
  - September 19 (Annapolis)