

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Minutes of May 15, 2025 Meeting

The May 15, 2025 meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) was called to order by the Chair at 12:33 p.m. in the Regional Board Room located at 723 Woodlake Drive in Chesapeake, Virginia with the following in attendance:

Commissioners in Attendance:

Shannon Glover, Chair (PO)
Jimmy Gray, Vice-Chair (HA)
Andrew Trivette, Treasurer (WM)
Patricia King (CH)*
Christopher Price (CH)
Brian Solis (CH)
Ella Ward (CH)
Paul Kaplan (FR)
Michelle Ferebee (HA)
Carol Steele (GL)
Joel Acree (IW)
Randy Keaton (IW)
Michael Hipple (JC)
Scott Stevens (JC)
Cleon Long (NN)

Courtney Doyle (NO)*
Jeremy McGee (NO)*
David Hux (PQ)
Randy Wheeler (PQ)
Brian Thrower (SH)
Leroy Bennett (SU)
Albert Moor (SU)
Lue Ward (SU)
Melissa Rollins (SY)
Patrick Duhaney (VB)*
Bobby Dyer (VB)*
Amelia Ross-Hammond (VB)*
Douglas Pons (WM)
Mark Bellamy (YK)
Sheila Noll (YK)

Commissioners Absent:

Debbie Ritter (CH)
Rosylen Oglesby (FR)
Phillip Bazzani (GL)
Mary Bunting (HA)
Alan Archer (NN)
Phillip Jones (NN)
Kenneth Alexander (NO)
Carlos Clanton (NO)
Patrick Roberts (NO)

Steven Carter (PO)
William Gillette (SH)
Steven Bowman (SM)
Michael Stallings (SM)
Walter Hardy (SY)
Stacy Cummings (VB)
Barbara Henley (VB)
Worth Remick (VB)
Joash Schulman (VB)

Executive Director:

Robert A. Crum, Jr., Secretary

Other Participants:

Jason Mitchell (HA)
Ginger Blount-Moore (NN)
Trista Pope (NO)

**Late arrival or early departure*

Others Recorded Attending:

David Westcott (CH); Peter Shaw (Future of Hampton Roads); Drew Lumpkin (Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable); Donald Robertson (IW); Diane Kaufman (U.S. Senator Tim Kaine's Office); Brenda Roberts (Congresswoman Jen Kiggans' Office); Angela Hopkins (NN); Bryan Pennington (NO); Megan Gribble and Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky (PO); Marcellus Nixon (SNA); Andrew Damon (VB); Angela Effah-Amponsah (VDOT); Erin Carter (U.S. Senator Mark Warner's Office); and Greg Grootendorst, Kelli Arledge, Robert Cofield, Emma Corbitt, Katie Cullipher, Jeff DiScala, Rebekah Eastep, Simone Elmore, KC Filippino, Markay Hall, Tealen Hansen, Nikki Johnson, Whitney Katchmark, Sara Kidd, Matt Klepeisz, Andrew Margason, Ben McFarlane, Cynthia Mulkey, Ivy Ozmon, Pavithra Parthasarathi, John Sadler, Jill Sunderland, Tho Tran; Joe Turner, Christopher Vaigneur, and Eric Walberg (HRPDC/HRTPO Staff)

Chair Shannon Glover welcomed new Commission member Michelle Ferebee, Hampton City Council member.

Approval/Modification of Agenda

Chair Glover called for a motion to approve the May 15, 2025 agenda as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Bobby Dyer Moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ella Ward. The Motion Carried.

Public Comments

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, stated that there were no submitted public comments. He invited members of the public to address the Commission. There were no requests to provide public comment.

Chair Report

Chair Glover noted that going forward, a Chair Report would be part of the agenda to allow for reporting on items happening in the region. He stated that he attended the Mayor's Institute on City Design at Harvard University, which was a great opportunity to meet other mayors throughout the country and discuss city design and how to incorporate justice and equity in urban areas.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum referenced his monthly report in the agenda packet. He noted that HRPDC staff members would brief the Commission about recent events and invited Nikki Johnson, HRPDC Regional Economist, to address the Commission.

Ms. Johnson referenced the May edition of the Economic Monthly, which was provided to the Commission members as a handout. She stated that each issue features a headline article on a timely topic shaping the regional economy. This month's article concerns the rising concern

of stagflation, which is elevating inflation as well as a slowdown in economic growth. The remainder of the Economic Monthly provides the latest economic data relevant to the region.

The U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted in the first quarter of 2025, largely due to a surge in imports. In Hampton Roads, job and labor force growth slowed, and the unemployment rate ticked up. Ms. Johnson encouraged the Commission members to reach out if there were any questions or feedback.

The May issue of the Economics Monthly is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14643/051525-PDC-05A_Handout-Economic-Monthly-PDF?bidId=.

