



Douglas G. Pons, Chair | Shannon E. Glover, Vice-Chair  
Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director

January 30, 2025

**Memorandum #2025-14**

**TO: Regional Environmental Committee Members**

**BY: Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer**

**RE: Regional Environmental Committee (REC) Meeting – February 6, 2025**

The next meeting of the HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The agenda and related materials are attached. This meeting will be held virtually using Zoom. Please use the following information to join the meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82562806906?pwd=8pN4f1XEhp5TsAl32UXHKImho0QbEy.1>

Meeting ID: 825 6280 6906

Passcode: 481670

**One tap mobile:**

+13092053325,,82562806906#,,,\*481670# US

+13126266799,,82562806906#,,,\*481670# US (Chicago)

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

EC/tj

Attachments

**AGENDA**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 6, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.**  
**Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

**1. Summary of the December 5, 2024, Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee (REC)**

The summary and attendance sheets of the December 2024 meeting are attached.

**ACTION:** Accept the Meeting Summary and Attendance

**Attachments:**    1A Meeting Summary December  
                          1B Meeting Attendance December

**2. Beneficial Use of Dredge Material and Thin Layer Placement Guidance**

Ms. Ella DiPietro, with The Elizabeth River Project, will be sharing a guidance document prepared for the Elizabeth River watershed on thin layer placement (TLP) of dredge material. With the help of consultants (Anchor QEA) and stakeholders, this guidance document will help implementers by providing best practices for TLP in the Coastal Plain. Case studies are also provided to guide implementation on private and public lands. This effort is part of a larger, Virginia-wide project on beneficial use of dredge material (BUDM) with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

**3. EPA Recycling Grant Update**

Ms. Katie Cullipher, HRPDC, will provide an update on the EPA Recycling Education and Outreach Grant.

**4. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Update**

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, will update the committee on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The HRPDC hosted a Climate Action Plan Webinar on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and recently launched a survey designed to help HRPDC understand community needs and concerns as the Climate Action Plan is developed.

**5. Legislative Update**

HRPDC staff will provide a brief update on bills that have made it through the General Assembly to date, and budget items that may be of interest to the Committee.

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE  
HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 5, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.  
REGIONAL BUILDING BOARD ROOM, 723 WOODLAKE DRIVE, CHESAPEAKE, 23320**

**1. Summary of the November 7, 2024, Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee (REC)**

- The minutes of the November 7, 2024, REC meeting were accepted with no comments.

**2. Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) Legislative Update**

Mr. Jay Ford, Virginia Policy Manager for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, briefed the Committee on CBF's legislative agenda for the upcoming 2025 General Assembly. Key points from his presentation follow:

- CBF is focused on the State budget: Wastewater treatment plant upgrades have been previously funded. Hurricane Helen damaged agricultural areas in western Virginia and funding is needed for restoration. \$50 Million has been requested for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF). Funding for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) is currently at zero. \$100 million from the first year is being spread over multiple years, this is problematic.
- Wetlands defense: CBF will emphasize bill for wetlands protection, migration corridors
- CBF is advocating to add tribes to CFPF.
- CBF is advocating for a Menhaden study bill.
- Environmental Education: Virginia is currently last among Bay states, goal to be on par with other states
- Solar Siting: At least two bills will focus on siting of industrial scale solar projects. One bill identifies Planning Districts as energy planning entities, technical assistance to localities through advisory service board (ASB).
- Whitney Katchmark: How would ASB work?
- Jay Ford: Similar to wetlands advice from VIMS, supplement existing capabilities of other agencies.
- Whitney Katchmark: Is spending on agricultural BMPs resulting in improved water quality?
- Jay Ford: Yes, it is effective. Last year more money resulted in improved water quality. Greater efficiency in this process is always desirable.
- Agricultural funding swings have been problematic, one possible fix is creation of reserve fund. A second proposal is to alter WQIF funding to most efficient practices, A third proposal would take away DEQ authority for multiyear projects if full funding is not currently available.
- KC Filippino: Can Chris Moore predict this year's Menhaden fight?
- Chris Moore: This year's effort is to fund study, not regulation.

### **3. Virginia Municipal League (VML) Legislative Update**

Mr. Mitchell Smiley, Policy Manager for Transportation and Natural Resources (VML) briefed the Committee on VML's legislative agenda for the upcoming 2025 General Assembly. Note that a copy of the 2025 VML Legislative Program is included with the minutes and Mr. Smiley's presentation was patterned on the Program.

