

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #11: PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

A. Joint Environmental Committees

The Joint Environmental Committee met on May 6, 2010. During these meetings, the Committee received briefings on the following:

- HRPDC Staff – Stormwater Management Issues, including the pending state regulations, proposed federal legislation and the recent EPA audits of local stormwater management programs.
- HRPDC Staff – Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Recent changes to the EPA model are likely to impact the waste load allocations to Hampton Roads localities. The development and review schedule for the TMDL continues to be compressed.
- HRPDC Staff – Federal Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program and potential regional proposal for funding under that program.
- HRPDC Staff – Offshore Energy Development activities, including wind and oil and gas.

The Committees previously developed comments on the proposed federal legislation dealing with the Chesapeake Bay. As discussed at the January 2010 HRPDC Quarterly Commission Meeting, these comments are now being circulated for review by the Commission's Ad Hoc Stormwater Committee prior to review by the Commission.

The EECBG Work Group is scheduled to meet on May 10, 2010 to discuss details of the regional greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, including methodologies for the regional inventory, finalization of a scope of work for this project and a potential Memorandum of Agreement between participating localities and HRPDC regarding the inventory.

The Regional Stormwater Management Committee is continuing to work on a number of initiatives. They include:

- MS4 Permits for the Phase I localities. Work with DCR on these permits has been delayed by the state priority on finalizing the stormwater management regulations.
- MS4 Permits for the Phase II localities. Implementation of these permits is continuing. The first field visits/inspections by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation have occurred in two Hampton Roads localities. DCR staff was complimentary of the number of cooperative regional initiatives that underway to support these permits. HRPDC staff and the Phase II localities are working closely to develop a training program that must be completed by June 30, 2010 to satisfy permit requirements.

B. Directors of Utilities Committee Meeting:

The Directors of Utilities Committee met on May 5, 2010. The Committee addressed the following:

- Mr. Ted Henifin, HRSD, briefed the Committee on water and wastewater billing services. The Directors were asked to review the efficiency of their billing system in light of the original concept of cost savings through a consolidated billing system. HRSD will be meeting with individual localities to further discuss the topic.
- The HRPDC Staff briefed the Committee on DEQ's response to their comments on the final draft of the Bacteria TMDL for the Elizabeth River Watershed. Several committee members submitted sample data taken from their pump stations for bacteria concentrations in sewage. The field samples were two orders of magnitude less than the concentration DEQ used in the draft TMDL. DEQ has applied the lower concentration to the revised TMDL. Subsequently, the estimated relative contributions of SSO's to the bacterial impairments within the watershed were significantly lowered in the revised report.
- The HRPDC staff briefed the Committee on the status of the Help-To-Others Program. At this time, the Program's application to receive nonprofit status from the IRS has not been submitted.
- The HRPDC staff through the HR FOG program held a grease hauler training program in April, and will be holding a training for food service establishments in May.
- The Capacity Team continues to meet monthly to coordinate regional efforts under the Consent Order on Sanitary Sewer Overflow issues with DEQ.

C. Emergency Management Project Update

Debris Management

A date for the annual debris management meeting has been coordinated with SPSA, VPPSA, and VDEM. The date is July 19, 2010 and will be at the HRPDC.

Hampton Roads Regional Jail and Inmate Evacuation Committee

There is nothing to report during this period. This committee is scheduled to meet again this month.

Hampton Roads Tactical Regional Area Network (HRTacRAN)

The EM Administrator continues to work with the Hampton Roads Interoperability Communications Advisory Committee (HRICAC) Oversight Group in an effort to find a funding solution for sustainment of the system for follow-on service and maintenance procurement. A FY10 Port Security Grant Application was submitted to VDEM in March 2010 as a potential temporary solution for sustainment. As part of the application process, the Captain of the Port for the Area Maritime Security Committee vets all applications by conducting a field review. The HRICAC has not received any feedback on this application at this time.