Mr. Crum invited Ms. Rebekah Eastep, HRPDC Senior Environmental Education Planner, to brief the Commission on the environmental education efforts.

Ms. Eastep stated that the Great American Cleanup is a program of Keep America Beautiful and is the nation's largest community cleanup program. The askHRgreen.org Recycling and Beautification (R&B) Committee hosted a two-day regionwide kickoff event to start a season of cleaning and to encourage volunteers to participate in cleanup events throughout the year. Cleanup activities include litter cleanups in land and water, tree plantings, park maintenance, and other beautification projects.

In 2025, over 3,400 volunteers improved 318 public spaces across Hampton Roads. A total of 5,200 trash bags, which is about 68 tons of litter, were collected. She stated that the cleanup events would not be possible without the support of the localities and community partners. She especially thanked the Litter and Prevention Community Coordinators of each locality, who helped with coordination and supplies.

The Great American Clean Up presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14644/051525-PDC-05B_Presentation-2025-Great-American-Cleanup-PDF?bidId=.

Mr. Crum invited Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Chief Resilience Officer, to provide an update regarding rainfall predictions and flooding.

Mr. McFarlane stated that earlier this year, the Commission voted to recommend that localities incorporate increased rainfall standards into local ordinances and policies. These standards are essential for properly designing stormwater management infrastructure. He noted that rainfall decisions are made based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Precipitation Atlases. Volume 2 of Atlas 14 covers Virginia and is considered the present-day rainfall precipitation atlas based on the assumption of a stationary climate.

NOAA is working on Atlas 15, which will replace Atlas 14. Atlas 15 Volume 1 updates the present-day rainfall amounts and accounts for observed climate trends, and Volume 2

projects future rainfall and accounts for observed climate trends and projections. However, NOAA has recently paused working on Atlas 15 Volume 2. This volume is considered critical to providing accurate and authoritative data that can be readily incorporated into our state regulatory requirements and local ordinances. Without this volume, more efforts at the local levels will be necessary.

Mr. McFarlane recommended that the HRPDC authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce, the NOAA Administrator, the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation, and state officials stating the region's support for NOAA Atlas 15 Volume 2 and the desire to see it completed on schedule.

Motion: Commissioner Paul Kaplan Moved to send a letter as recommended by Mr. McFarlane; seconded by Commissioner Ward. The Motion Carried.

Commissioner Carol Steele inquired about the original timeline for completing Atlas 15 Volume 2. Mr. McFarlane stated that the preliminary data was supposed to be released by the end of this year, and the final products were supposed to be delivered in 2026.

Mr. McFarlane's presentation and the handout are available on the HRPDC website using the following links:

- NOAA Atlas 15 Update Flyer
https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14645/051525-PDC-05C_Handout-NOAA-Atlas-15-One-Pager-PDF?bidId=
- NOAA Atlas 15 Update Presentation
https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14646/051525-PDC-05C_Presentation-NOAA-Atlas-15-Update-PDF?bidId=

Mr. Crum shared pictures of the new 757 bike rack, which was added as part of the parking lot improvement project. He thanked Mr. Thomas Shirk and his students from the College and Career Center Academy at Pruden Suffolk Public Schools for creating this art piece. Chair Glover stated that he would send a recognition to the students on behalf of the Commission.

The 757 Bike Rack slide is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

- 75 Bike Rack
https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14647/051525-PDC-05D_Presentation-757-Bike-Rack-PDF?bidId=

Community Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Crum stated that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) representative was not present and reported that the CAC had met on April 10, 2025 at Nauticus in Norfolk to discuss important regional issues.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Crum explained that the Consent Agenda included the following items for consideration and approval:

- Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2025 Commission Meeting
- Treasurer’s Report – March 2025
- Contract Renewals
- VATI Contract Extension – Spectrum/Charter
- On-Call Services Contract Extensions
- Request for Proposals: On-Call Services Contracts
- United States Geological Survey Contract for Subsidence Benchmarking
- Procurement of Services for Regional Roadway Flooding Sensor Network
- HRPDC Fiscal Year 2025 Work Program

Motion: Commissioner Michael Hipple Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Ella Ward. The Motion Carried.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget

Ms. Tealen Hansen, HRPDC/HRTPO Chief Financial Officer, briefed the Commission on the FY26 Budget.

Ms. Hansen stated that the FY26 Budget information was included in the agenda packet. The total budget for the HRPDC/HRTPO is \$35,459,765. Out of this amount, \$24,363,693 are pass-through funds which are being passed onto localities, various community organizations, and vendors. The operating budget is \$11,096,082.