- VML will place emphasis on preservation/expansion of local authorities during the General Assembly session.
- Mr. Smiley provided a synopsis of the Legislative Program.
- Much of the discussion of the role of local authority will be focused on efforts to remove authority for approval of new industrial solar projects from localities. VML views technical assistance ok, setting dates and goals that localities must follow is not acceptable.
- Residential Flood Disclosure: More stakeholders likely on board this year.
- Whitney Katchmark: Is any of the solar debate focused on development in urban areas?
- Mitchell Smiley: Many General Assembly members have the same question. This is a missing component in conversation. Cost is quite different, more expensive in urban areas.
- Jay Ford: All areas would have to do regional plans so urban areas would have to address their contribution. Initial decisions in the regulation only require a small fraction of new solar to be put in urban areas.
- Whitney Katchmark: Is flood disclosure a priority beyond Hampton Roads?
- Mitchell Smiley: Yes, it is an issue elsewhere. Increasing awareness as a statewide problem.

### **4. Department of Environmental Quality Tidewater Regional Office Update**

Ms. Grace Holmes, MS4 and Water Compliance Coordinator, provided an update on staff changes at the Tidewater Regional Office.

- Grace Holmes took on the Coordinator role in July of 2024. She was previously the Environmental Justice Coordinator, and that position is now open. Her contact information:
  - 804-718-8409
  - grace.holmes@deq.virginia.gov
- David Taylor is now state MS4 coordinator.
- Courtney Smith is now Regional Stormwater Team Lead: Her contact information:
  - 757-493-1072
  - courtney.smith@deq.virginia.gov
- Stormwater Plan Review:
  - Projects in localities where DEQ is the VSMP authority or state or federal projects not authorized under an approved Annual Standards and Specifications Program must submit an electronic CGP Application Package to:
    - PlanReview@deq.virginia.gov
    - Packages exceeding 20MB must be sent through VITAShare. If you do not have a VITAShare account, please submit a request to PlanReview@deq.virginia.gov.
- MS4 Reminders:
  - Contact Updates:

- If you have a change in Permit Contact, Permit Fee contact, or the responsibility party with your MS4 permit, please send updated information to [grace.holmes@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:grace.holmes@deq.virginia.gov).
- Program Requirements:
  - If you are turning in a report related to your MS4 permit requirements (i.e. annual report, action plan, etc.) please submit documents directly to [grace.holmes@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:grace.holmes@deq.virginia.gov).
- New Program Templates:
  - Phase II MS4 permittees received updated templates developed by Central Office to aid annual reporting.
  - These templates will be required to be used in the next reporting year (FY2025).
  - If you have questions about these updated templates, or aren't sure you have received them, please reach out to Grace.
- Jill Southerland: Do you have a template for TMDLs?
- Grace Holmes: Yes, I will send you a copy.
- KC Filippino: Do you coordinate with other MS4 areas?
- Grace Holmes: Yes, but Hampton Roads is unique due to the concentration of military facilities.

## 5. 2024 Hampton Roads Datathon

A team from the HPRDC/HRTPO was recently awarded first place at the 2024 Hampton Roads Datathon, an annual competition hosted by Norfolk CivicLab that highlights innovative, data-driven approaches to addressing regional challenges. Ms. Sara Kidd, Mr. Tho Tran, and Ms. Emma Corbitt of the HRPDC staff briefed the committee with an overview of the project and its key findings.

- Team HRPDC/HRTPO took home first place in the 3rd Annual Hampton Roads Datathon. The project was entitled “Shady Stops: Surveying Tree Canopy at Bus Stops through Community Input.” The Team analyzed tree canopy coverage and urban heat island (UHI) severity data to identify which bus stops could be prioritized for improving shade conditions.
- One of the most interesting findings was that over 85% of bus stops in Hampton Roads do not have any tree canopy coverage and that 25% of the bus stops are located in high or severe urban heat island (UHI) areas.
- Links to additional project information:
  - News article: <https://hrpdca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=146&ARC=337>
  - Story Map: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4abc58214ecf43d3bc670550afd867f7>
- Grace Holmes: Great project, have you looked at Richmond Tree Equity project?
- Whitney Katchmark: I am surprised that photos of heat islands around bus stops exist
- Sara Kidd: TPL sourced pictures are included in story map.
- Angela Hopkins: We are currently working on this topic, can you share project?
- Sara Kidd: Yes, we can share our materials.

