



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

August 28, 2025

Memorandum #2025-114

TO: Regional Environmental Committee Members

BY: Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer

RE: Regional Environmental Committee (REC) Meeting - September 4, 2025

The next meeting of the HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The agenda and related materials are attached. This meeting will be in person at Fort Monroe in Building 75, located at 110 Pratt Street, Fort Monroe, VA 23651.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

EC/se

Attachments

AGENDA
MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
BUILDING 75 AT 110 PRATT STREET, FORT MONROE, VA 23651

1. Summary of the August 7, 2025, Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee (REC)

The summary and attendance sheets of the August 2025 meeting are attached.

ACTION: Accept the Meeting Summary and Attendance

Attachments: 1A Meeting Summary August
 1B Meeting Attendance August

2. Introduction to Fort Monroe

In January 2025, Mr. Scott Martin assumed his role as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Fort Monroe Authority. Mr. Martin brings over 20 years of experience and expertise in economic development and historic preservation to the FMA and will share his vision for Fort Monroe's future with the Committee.

3. Newport News Stormwater Master Planning Efforts

The City of Newport News is currently working on a multi-year master planning effort to address stormwater management, floodplain management, and flood resilience. The effort is funded in part by a grant from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund. Ms. Kathie Angle and Mr. Chris Williams, Newport News, will provide an overview of the project.

4. King Tide Community Science Initiatives

Measure the Muck is a flood sampling effort hosted by Old Dominion University that examines water quality impacts of coastal flooding. Ms. Alyssa Bucci, ODU, will provide an overview of this initiative. *Measure the Muck* is conducted in collaboration with the flood mapping initiative, *Catch the King*. Ms. Stephanie Letourneau, Wetlands Watch, will brief the Committee on this upcoming community science effort as well.

5. HRPDC Strategic Planning Update

As required by the Code of Virginia, HRPDC is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the Hampton Roads region. A key element in the development of the Plan is the identification of priority regional issues. HRPDC staff have been working to engage a variety of stakeholders to better understand their priorities. At our September 4 meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to rank and discuss a broad range of regional issues across six topic areas, Economy, Visitor Appeal, Housing and Community Development, Resident Well-being, Infrastructure, and Natural Environment. In preparation for the meeting, please review the attached tally sheet and associated definitions and think about your priorities for the Hampton Roads region.

Eric Walberg, Principal for Planning and Economics, and Tho Tran, Senior Regional Planner, will provide a brief introduction followed by an interactive session on issue prioritization.

Attachments: 5A Strategic Plan Issue Prioritization – Tally Sheet
5B Strategic Plan Issue Prioritization – Definitions

**SUMMARY OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 7, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
CHESAPEAKE, VA**

1. Summary of the July 3, 2025, Meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee (REC)

The summary and attendance of the July 2025 meeting were included in the agenda. There were no edits.

2. Elizabeth River Trail Foundation

Ms. Kindra Greene, Elizabeth River Trail Foundation, gave a presentation to the Committee on the organization's ongoing activities and plans for the continued development, improvement, and maintenance of the Elizabeth River Trail (ERT). Currently, the trail extends approximately 10.5 miles from Norfolk State University to Norfolk International Terminals, 90% of which is either offroad or dedicated bike lanes. The overall goal is for the ERT to run from Naval Station Norfolk into Virginia Beach. Ms. Greene described the trail's role as storyteller for the region, communicating the area's natural history, working waterfront heritage, and now its challenges with sea level rise and climate adaptation. The foundation is also incorporating a blueway into the trail, with one kayak launch in place at Plum Point Park, another under construction at Larchmont, and others planned for near Harbor Park. In addition to the kayak launch, the trailhead at Plum Point Park also includes a playground, shelter, benches, picnic tables, bike support, and other amenities. The foundation is also planning connections to Virginia Beach and other regional trail networks. More information on the trail is available at <https://elizabethrivertrail.org/>.

3. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Dr. KC Filippino, HRPDC, gave a presentation to the Committee on proposed revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The current agreement is the fourth in a series of commitments since 1983 made by the various jurisdictions and entities that comprise the Chesapeake Bay Program, which now includes Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, DC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. The 2014 agreement includes ten goals with thirty-one outcomes. 2025 was a major benchmark year for 12 of the 31 outcomes, in addition to being a key target year for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. However, there are multiple lines of evidence that show that the intended reductions will not be achieved. Although 18 of the 31 outcomes are on course, the remaining are considered off course.