The operating budget sources are state allocations and member dues. While the numbers have increased, the inflation-adjusted basis shows that the buying power has decreased. The operating expenditure budget proposed for FY26 is \$8,640,147, with the majority related to personnel costs. The proposed budget provides for a 3% general wage increase for staff, increased health insurance costs, new water supply planning grants, federal PL transportation planning funding, and federal transit (5303) funding.

Ms. Hansen stated that the federal transit funding numbers had just been released, and a budget amendment would be necessary once the federal picture settled and the impact on the organizations was clearer.

Future challenges for the organization include, among others:

- Lack of flexible funding streams
- Slower or stagnant revenue growth
- Unpredictability of federal funding
- Building infrastructure
- Technology

- Cash flow – for grants
- 50-employee threshold and additional requirements for service
- Inflation

Motion: Commissioner Amelia Ross-Hammond Moved to approve the FY26 Budget as recommended by the HRPDC/HRTPO Joint Personnel and Budget (P&B) Committee; seconded by Commissioner Kaplan. The Motion Carried.

The FY26 Budget presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link: https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14648/051525-PDC-08_Presentation-FY-2026-Budget-PDF?bidId=

Commissioner Dyer stated that the Commissioners of the City of Virginia Beach would have to leave the meeting early to attend the Annual Memorial of Fallen Officers.

**Commissioner Jeremy McGee arrived*

**Commissioners Bobby Dyer, Amelia Ross-Hammond, and Patrick Duhaney departed*

Water Supply Planning

Ms. Ivy Ozmon, HRPDC Water Resources Planner III, briefed the Commission on the water supply planning process.

The five overarching goals of water supply planning are ensuring adequate and safe drinking water, protecting all beneficial users, encouraging alternative water sources, promoting water conservation, and cross-jurisdictional water projects.

Each region submits a jointly produced water supply plan to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) every ten years. These plans are then combined in the state water resources plan, an overarching document that helps identify areas with potential water shortfalls and informs proactive water supply management actions.

The HRPDC coordinates the plan development with the localities. DEQ grants are available to support this work, and the HRPDC will receive \$23,568 in 2025. On April 2, 2025, the Water Supply Planning group held a kickoff meeting to develop the plan, which will be submitted to DEQ in October 2029.

Ms. Ozmon stated that the state regulation was amended and now requires regional preparation of the plan. The new regulation also outlines different Regional Planning Areas (RPAs) throughout the state. The Hampton Roads region was divided into the Southeast Virginia RPA and the York & James River 2 RPA. She noted that DEQ allowed for reassignments if a locality had shared water resources. New Kent's request for reassignment was approved, and New Kent will be included in the regional plan of Hampton Roads.

The Directors of Utilities meet monthly and serve as the advisory committee. Additionally, locality representatives were designated to assist in the plan development.

The following data will be requested and evaluated to develop the plan:

- Surface and groundwater supplies
- Historical withdrawals, average use, and peak use
- Inventory of all self-supplies, private, and municipal water systems
- Future demand
- Conversation programs
- Action plans for drought response
- Risk reduction

Commissioner Cleon Long asked for additional information regarding encouraging alternate water sources. Ms. Ozmon stated that not every locality has the ability to permit groundwater supplies, and many do not own any surface water. Furthermore, the state limits withdrawals. If a locality is limited in the supply of water, different strategies, such as reusing water, could be applied.

Commissioner Hipple stated that it would be most important to have an inventory of water resources. While there are rules on what can and cannot be done with water, it needs to be determined how much is available first. For example, the water that James City County uses for drinking water and the water the paper mill in West Point uses are counted the same, while there should be a differentiation. He asked if private wells were included in the data. Ms. Ozmon stated that they would be captured in the plan. The state uses models based on monitoring data to determine water supply volumes. She stated that Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer, serves on the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee. This committee is actively advocating to improve the data that goes into the model.

Commissioner Kaplan stated that some of the Commissioners were touring the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) Research facility. In the near future, 50 million gallons of cleaned and treated water will be injected into the aquifer that many localities and private users share. He stated that since the paper mill in Franklin was repurposed, it only uses 25% of the water it used to. Additionally, smaller localities often rely on groundwater only and cannot afford water filtration plants. Ms. Ozmon responded that the group is working with the Western Tidewater localities to develop a master water plan. She added that the groundwater level numbers collected during the temporary closure of the paper mill were used in conversations with DEQ to show how quickly the groundwater level rebounded and to provide a surrogate for what can be expected from the SWIFT water injections.

Mr. Crum stated that the water supply plan is a great example of regional collaboration and shows how the localities save on costs when working with the HRPDC.

The Water Supply Planning presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

[https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14649/051525-PDC-09 Presentation-Water-Supply-Planning-PDF?bidId=](https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14649/051525-PDC-09%20Presentation-Water-Supply-Planning-PDF?bidId=)

State of Emergency Management

Mr. John Sadler, HRPDC Emergency Management Administrator, briefed the Commission on current Emergency Management efforts.

