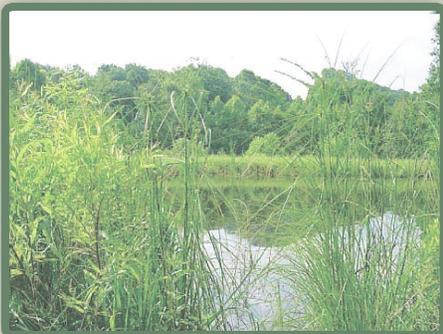


Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable

Final Report 2009



PEP10-03



February 2010

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HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

**HAMPTON ROADS WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
FINAL REPORT 2009**

This project was funded, in part, through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) via grant number BAY-2008-11-PT. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of DCR.

Preparation of this report was included in the HRPDC Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2009 – 2010, approved by the Commission at its Executive Committee Meeting of March 18, 2009.

**Prepared by the staff of the
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission**

FEBRUARY 2010

PEP10-03

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**Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable
Final Report 2009**

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable activities conducted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission during 2009 under a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. This program encompasses the development of the current Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable and meetings of the Roundtable and the Hampton Roads Joint Environmental Committee, which addresses technical issues related to the work of the Roundtable. This report contains minutes from the Roundtable meetings and copies of presentations made to the Roundtable throughout the grant year. It recommends ongoing Roundtable activities for FY 2010.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was funded, in part, through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) via grant number BAY-2008-11-PT. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of DCR.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2001, watershed roundtables were being established in each of the major watersheds in Virginia. Roundtables were comprised of representatives of local governments and representatives of business and industry, agriculture, forestry, fishing and environmental organizations, as well as other groups that are of special importance to the various watersheds. The purpose of the roundtables was to advise agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia on refinement and implementation of Tributary Strategies for Nutrient and Sediment Reduction and related water quality initiatives. Moreover, the roundtables were to provide a mechanism for educating the participants on water quality issues, funding opportunities and technologies, and techniques for achieving water quality and living resource goals. The Roundtables were designed as a forum for exchange of information among the participants on water quality and related issues, including planning, implementation, and funding. The goal of these efforts was to build consensus among the Roundtable participants.

In 1995, the Hampton Roads region's sixteen (16) local governments established the Hampton Roads Tributary Strategies Project Steering Committee, under the auspices of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. That Committee included representatives of the region's local governments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and invited participation from several environmental organizations. The Committee worked for six years to build consensus among the region's localities on water quality issues and potential management strategies and to advise local and state government on implementation issues. Through this process, the HRPDC and local government staff analyzed local government programs to determine their ability to achieve nutrient and sediment reduction goals, developed a preliminary set of local government management options to assist in future implementation, conducted educational workshops and developed regional consensus on a number of Chesapeake Bay-related issues. In response to state direction and in part as a successor to this Committee, formation of a roundtable for the Hampton Roads portion of the James River Watershed was proposed in February 2001. The HRPDC and its partners in the establishment of the Lower James River (Hampton Roads) Watershed Roundtable – the region's localities and Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Virginia Departments of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Environmental Quality (DEQ) – intended for the Roundtable to enhance existing efforts by broadening involvement and striving for a broader consensus.

In 2007, the Lower James River (Hampton Roads) Watershed Roundtable was restructured to promote participation from groups outside of state and local government and to meet HRPDC goals for citizen input. The reorganized roundtable includes representatives from the agricultural community, the development community, chambers of commerce, and industry and civic organizations, in addition to local and regional environmental organizations. Additionally, the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable now encompasses all the watersheds found in the region, including the James, York, Chowan, and Southern Rivers and Atlantic Coastal Basins. Coordination with the York River and Albemarle-Chowan Roundtables occurs on a regular basis. As the structure of the group continues to evolve, the Hampton Roads

Watershed Roundtable is providing greater value to the region as a vehicle for broad stakeholder interaction and discussion of topics of mutual interest.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the restructured Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable is to serve as a viable regional mechanism for improving dialogue between the private sector and state, local, and regional agencies on environmental issues. The focus of the Roundtable is on a broader community representation. Previous iterations of the group functioned primarily with representation from state and local government organizations with a few regional environmental representatives.

