

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	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 Miliken	Angela Rivas									
Williamsburg											
Windsor											
York	Charles White	Kent Henkel									
Nansemond Indian Nation											
HRPDC	Ivy Ozmon	Whitney Katchmark	KC Filippino	Ben McFarlane	Katie Cullipher	Jill Sunderland	Eric Walberg	Emma Corbitt	Tho Tran	Sara Kidd	
HRSD	Jon Nelson										
HRTPO											
DCR											
DEG											
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											
ODJ											
UVA											
VIMS											
W&M											
Virginia Sea Grant											
VT Tech Center											
CBF	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 Guerri										
AECOM											
AES											
AMT Engineering	Ginny Shead										
Arcadis											
Bay Environmental											
Brown & Caldwell	Priyanka Mohandoss										
Cardno											
Chesapeake Conservancy											
Clark Nexsen											
Contech ES											
Dewberry											
F&R											
Geosyntec											
SKY											
Fernleaf											
Hazen & Sawyer	Mike Barbachem										
Jacobs											
Kerr Environmental											
Kimley-Horn											
Louis Berger											
Michael Baker											
Opti RTC											
Parsons Brinckerhoff											
RK&K											
Timmons Group											
SCA											
Stantech											
Woolpert											
WPL Site											
Whitman Requardt											
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

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

## INFRASTRUCTURE

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

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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

## RESIDENT WELL-BEING

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

## VISITOR APPEAL

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

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

**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.