To address the lack of progress, the Executive Council created "Beyond 2025" to recommend a path forward that would prioritize next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement. Phase 1 of the effort included completing the Beyond 2025 report, which included high-level recommendations to amend the Agreement, strengthen the partnership and address future conditions. Phase 2 of the effort includes revising the Watershed Agreement and restructuring the partnership. One of the key proposed changes is to reduce the number of goals from 10 to 4 and the number of outcomes from 31 to 21. The four proposed goals are healthy landscapes, clean water, engaged communities, and thriving habitat and wildlife. Management

strategies to actually accomplish the goals and outcomes will be determined later. Another significant proposed change is to include tribal nations.

Dr. Filippino has been working with regional stakeholders and partners to develop regional comments. These include:

- Overall support for the changes and updates
- Support for consolidation and streamlining of the Partnership
- Identifying clear funding paths
- Ensuring metrics are achievable and realistic

Public comments on the proposed revised agreement are due by September 1, 2025.

4. Recycling Education Outreach Grant Update

Ms. Katie Cullipher, HRPDC, updated the Committee on the regional EPA Recycling Education and Outreach Grant. The HRPDC is wrapping up the first year of the three-year, \$1.96 million grant. HRPDC's grant was one of twenty-five awarded nationwide, one of three in EPA Region 3, and the only grant in Virginia. The four goals of the project are to decrease municipal waste generation, increase recycling knowledge and participation, decrease recycling contamination, and increase confidence in local recycling programs. To date, most of the work completed has focused on research through surveys, focus groups, recycling audits, and targeted behavior-change education. HRPDC has also developed some web-based recycling and disposal education and outreach tools. These tools include a dynamic waste disposal/recycling lookup tool and an interactive waste sorting game. The tools are designed for both desktop and mobile. Another major effort has been the "Feet on the Street" route-level curbside recycling education program, which combines targeted outreach, cart tagging, and cart rejection. This effort covered over 32,000 households in six jurisdictions (James City County, Newport News, Norfolk, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and York County) for eight weeks from March 31 to May 23, 2025. Key messages for the targeted outreach and tagging included warnings against bagging recyclables and what materials were acceptable and not. The effort also involved using advertising and media to get the word out. Pre- and post-implementation audits showed an overall decrease in contamination in each of the six localities. Key takeaways from the effort are that a feedback loop is important, enforcement works, and focusing on education helps.

Work remaining to be done includes advertising, public relations, and community engagement. The project includes \$1 million in funding for a multi-channel advertising and public relations campaign. The project will also include a regional direct mail campaign and convenience center signage to help educate and instruct residents. The project is scheduled to be completed by May 2027.

5. Other Business

The next meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee will be held on September 4, 2025.