The Hampton Roads Roundtable provides stakeholder input to the HRPDC technical staff committees and to the HRPDC, which is the regional policy entity. The functions of the Roundtable include education, capacity building, information exchange, and dialogue between the private and public sectors.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Watershed Technical Work

The HRPDC Joint Environmental Committee, which is funded separately under the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and the locally-funded Hampton Roads Stormwater Management Program, undertook activities to support the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable effort and to address the technical aspects of regional environmental issues. Issues of mutual interest identified by the Roundtable were researched by HRPDC staff and items requiring additional information and action were brought to the Committee for review. Issues addressed included implementation of regulatory programs, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and implementation plan development, and green infrastructure issues. HRPDC staff began development of TMDL implementation plans under separate funding sources and presented information on the process and content of the plans to the Roundtable. Roundtable members provided reaction on the potential impact of the plans on various regional efforts and constituencies. In addition, HRPDC staff began the process of updating the regional green infrastructure plan and provided the Roundtable with an opportunity to review the work and to help identify areas that might be considered for inclusion.

Exchange of information between the Roundtable and the Joint Environmental Committee allowed for the inclusion of a greater range of stakeholders and provided direction for future work. In order to provide a full understanding of the Committee's role, complete summaries of its meetings over the grant period are provided below.

- January 8, 2009 - DCR staff briefed the Committee on the process for finalizing and public noticing the draft stormwater permits. Staff from the Center for Watershed Protection gave a presentation on the CWP's work with developing better BMPs and

on a draft outline of the proposed Extreme BMP workshop. The committee expressed concern about time constraints for the workshop. And suggested some solutions. HRPDC staff reported on the status of the Governor's Commission on Climate Change and provided an update on a number of energy-related activities at the state and federal levels.

- February 5, 2009 - DCR-DCBLA staff provided an update to the Committee on Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) activities and programs. HRPDC staff gave a presentation on the need for a bacteria study and its proposed scope. The Committee agreed that the project should move forward with a more detailed proposal and cost estimates from the researchers. HRPDC staff provided the Committee with additional briefings on the recent committee retreat, upcoming stormwater training, Coastal Resources Management Program grants, the Extreme BMP Makeover Project, and the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable. The Committee also discussed stormwater program budgets, which were circulated by letter ballot, and agreed to ratify the letter ballot approvals.
- March 5, 2009 - Staff with the DCR Division of Natural Heritage briefed the Committee on issues related to invasive species management. DEQ staff provided the Committee with a briefing on PCB monitoring in the Elizabeth River. HRPDC staff provided the Committee with briefings on the status of the continuing services contract. Ten proposals were received. The selection subcommittee met and selected two of the proposals for further review; these proposals were from URS and a partnership between CH2M Hill and Camp Dresser McKee. The subcommittee recommended that contracts be set up with both groups. The Committee concurred with the recommendation. HRPDC staff also provided briefings on recent regional stormwater training, the Coastal Resources Management Program grants, and the Extreme BMP Makeover Project. The Committee endorsed the HRPDC grant proposals for CZM funding and recommended the proposals be approved by the HRPDC.
- April 2, 2009 - HRPDC staff gave a presentation to the Committee on conditions in the economy and the effects of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. HRPDC staff also provided updates on a number of items, including the March stormwater workshops, the status of the proposed bacteria study, the upcoming HRPDC Retreat, and the status of the Phase I stormwater permits. The Committee also discussed the invasive species issue from the previous meeting.
- May 7, 2009 - Staff from the Home Builders Association of Virginia (HBAV) gave a presentation on HBAV's proposed stormwater regulations as an alternative to those currently being developed DCR. This was followed by a lengthy discussion by the Committee. HRPDC staff also briefed the Committee on a variety of activities, including stormwater regulations, the regional climate change and green

infrastructure studies, the proposed bacteria study, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