Peninsula Local Emergency Planning Commission (PLEPC)

A grant application was submitted to VDEM, by the City of Hampton on behalf of the PLEPC, for funds to update the current Peninsula Local Emergency Response Plan. On March 1st, the Emergency Management staff were informed that the City of Hampton was granted this the award in the requested amount. All funds must be exhausted by September 2010. The HRPDC is willing to support the work for this grant and assist with the management of the project with the City of Hampton and PLEPC; however, no progress has been made.

FY10 Healthcare Organization Emergency Preparedness Seminars (HOEPS)

The Emergency Management staff led and completed the seminar with public health partners and multiple health care organizations on May 6th and 7th. A website was utilized to facilitate outreach, preparedness resources, and registration for this event (<http://www.hoeps.org/>). Invitations to attend this event were distributed in March. As a result, the seminar reached registration capacity and was expanded to accommodate additional registrants within the planned budget and accommodations of the venues supporting this event. Participant feedback is being compiled and will be provided next month.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

The grant applications for updating the Southside Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Franklin Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Southampton Hazard Mitigation Plan are in the process of review at with a notification of an award expected in the spring of 2010 and funding made available in early fall 2010. The Emergency Management staff continues to work with the City of Hampton's Emergency Manager by providing support to update the Peninsula Mitigation plan; however, no progress has been made

Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP) Support

The Emergency Management staff continues to support the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team and the three workgroups to ensure existing projects and data is integrated. The three workgroups are (1) Evacuation and Transportation, (2) Commodities, Resources, and Volunteers, and (3) Mass Care and Sheltering.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

The Emergency Management staff continues to manage and support the Hampton Roads Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program for the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG). The UAWG began discussions and planning for future grant years. A tool was developed to track all projects under the UASI grant to provide an overview of what has been requested, supported, and requires sustainment in the future. The UAWG has indicated that they want to ensure a portion of future grant funds are made available for sustainment with the rest dedicated towards new projects that will only be supported by the soon to be revised Hampton Roads Homeland Security Strategy.

Hampton Roads Medical Special Needs and WebEOC Implementation Update (FY 2007 & FY 2008 UASI Project)

Services through ESI have been obtained to facilitate discussions on June 8th for the development of regionalizing the process and procedures for utilizing this consequence management tool with all localities in Hampton Roads. The Special Needs website (www.hrspecialneeds.org) will be taken off-line for a couple weeks for further development. It is expected to be back up and running by early June 2010 and be fully functional.

Maritime Security and Response (FY 2008 UASI Project)

Staff continues to solicit input from the Area Maritime Security Committee for the FY08 UASI project that is a follow-on project from FY07. Additionally, we have once again reached out to our multi-applicant partner, the Baltimore UASI, for inclusion, and they have indicated they will not follow through with their obligation. This was also the situation for FY07. At this time, it is also unclear whether the AMSC will utilize the funds available for this project. If not, further direction will be sought from DHS via VDEM.

Multi-Region Target Capabilities Assessment (FY 2008 UASI Project)

The Emergency Management staff, on behalf of and in cooperation with the Hampton Roads and Central Virginia (Richmond area) UASI regions, provide program management and implementation support for the Target Capabilities Assessment (TCA), through the UASI Grant program. Interviews with localities in Hampton Roads for assessing the selected target capabilities began in late January and are in progress. Eleven of the sixteen have been completed. All localities have been scheduled and anticipate this portion of the project to be complete by June. The risk verification component of this project has been completed and was briefed at the April REMTAC and UAWG meetings. The next major component to be developed is the revision to the Hampton Roads Homeland Security Strategy. A plan for revising this plan is in development and will be structured to ensure all homeland security partners (local, regional, state, and federal) have the opportunity to participate.

Pet Sheltering Support (FY 2009 UASI Project)

The Committee supporting this effort met and finalized what equipment and supplies need to be procured for the trailers to support pet management in shelters. Some of the equipment and supplies are not allowable under the grant guidelines and staff drafted a letter to DHS via VDEM requesting a waiver for those items not allowed. VDEM continues to review this request and is expected to provide a formal response within the next month.