Locality/Agency	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative	Representative
Chesapeake	Andi Kerley	Casey Magruder	Robert Lee							
Franklin										
Gloucester	Kevin Landry	Mike Hudgins	Denise Mosca							
Hampton										
Isle of Wight										
James City	Tammy Rosario	Emily Grojean								
Newport News	Louis Bott	Allison Watts	Angela Hopkins	Macon Whitson						
Norfolk										
Poquoson	Caleb Kewitch									
Portsmouth	Debbie Gaskins									
Smithfield										
Southampton	Regan Prince									
Suffolk	Heather Baggett									
Surry										
Virginia Beach	Jim Milliken	Angela Rivas								
Williamsburg										
Windsor										
York	Charles White	Kent Henkel								
Nansemond Indian Nation										
HRPDC	Ivy Ozmon	Whitney Katchmark	KC Filippino	Ben McFarlane	Katie Culipher	Jill Sunderland	Eric Walberg	Emma Corbitt	Tho Tran	Sara Kidd
HRSD	Jon Nelson									
HRTPO										
DCR										
DEQ										
DWR										
DHCD										
SWCD										
VDEM										
VDOF	Mary Bennett									
VDH										
VDOT										
VMRC										
Fort Monroe Authority										
Virginia Port Authority	Scott Whitehurst									
Jefferson Lab										
VACO										
NASA										
U.S. Navy										
U.S. Air Force										
NRCS										
USACE										
USGS										
USFWS										
NOAA										
CDU										
UVA										
VIMS										
W&M										
Virginia Sea Grant										
VT Tech Center										
CBA	Lisa Renee Jennings									
CCAN										
Ducks Unlimited										
EDF										
Elizabeth River Project	Joe Rieger									
Great Dismal Swamp Coll.										
James River Association										
Living River Trust										
Lynnhaven River Now										
SELC										
Wetlands Watch	Genevieve Guerry									
AECOM										
AES										
AMT Engineering	Ginny Snead									
Arcadis										
Bay Environmental										
Brown & Caldwell	Priyanka Mohandoss									
Cardno										
Chesapeake Conservancy										
Clark Nexsen										
Contech ES										
Dewberry										
F&R										
Geosyntec										
GKY										
Fernleaf										
Hazen & Sawyer	Mike Barbachem									
Jacobs										
Kerr Environmental										
Kimley-Horn										
Louis Berger										
Michael Baker										
Onit RTC										
Parsons Brinckerhoff										
RK&K										
Timmons Group										
SGA										
Stantec										
Wacolet										
WPL Site										
Wikiman Request										
Public	Chris Hardt									

How Would You Invest in Hampton Roads' Future?

Group

You have ten \$10 bills (a total of \$100) to invest in strategies aimed at improving quality of life and enhancing regional competitiveness. Your task is to decide how to allocate the \$100 across the 19 strategies listed below. Each allocation must be in whole \$10 increments (e.g., \$10, \$20, etc.). Additionally, you are welcome to propose your own strategies and allocate money to those.

ECONOMY

\$ _____	E1 - Opportunity and Wage	<i>Increase Professional Opportunities and Wages</i>
\$ _____	E2 - Private Sector	<i>Grow The Private Sector of The Economy</i>
\$ _____	E3 - Innovation	<i>Expand Support for Entrepreneurship and Innovation</i>
\$ _____	E4 - Federal Spending	<i>Leverage / Expand Federal Spending In The Region</i>
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____

INFRASTRUCTURE

\$ _____	I1 - Public Transit	<i>Improve Public Transit (Bus, Rail, Trail)</i>
\$ _____	I2 - Road Network	<i>Improve Road Network (Connectivity, Safety, Accessibility)</i>
\$ _____	I3 - Energy	<i>Improve Energy Supply and Infrastructure</i>
\$ _____	I4 - Broadband	<i>Improve Broadband (High Speed Internet Accessibility)</i>
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

\$ _____	N1 - Flooding	<i>Reduce Vulnerability to Flooding (Recurrent, Stormwater, Sea Level Rise)</i>
\$ _____	N2 - Water Quality	<i>Improve Water Quality (Fishable, Swimmable, Drinkable)</i>
\$ _____	N3 - Green Spaces	<i>Preserve Green Spaces and Natural Habitat</i>
\$ _____	N4 - Public Access	<i>Increase Public Access to Land and Water</i>
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____

RESIDENT WELL-BEING

\$ _____	R1 - Health	<i>Improve Health Outcomes</i>
\$ _____	R2 - Education	<i>Improve Education System</i>
\$ _____	R3 - Social Equity	<i>Improve Social Equity and Cohesion</i>
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____

VISITOR APPEAL

\$ _____	V1 - Regional Marketing	<i>Enhanced Marketing of The Region</i>
\$ _____	V2 - Amenities	<i>Expand Portfolio of Visitor Amenities</i>
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

\$ _____	H1 - Housing	<i>Improve Housing Availability, Affordability, and Access</i>
\$ _____	H2 - Place-making	<i>Improve Placemaking (Enhanced Public Spaces, Walkable Communities, Access to Parks)</i>
\$ _____	Other Strategy:	_____

Introduction: The ranking exercise is intended to provide insight into areas of emphasis that are judged to be of the highest potential benefit in improving quality of life and enhancing the competitiveness of the Hampton Roads region. Note that at this point in the project, these options are general areas of emphasis, not fully developed strategies. As development of the Strategic Plan progresses, action plans will be developed for the top regional priorities and at that point specific strategic and policy proposals will be developed. The following categories and strategy areas were compiled based on analysis of over 50 regional and local plans and are representative of efforts of local governments and regional organizations.