- June 4, 2009 - DCBLA staff gave a presentation on the implementation plan for Phase III of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Virginia Sea Grant staff gave a presentation to the Committee on the status of the program's strategic plan. HRPDC staff also briefed the Committee on a variety of activities, including stormwater regulations, the bacteria source tracking initiative, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and the FY 2010 HRPDC work program. The Committee asked for confirmation of HRSD participation in the bacteria study.
- July 2, 2009 - Chesapeake and Virginia Beach staff provided a briefing on the progress of proposed tree canopy legislation for the region. HRPDC staff provided briefings on the bacteria source tracking initiative, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and the Chesapeake Club education marketing campaign. HRPDC staff also discussed comments on the new stormwater regulations with the Committee. The group discussed and agreed on the following recommendations: A 10% reduction in phosphorus for developed sites; infiltration recommendations; a grace period for working out the BMP clearinghouse and stormwater management handbook with a strong, formalized feedback process; a change in the definition of wetlands to account for connected and non-connected wetlands; a grandfathering provision for already-approved plans with a set cutoff date and additional locality discretion; and, support for APA-Virginia's position and recommendations on adding more local flexibility, especially in urbanized areas.
- August 6, 2009 - Staff from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office gave a presentation via conference call on the status of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. DEQ staff gave a brief conference call presentation on the recent establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). HRPDC staff also provided an update on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.
- September 3, 2009 - HRPDC staff briefed the Committee on the status of the draft stormwater regulations. Proposed changes made in response to public comments include separate regulations for Chesapeake Bay watershed areas and non-Chesapeake Bay watershed areas, different regulations for small sites or sites within UDAs, the creation and administration of offsite mitigation or buy down programs, and grandfathering of current projects and water quality. Representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) gave a presentation on new Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements that went into effect July 1, 2009. DCR-DCBLA staff provided the Committee with an update on Phase III development. The Committee expressed concern over the standards for compliance with the Phase III goals. Some of these standards are difficult or impractical to implement; for example, there is no way to verify agricultural practices that intrude into CBPA areas because plans are not submitted to localities. Similarly, using a checklist that does

not incorporate quantitative standards will leave localities with no way to force development to conform to Phase III goals. Localities cannot require developers to go above minimum requirements, so model ordinances that identify measureable thresholds or requirements that will meet the Phase III standards are desired. Finally, HRPDC staff provided an update on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program and a NOIRA from DEQ proposing to develop TMDLs for flow as a pollutant.

- October 2009 – A representative from the Louis Berger Group briefed the Committee on the proposed Flow TMDL for Accotink Creek in Fairfax County as it relates to the Chesapeake Baywide TMDL. HRPDC staff provided briefings on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program process, the Chesapeake Bay Executive Order draft reports, the NOIRA for regulating stormwater flow, the status of the draft stormwater regulations, and the Permit Administration and Reporting System (PARS) program. The HRPDC will utilize the data collected through PARS to assist each Phase I locality in satisfying their stormwater permitting requirements.
- November 2009 – Virginia Marine Resources Commission staff gave a presentation to the Committee on state efforts studying the feasibility of renewable energy projects in Virginia coastal waters, with a main focus on wind energy projects. DEQ staff briefed the Committee on the Chesapeake Bay-wide TMDL and the recently issued Chesapeake Bay Executive Order. DEQ staff also provided an update on the NOIRA for regulating stormwater flow through the TMDL process. Staff from the U.S. Minerals Management Service and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy briefed the Committee on efforts to set up a Federal-State-Local Task Force on wind energy. Finally, HRPDC staff provided updates on the EECBG program, the regional climate change project, and the draft stormwater regulations.
- The December meeting of the HRPDC Joint Environmental Committee was cancelled.

Roundtable Meetings

The Roundtable held meetings in June 2009, October 2009, and January 2010. These meetings focused on areas of interest identified by the Roundtable and on the continuing evolution of the Roundtable structure and membership. The January 2010 meeting included training on public involvement strategies for local governments and non-profit organizations, a topic identified as important by Roundtable members at the previous meeting. Participants throughout the year included representatives from local government, environmental groups, chambers of commerce, farm bureaus, trade associations, and citizens groups.