## 6. NOAA Tools

NOAA has recently developed several tools to help communities plan for and address flooding and inundation, including responding to imminent threats and long-term adaptation. Ben McFarlane of the HRPDC briefed the committee with an overview of these tools.

- NOAA has a set of new and updated tools that provide insight on measured conditions and modelled projections for several coastal variables. Ben's presentation file, included with the minutes, provides screenshots of key features of each of the tools.
  - NOAA Tides and Currents: Provides current tide and weather data for numerous coastal monitoring points.
  - Inundation Dashboard: Includes warnings, tide observations
  - High Tide Flooding Outlooks: Astronomical projections (not weather), annual and monthly, can look at specific days,
  - Interagency Sea Level Task Force: Sea Level Change Site: Longer term look at sea level rise projections.
  - NOAA Sea Level Calculator: Observed trends and future scenarios. Useful for generating graphics for reports.
  - NWS Flood Inundation Mapping: Will eventually be available (late next year) to show combined flood impacts.
- The most exciting are the tools that combine nuisance flooding and storm events.
- Jill Sunderland: What is the scale of tools?
- Ben McFarlane: They can go to neighborhood level.

## Announcements:

- Ben McFarlane:
  - Resiliency Committee will meet in Board Room next week.
  - NOAA has released their own flood risk tool; Hampton Roads tool will also be updated.
  - LIDAR data for the region will be available in spring.
- KC Filippino:
  - The Chesapeake Bay Land Use/Land Cover data for 2021-2022 will be available soon.
- Jay Ford:
  - Chesapeake Bay Foundation will provide a legislative update by webinar on December 18, 2024.

Locality/Agency	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative
Chesapeake	Casey Maigruder	David Mergen	Andi Kerley								
Franklin											
Gloucester											
Hampton	Hisham Al Masraf										
Isle of Wight											
James City											
Newport News	Chris Williams	Angela Hopkins									
Norfolk	Christina VanLear	Gina Shaw	Megan Hale								
Poquoson											
Portsmouth	Brittany Collins										
Smithfield											
Southampton											
Suffolk	Heather Baugett										
Surry											
Virginia Beach	Tim Egan										
Williamsburg											
Windsor											
York	Kent Henkel										
Nansemond Indian Nation											
HRPD C	Emma Corbitt	Sara Kidd	Tho Tran	Rebekah Eastep	Katie Cullipher	Jill Sunderland	Nikki Johnson	Ivy Ozmon	Ben McFarlane	Eric Walberg	KC Filippino
HRSD	Jon Nelson	Jennifer Reitz	Bruce Weckworth								
HRTPD											
DCR											
DEQ	Grace Holmes										
DWR											
DHCD											
SWCD											
VDEM											
VDOF											
VDH											
VDOT											
VMRC											
Fort Monroe Authority											
Virginia Port Authority											
Jefferson Lab											
VACO											
NASA											
U.S. Navy											
U.S. Air Force											
NRCS											
USACE											
USGS											
USFWS											
NOAA											
ODU											
UVA											
VIMS											
W&M											
Virginia Sea Grant											
VT Tech Center											
CBF	Christy Everett	Chris Moore									
CCAN											
Ducks Unlimited											
Elizabeth River Project											
Great Dismal Swamp Coll.											
James River Association											
Living River Trust											
Lynnhaven River Now											
SELCA											
Wetlands Watch	Mary-Carson Stiff										
AECOM		Noelle Crowley									
AES											
AMT Engineering											
Arcadis											
Bay Environmental											
Brown & Caldwell											
Cardno											
Chesapeake Conservancy											
Clark Nexsen											
Contech ES											
Dewberry											
F&R											
Geosyntec											
GKY											
Fernleaf											
Hazen & Sawyer											
Jacobs											
Kent Environmental											
Kimley-Horn											
Louis Berger											
Michael Baker											
Opal RTC											
Parsons Brinckerhoff											
RK&K											
Timmons Group											
SGA											
Stantec											
Whitman, Requardt											
Woodcock											
Guests											
Jefferson Lab											
AMT Engineering	Ginny Snead										
Public	Ava Langston-Kenney										