First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC)

The Emergency Management staff continues to advance the First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC) pilot program in Hampton Roads initiated and lead by the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (OCP) through State Homeland Security Grant funds. OCP continues to work with Verizon to establish the issuing stations. The Hampton Roads Fire Chiefs Association has been working with

OCP's project manager in order to have the FRACs first issued to the fire service throughout Hampton Roads. FRACs are expected to begin issuance in early summer.

Hampton Roads Critical Infrastructure Protection Program (HR CIPP)

Strategic planning by the Emergency Management staff for the development of a regional Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) program is on-going in coordination with the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness Critical Infrastructure Protection Coordinator. The HR CIPP steering committee will be meeting in May with local stakeholders, OCP and the contractors. The first draft to the regional strategic plan and regional criteria for identifying regional CIKR will be reviewed and vetted.

2010 Department of Education's Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) Grant

As part of the grant application process, colleges and universities in the region have the opportunity to apply for grant funds "to develop, or review and improve, and fully integrate campus based all-hazards emergency management planning efforts for institutions of higher education." As part of the grant application process, these institutions of higher education require a letter of support with a local representative emergency management body in reviewing and improving the campus-based plan and supporting the EMHE grant project. The HRPDC will provide this support utilizing the existing advisory committees and ensure all planning is coordinated with the respective city/county the institution of higher education is located in. Presently, the College of William and Mary has asked for and received a letter of support. The Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education has also requested and received a letter of support for a grant request encompassing Old Dominion University, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Virginia Wesleyan College, and Christopher Newport University. The grant application deadline was May 12, 2010.

D. Regional Housing Program

Hampton Roads Loan Fund Partnership

The staff is continuing to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified first-time homebuyers in the region. The deadline to utilize the Federal Housing Tax Credit for First-Time Home Buyers through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was extended to April 2010 in an effort to stimulate more homeownership transactions.

Housing and Human Service Technical Support

Staff members continue to assist the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium in developing regional housing priorities. A strategic planning session was held with regional housing professionals in January to begin the process of developing the framework of this initiative. Housing and Human Services Staff is assisting in the planning of the release of an Affordability Index for the Hampton Roads Region. A June 15th event is being planned to debut the tool while addressing affordability for the region.

E. Regional Economics Program

Technical Assistance

Economics staff routinely provides technical assistance and support to member jurisdictions and regional organizations. Information from both the HRPDC Data Book and the Commission's Benchmarking Study provides easy access to a great deal of regional information. Over the past month, staff have provided information to individuals, member localities, regional organizations, and the media. A presentation was made to the Round Table of Business Leaders on the current state of the regional economy.

Census 2010

HRPDC staff is acting as a Regional Census Partner to the U.S. Census Bureau. Census information has been added to the organization publications and the Commission's website. HRPDC staff serves on complete count committees at both the regional and jurisdictional levels, and has offered a variety of services to the Census Bureau. Staff has provided accommodation for regional Census training activities over the past month.

Regional Competitiveness

Staff has begun work on a regional competitiveness study. The purpose of the study is to review the components of growth in competitive economies and evaluate the regional capacity for growth. This analysis will include an in-depth analysis of the region's occupational and industrial composition, with a particular focus on the region's labor supply.

Hampton Roads Data Book

Staff has begun work on the Hampton Roads Data Book. The 2010 Data Book will contain a variety of current and historical time series data on the region's population, income and earnings, employment, labor force, retail sales, building permits, real estate, lodging, ports, vehicle registrations, and local tax collections. The Data Book represents part of our efforts to fulfill § 15.2-4208 of the Code of Virginia, which requires planning district commissions to collect and maintain demographic, economic and other data concerning the region and member localities.

BEA Regional Economic Data

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released its annual Regional Economic Information System (REIS) data on April 22, 2010. This update provides new and revised information for local, state, and metropolitan areas throughout the country for both employment and income data. This data set is particularly valuable for the Hampton Roads region in that it is one of the few sources of information to include information on military employment and information on the self-employed. This data is available on the Regional section of the BEA website at <http://www.bea.gov/regional/index.htm>.