Summaries of Roundtable meetings over the grant period are included below. Complete minutes from these meetings are contained in Appendix A.

- June 3, 2009 - Representatives of Ciba Corporation discussed the energy co-generation project at the regional landfill in Suffolk. This landfill gas to electricity and steam generation project requires regional cooperation and is having positive impacts on both air quality and energy consumption in Hampton Roads. In addition, HRPDC staff provided the Roundtable with a briefing on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program.
- October 30, 2009 - This meeting incorporated a watershed field experience and included a discussion of the focus for the Roundtable in 2010. Karen Forget, Executive Director of Lynnhaven River NOW, led a two hour paddle on the Lynnhaven River that included a visit to the oldest oyster reef in the river. A business meeting followed the paddle and included discussion of outreach strategies and successes on the Lynnhaven. The meeting concluded with a discussion of direction for the Roundtable in 2010, and emphasized the need for outreach and information exchange with smaller and start-up groups throughout the region.
- January 29, 2010 - This meeting and training opportunity focused on public engagement, which was identified as a topic of interest by the Roundtable members attending the October meeting. Carlos Gonzales, Public Involvement/Community Outreach Coordinator for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, provided the Roundtable with an overview of public involvement and community outreach strategies. Karen Forget provided perspective on the evolution of an environmental non-profit and on the management and motivation of volunteers. Betsy, McBride, Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement, provided insight on strategies for increasing and sustaining public involvement. Discussion of local experiences and challenges followed. HRPDC staff also provided an update on the regional green infrastructure and climate change projects.

HRPDC Staff Activities

During the grant period, HRPDC staff activities related to the Roundtable fell into two categories: the process of continuing to develop the proper constituency and structure for the Roundtable and the logistics associated with scheduling, running, and documenting the Roundtable meetings. As part of the process of developing the structure for the Roundtable, HRPDC staff spent a considerable amount of time in determining the optimal mix of stakeholders and issues to be considered. Initially the focus was on identifying a group of stakeholders that was entirely different from the Joint Environmental Committee, with the idea being that the HRPDC staff would serve as the liaison between the two groups. At the end of the previous grant year, Roundtable meetings began to follow a different formula from previous meetings. One area of interest previously identified by the Roundtable became the focus of each meeting, and local government representatives were invited to participate through presentations and attendance. This arrangement proved to be much more dynamic and provided a valuable opportunity for members of the broader stakeholder groups to interact with local government staff. As described above, this structure led to a valuable exchange of

information among representatives of the business community, the environmental community, and local government staff. HRPDC intends to continue with this broader constituency as part of future Roundtable activities. The goals of communication/education and project identification are intended to be the focus of the Roundtable in 2010.

In regard to the second category of activity, the HRPDC staff provided the following support to the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable.

- Expanded and updated the membership roster for the Roundtable.
- Maintained contact with Roundtable members via telephone and email.
- Organized meetings based on Roundtable member suggestions. This includes contacting potential speakers and arranging for them to attend.
- Prepared agenda packets and distributed them to the Roundtable.
- Acted as meeting facilitator and chair; provided updates on pertinent issues.
- Provided updates on Roundtable activities to the Joint Environmental Committee.
- Represented the Roundtable at meetings of the Virginia Watersheds Association (VaWA); assisted with development of VaWA water policy statement.

CONCLUSIONS

For nearly twenty years, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has facilitated the work of the HRPDC Joint Environmental Committee, which is comprised of representatives of the region's sixteen member localities, the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, five Soil and Water Conservation Districts, two towns in Isle of Wight County, and a number of state and federal agencies. About ten years ago, representatives of regional environmental and business organizations were invited to join the Joint Environmental Committee for purposes of addressing the development of Tributary Strategies for reducing nutrient and sediment discharge to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The expanded group became known as the Lower James River (Hampton Roads) Watershed Roundtable. The Roundtable was successful in developing consensus among the participating governmental entities and the environmental organizations on a number of Chesapeake Bay and Tributary Strategies matters. However, it was less successful in engaging the region's business community in this discussion.