ECONOMY (E)

- **[E1 - Opportunity and Wage] *Increase Professional Opportunities and Wages*:** Economic development activities that are focused on increasing the diversity of professional opportunities available in the region and increasing the wages paid.
- **[E2 - Private Sector] *Grow the Private Sector of The Economy*:** Economic development activities that emphasize growing the private sector of our regional economy rather than expanding federal spending in the region.
- **[E3 - Innovation] *Expand Support for Entrepreneurship and Innovation*:** Efforts to expand training, support, and funding for new business development on the part of residents and leveraging businesses already present in the region.
- **[E4 - Federal Spending] *Leverage / Expand Federal Spending in the Region*:** This strategy includes both lobbying efforts to increase federal spending in the region and initiatives to grow elements of the private sector that support federal initiatives.

INFRASTRUCTURE (I)

- **[I1 – Public Transit] *Improve Public Transit (Bus, Rail, Trail)*:** This strategy includes expansion of all forms of public transit to provide a more functional alternative to driving.
- **[I2 – Road Network] *Improve Road Network (Connectivity, Safety, Accessibility)*:** This strategy involves continued emphasis on expanding the road network in Hampton Roads.
- **[I3 – Energy] *Improve Energy Supply and Infrastructure*:** Hampton Roads currently faces some limitations in energy availability in the face of growing demand. This strategy emphasizes expanding the energy portfolio available in the region through expansion of the grid, increased energy imports, and increased power generation within the region.
- **[I4 – Broadband] *Improve Broadband (High Speed Internet Accessibility)*:** This strategy involves continued efforts to build and expand the broadband infrastructure in the region and capitalizing on linkage to trans-Atlantic cables.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (N)

- **[N1 – Flooding]** *Reduce Vulnerability to Flooding (Recurrent, Stormwater, Sea Level Rise)*: This strategy is focused on a range of initiatives to enhance resiliency to worsening flood threat associated with the increase in heavy rainfall events and sea level rise.
- **[N2 – Water Quality]** *Improve Water Quality (Fishable, Swimmable, Drinkable)*: This strategy includes a range of efforts to improve water quality through reduction of point source and non-point source pollution.
- **[N3 – Green Spaces]** *Preserve Green Spaces and Natural Habitat*: This strategy involves improvement of land conservation efforts to emphasize protection and restoration of areas that provide highest habitat and societal benefits.
- **[N4 – Public Access]** *Increase Public Access to Land and Water*: Expansion of public access opportunities to public lands and both tidal and non-tidal waters of Hampton Roads.

RESIDENT WELL-BEING (R)

- **[R1 – Health]** *Improve Health Outcomes*: Efforts to increase health education and treatment for the residents of Hampton Roads. This strategy includes improvements in access to and affordability of medical care across incomes.
- **[R2 – Education]** *Improve Education System*: Improvements to access, quality of instruction and infrastructure for education in the region.
- **[R3 – Social Equity]** *Improve Social Equity and Cohesion*: Expansion of opportunities for advancement across the diverse range of cultural, ethnic, and income ranges present in the region.

VISITOR APPEAL (V)

- **[V1 – Regional Marketing]** *Enhanced Marketing of The Region*: A coordinated regional effort to improve the visibility of the region. While slotted under visitor appeal, this strategy could also include marketing for economic development purposes.
- **[V2 – Amenities]** *Expand Portfolio of Visitor Amenities*: A coordinated regional effort to link, leverage and expand the range of amenities and associated support services available to visitors.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (H)

- **[H1 – Housing]** *Improve Housing Availability, Affordability, and Access*: A suite of initiatives to expand the range of housing opportunities across the region. This would include increasing housing supply and increasing accessibility through education and support of residents.
- **[H2 – Placemaking]** *Improve Placemaking (Enhanced Public Spaces, Walkable Communities, Access to Parks)*: Improvements to urban design and resident engagement to enhance the quality of communities and public spaces throughout the region. Support for improved public health and social interaction would be emphasized.