During 2007, the HRPDC identified the need for developing citizen involvement in the environmental planning activities of the Commission and its technical committees. The identified need was all-encompassing with respect to environmental issues and was not restricted to watershed issues. It was determined that the Roundtable was an appropriate vehicle for addressing these issues.

Based on the region's experience to date, as described in this report, the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable is a viable mechanism for developing community input to the HRPDC on a range of environmental issues. There is considerable interest on the part of community groups in participating in this process and a general agreement on issues, specifically water quality planning and green infrastructure/green building that should be addressed. Participants in both the Roundtable and Joint Environmental processes are continuing to recruit new members, and the evolving structure and focus of the Roundtable is providing greater value to the region as a whole.

Based on this experience, the HRPDC finds that the Hampton Roads Roundtable is a viable means of involving the Hampton Roads community in addressing environmental issues facing the region. Steps should be taken by the HRPDC, in cooperation with its member jurisdictions and the private sector, to continue strengthening this initiative.

APPENDIX A

**HAMPTON ROADS WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
MEETING AGENDA MATERIALS AND
SUMMARIES**

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BRUCE C. GOODSON, CHAIRMAN • STAN D. CLARK, VICE CHAIRMAN • JAMES O. McREYNOLDS, TREASURER
DWIGHT L. FARMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

May 26, 2009

Memorandum #2009-83

TO: Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable Members

BY: John M. Carlock, Deputy Executive Director

RE: Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable Meeting, June 3, 2009

Attached are the announcement and supplemental materials for the scheduled meeting of the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable, which will take place on June 3, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the James Room at Fountain Plaza II, 700 Town Center Drive, Newport News. Light refreshments will be served.

Participation by you or a representative of your organization is very important to the success of this regional initiative. Please RSVP to Claire Jones at (757) 420-8300 or cjones@hrpdcva.gov by June 1, 2009. We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd.

MLJ/fh

Enclosures

Copy: Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay Committee
Directors of Planning
Directors of Utilities

Memorandum #2009-83

May 26, 2009

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Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce	Mr. John A. Hornbeck, Jr., CCE
Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce	Ms. Dottie Jordan
Isle of Wight/Smithfield/Windsor Chamber of Commerce	Ms. Constance Rhodes
Franklin/Southampton Area Chamber of Commerce	Ms. Teresa B. Beale
Gloucester Chamber of Commerce	
Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance	Mr. Bob Hershberger
Tidewater Builders Association	Mr. Channing A. Pfeiffer
Peninsula Housing and Builders Association	Mr. David Root
Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance	Mr. C. Jones Hooks
Elizabeth River Project	Ms. Marjorie Mayfield Jackson
James River Association	Mr. Bill Street
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Ms. Christy Everett
Back Bay Restoration Foundation	Ms. Susan Admire
Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation and Preserve	Ms. Ashley Morgan
Lynnhaven River Now	Ms. Laurie Carroll Sorabella
Wetlands Watch Inc.	Mr. Skip Stiles
Williamsburg Land Conservancy	Ms. Caren Schumacher
Hampton Land Conservancy	Ms. Tyla Matteson
Surfrider Foundation - Virginia Beach Chapter	Mr. Ari Lawrence
Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations	Mr. Jay Kerr
Chesapeake Council of Civic Organizations	
Norfolk Federation of Civic Leagues	Mr. Keith P. McEachin
Williamsburg Neighborhood Council	Mr. Jim Joseph
Virginia Farm Bureau	Mr. Wayne F. Pryor
Chesapeake Farm Bureau	Mr. Tommy Reeves
Gloucester/Mathews (Gloucester Branch Office) Farm Bureau	Mr. Larry Oliver
Isle of Wight County Farm Bureau	Mr. William "Billy" Gwaltney, Jr.
Charles City/James City/New Kent/York (York Branch)	
Southampton County Farm Bureau	Mr. Norman Hofmeyer, Jr.
Suffolk (Nansemond County) Farm Bureau	Mr. Gary Cross
Surry County Farm Bureau	Mr. Joseph Barlow
Virginia Beach Farm Bureau	Mr. Keith Seward
Tidewater SWCD	Mr. Robert Vaughan
Peanut SWCD	Mr. Carter Borden
Colonial SWCD	Mr. E. Keith Seward
Virginia Dare SWCD	Mr. H. Jackson Darst
Chowan Basin SWCD	Mr. Frank Brickhouse
Virginia Ship Repair Association	Mr. Gary D. Cross
	Mr. Malcolm "Mal" Branch

**Meeting of the
Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable
James Room
Fountain Plaza II
Newport News, Virginia
June 3, 2009, 1:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

*1:00 PM: Regional Networking
Light refreshments will be served*

1:15 PM: Roundtable Meeting

1. Energy Innovations in Hampton Roads – The Suffolk Ciba Plant

Landfills are the largest manmade source of methane in the United States, and the recovery and use of methane from these sources has the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Recovery of landfill gases also represents one of the innovative alternative energy generation methods being promoted to supplement or replace the use of fossil fuels.

Ms. Beth Earnst, Director, Communications & Public Affairs, and Mr. Julian Bray, Engineering & Maintenance Manager, Ciba Corporation, will be here to discuss energy co-generation at the regional landfill in Suffolk. This landfill gas to electricity and steam generation project requires regional cooperation and is having positive impacts on both air quality and energy consumption in Hampton Roads.

2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program, funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, represents a Presidential priority to deploy the cheapest, cleanest, and most reliable energy technologies we have - energy efficiency and conservation - across the country. It is intended to assist U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Indian tribes to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects and programs designed to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions;
- Reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities;
- Improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building, and other appropriate sectors; and
- Create and retain jobs.

Most Hampton Roads communities will be taking advantage of the EECBG program to implement energy efficiency programs. It is likely that there will also be funding opportunities available to regions and the private sector through the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy. The Roundtable will be given information regarding these programs and local plans and will be asked to provide ideas that might be promoted on a regional level.

3. Open Forum

Roundtable members will be able to discuss a proposed fall workshop and other issues of importance to the group and to suggest topics for future discussion.

4. Adjourn

**SUMMARY – MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
June 3, 2009**

1. Energy Innovations in Hampton Roads – The Suffolk Ciba Plant

Ms. Beth Earnst, Communications & Public Affairs Director, and Mr. Julian Bray, Engineering & Maintenance Manager, Ciba Corporation, provided a briefing on the energy co-generation process at the regional landfill in Suffolk. Landfills are the largest manmade source of methane in the United States, and the recovery and use of methane from these sources has the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Recovery of landfill gases also represents one of the innovative alternative energy generation methods being promoted to supplement or replace the use of fossil fuels.

Ciba Corporation employs 250 people locally as part of its specialty chemical production segment and is the 6th largest taxpayer in Suffolk. The company's landfill gas to electricity and steam generation project has been in operation in Suffolk for more than 10 years. Among its benefits to the company and the community, the steam co-generation operation adds 12 green jobs, reduces energy costs, removes 2,200 tons of CO₂ emissions annually, and eliminates the need for gas flaring at the regional landfill.

Ciba's Suffolk co-generation project requires regional cooperation and is having positive impacts on both air quality and energy consumption in Hampton Roads. Ciba representatives noted that the company received good support from the local chamber of commerce and the city on this project. However, unique problems exist with the Suffolk operation and more work needs to be done to support it.

Roundtable members discussed coordination between Ciba and the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA), which owns the regional landfill. Some contract negotiations are still required to settle matters between the two parties, but other priorities at SPSA have taken precedence. General Assembly support has been achieved for the contract negotiations with SPSA, but both Ciba representatives noted that awareness is still important. Any support for the project from the Roundtable would be welcome.

2. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

HRPDC staff provided an overview of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) program, funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The EECBG program is intended to assist in the development, promotion, implementation, and management of energy efficiency and conservation projects and programs designed to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce total energy use, improve energy efficiency, and create and retain jobs.

The Roundtable discussed potential projects under the program, as well as schedule and future funding possibilities. HRPDC staff noted that ongoing programs are preferred over projects like mechanical system replacements, which was an idea suggested by Roundtable members. More information on the program will be provided as appropriate.

3. Open Forum

Roundtable members discussed potential topics for a workshop to be held later in the year. One idea was stormwater management regulations that impact businesses. The Chesapeake Baywide TMDL and Executive Order were also mentioned. The selection of topics will depend on the status of these or other potential subjects.

Attendees:

Charles McKenna, Virginia Beach
Claire Jones, HRPDC
Cynthia Taylor, Suffolk
Dean McClain, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
Elizabeth Friel, Williamsburg Land Conservancy
Eric Walberg, HRPDC
Beth Earnst, Ciba
Julian Bray, Ciba

KAYAK THE LYNNHAVEN

***Join the Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable,
Lynnhaven River NOW, and Wild River Outfitters
on Friday, October 30, 2009, for a kayak tour of
the Lynnhaven River.***

We will leave at 9:00 a.m. from the Narrows in First Landing State Park. The trip will include visits to the oldest conservation reef in the Lynnhaven and a commercial oyster aquaculture operation. A luncheon meeting will follow at noon at Great Neck District Park.

Lunch and boat rental will be provided, or you can bring your own (boats and/or lunch).

There is limited space available for this trip. Please RSVP to Claire Jones at 757.420.8300 or cjones@hrpdcva.gov by October 28, 2009, to reserve your space.

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**Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable
Kayak the Lynnhaven
First Landing State Park
October 30, 2009
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

9:00 AM: Gather at the Narrows beach parking lot
Orientation by Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River NOW

9:30 AM - Noon:

Kayak tour of conservation reef, Rainey Gut, and Crystal Lake

12:30 PM: Lunch and Lynnhaven Discussion (Karen Forget)
Great Neck District Park, 2513 Shorehaven Dr., Virginia Beach

1:30 PM: Business Meeting

- *Teaming with Wildlife Coalition request*

- *Roundtable direction for next year*

2:00 PM: Adjourn

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**SUMMARY – MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
October 30, 2009**

Kayak Tour of Lynnhaven River

Roundtable members met at the Narrows in First Landing State Park and embarked on a two-hour paddle of the Lynnhaven River led by Karen Forget, Executive Director of Lynnhaven River NOW, and guides from Wild River Outfitters. The group observed a variety of shoreline hardening and stabilization projects and visited the oldest oyster reef in the river.

Business Meeting

1. Teaming with Wildlife Coalition Request

The Roundtable reviewed the request to support the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition, which supports the Virginia Wildlife Action Plan. The Plan unites natural resource agencies, sportsmen, conservationists, and citizens in a common vision for the conservation of the Commonwealth's wildlife and the habitats in which they live. The Roundtable agreed that the Plan is in keeping with its mission and agreed to support it.

2. Roundtable Direction for 2010

Roundtable members discussed direction for the work program in 2010. It was noted that the group's mission has continued to evolve and that participation has varied depending on the topic of each meeting. The Roundtable members present suggested that this forum would be useful both for watershed experiences and for information sharing, particularly among non-profits and start-up environmental groups. The group also discussed the value of establishing and maintaining a calendar of events for the Roundtable and its members to use as a platform for information sharing. Finally, they noted that a workshop on improving public engagement and involvement would be helpful for established and start-up organizations.

Attendees:

Adrienne Kotula, DCR-DCBLA
Claire Jones, HRPDC
Eric Walberg, HRPDC
Gretchen Gonzales, Isle of Wight
Jane Hill, Isle of Wight
Judy Tucker, The Coastal Society
June McDaniels, Aquarius Engineering
Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River NOW
Noah Hill, DCR

Sara Noren
Todd Herbert, DCR
Guides: Andrea Battin and Brianne Mecum,
Wild River Outfitters Touring Company

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**Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable
Public Engagement Discussion and Breakfast**

January 29, 2010

9:00 a.m.

**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake**

AGENDA

*9:00 AM: Regional Networking
Continental breakfast will be served*

9:15 AM: Roundtable Meeting

1. Discussion of Public Engagement Strategies for Local Government and Non-Profits Groups.

This will be an open forum featuring Carlos Gonzalez, Public Involvement/Community Outreach Coordinator for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, and Karen Forget, Executive Director of Lynnhaven River NOW. Participants are encouraged to provide examples of public outreach needs and obstacles in their communities.

2. Regional Initiatives Update

HRPDC staff will provide updates on regional projects impacting watersheds in Hampton Roads.

3. Adjourn

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**SUMMARY – MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE
January 29, 2010**

1. Discussion of Public Engagement Strategies for Local Government and Non-Profits Groups

Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, Public Involvement/Community Outreach Coordinator for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO), began the discussion by providing information on public involvement and outreach strategies now being used by the HRTPO to increase awareness of and engagement with its programs. He also discussed the role of partnerships with community organizations, universities, neighborhood associations, and other entities. Developing trust, providing respect, and two-way communication are all key components in the any public involvement plan.

Ms. Karen Forget, Executive Director of Lynnhaven River NOW, provided a perspective from a non-profit that has been able to build community trust and respect. Building relationships and awareness has been important to Lynnhaven NOW's success; however, changing behavior is difficult and awareness is not enough to accomplish that. Ms. Forget explained that Lynnhaven NOW has employed a committee system to involve people in a more personal way. There are nine committees, each with a different focus area. Through them, the Lynnhaven message becomes the community's message. Additional ideas for increasing engagement include photography contests, focus groups, and pledges.

Mr. Jamie Weist, Kimley-Horn, noted that success with focus groups depends on establishing goals for those groups. People will not continue to attend meetings if they feel they are accomplishing nothing.

Ms. Jane Hill, Isle of Wight County, inquired about strategies for recruiting volunteers, particularly in rural areas. Roundtable members suggested the use of the committee structure, school programs, and partnering with community groups and organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Understanding barriers to participation was also emphasized. Additional suggestions included identifying a small, focused goal that the community cares about and using groups like Ruritan and 4-H clubs, soil and water conservation districts, and resource conservation and development (RC&D) councils to reach farmers.

Mr. Dave Kuzma, Newport News, noted that government can be a partner if brought in at the early stages of a project. Relationships with government entities do not have to be adversarial. Open, two-way communication is key.

Ms. Betsy McBride, Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement, offered perspective on making government an inclusive concept – “us, not them.” For this concept to work, all interested citizens must feel welcome and discussion must work up to the level of public policy.

The Roundtable suggested strategies for identifying and engaging small, start-up groups and for including larger, more established groups in the conversation about regional water quality concerns. Use of media, such as the campaigns supported through the HRPDC’s regional environmental education committees, was also discussed.

2. Regional Initiatives Update

HRPDC staff provided a brief update on the regional climate change and green infrastructure projects. The latter is expected to be completed in February 2010, and will identify an updated network of potential corridors and connections to protect water quality and wildlife habitat in Hampton Roads.

Attendees:

Betsy McBride, Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement
Carlos Gonzalez, HRTPO
Charles McKenna, Virginia Beach
Christy Everett, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chuck Frederickson, James River Association
Claire Jones, HRPDC
Dave Kuzma, Newport News
David Stromberg, Hampton
Eric Walberg, HRPDC
Fleta Jackson, Norfolk
Fred Adams, North Landing River/Sierra Club
Holly Miller, HRPDC
Jamie Weist, Kimley-Horn
Jane Hill, Isle of Wight
Jill Sunderland, Norfolk
Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River NOW
Noah Hill, DCR
Randi Strutton, Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation
Roy Flanagan, Virginia Dare SWCD
Todd Herbert, DCR