He began his presentation by stating what guides Emergency Management. The first guiding document is the Region V Measure, also known as the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), is a regional assessment of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) core capabilities against predefined scenarios and identifies 33 core capabilities that one should be able to do in a single emergency event. The second guidance concerns actions that need to be completed to be eligible for federal grants, and the third guidance relates to directives from leadership, policy changes, real events, and after-action reports.

The Hampton Roads All-Hazard Advisory Committee (AHAC) is at the center of all regional emergency management. This committee consists of representatives from all 17 localities of Hampton Roads, about 40 additional members from any agency involved in Emergency Management, and two HRPDC staff members.

The AHAC Subcommittees and Working Groups include the following:

- Interoperable Communications Subcommittee
- Urban Areas Working Group Subcommittee
- Cybersecurity Subcommittee
- Operational Coordination Working Group
- Sheltering Working Group
- Projects Working Group

The AHAC recently completed a common operating picture tool, which transforms situational reports that are given to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) during a disaster into a visual graph and maps. Additionally, the crisis communication framework was completed, which provides a framework for the Public Information Officers (PIOs) to come together in a joint information center to better coordinate messages and provide accurate and timely information to the citizens. Furthermore, the AHAC completed a regional logistics framework related to resource deconfliction.

The AHAC is planning a regional exercise where the Baltimore shipwreck incident would be mirrored. Unfortunately, due to uncertainty in federal funding and the recently implemented FEMA manual review process, which stopped the reimbursement of these grants, this initiative has been paused. Another initiative that is underway is operational coordination planning. This helps to determine the triggers for when data should be entered into the tool and what information should be shared. As the initiatives mentioned are all funded through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant, the AHAC is looking at ways to sustain all the capabilities in case this funding is eliminated.

In 2018, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determined that a portion of UASI spending needed to be allocated for cybersecurity. The AHAC Cybersecurity Subcommittee was formed and completed an initial assessment to highlight the gaps that needed to be addressed. These gaps identified included policies and procedures, election delineation, cyberattack response plan, business impact analysis, data classification, IT disaster recovery plan, and penetration testing.

The Interoperable Communications Subcommittee completed an Overlay Regional Interoperability Network (ORION) assessment, which is a separate radio system shared by the region to lay on top of the local emergency radio systems. Equipment associated with these networks needs to be constantly updated and replaced.

Mr. Sadler emphasized that the presentation does not comprehensively describe all the emergency management work done in the region and that the first responders and emergency managers are working tirelessly on these and other initiatives.

Commissioner Carol Steele shared that the number of cyberattacks on local governments in Virginia has increased. She noted that, in her experience, these attacks were not handled by the Emergency Management departments.

Commissioner Joel Acree noted that there would be a Virginia Operations Plan Exercise (VOPEX) in the summer. He asked how the challenges associated with budget cuts or FEMA modifications that may surround those exercises are being handled. Mr. Sadler stated that this specific exercise is VDEM-driven, and that he was unaware of the federal funding impact. Commissioner Acree stated that the local Emergency Managers are struggling with the unknowns as well.

Mr. Sadler's presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link: <https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14650/051525-PDC-10 Presentation-Emergency-Management-Update-PDF?bidId=>

**Commissioner Courtney Doyle departed*

Regional Housing Assessment Update

M. Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC Deputy Executive Director, briefed the Commission on the Regional Housing Assessment Update.

The Regional Housing Assessment Working Group is comprised of twelve Commission members. Representatives of the Federal Delegation, community partners, the military, economic development, and state and local governments are also involved.

Mr. Grootendorst stated that housing is a regional issue, especially because many people in Hampton Roads work in a different jurisdiction from where they live. He also noted that housing intersects with many different things, such as health, transportation, culture, economic development, employment, poverty/wealth, quality of life, education, and safety/well-being.

The following components were determined to be included in the housing assessment:

- Analysis of current policies, strategies, and conditions
- Gap analysis of current programs and services
- Best practices and toolkits
- Housing strategies that incorporate transportation and economic development
- Impact of defense/military presence on housing

Mr. Grootendorst emphasized that the assessment is not a collection of locality plans, directives for localities or non-profits, or a static document.

The desired outcomes of the assessment are as follows:

- Identification of greatest needs
- Improved access to resources
- Sharing of best practices, models, and toolkits
- Ability to better leverage state and federal resources
- Integration between housing, transportation, and economic development
- Increased quality of life for Hampton Roads residents
- Housing for all

The program is currently in the final review for the Virginia Housing Market Analysis Grant. A draft RFP has been submitted to Virginia Housing for review and approval. A follow-up meeting with the local funding partner for support will be held, and staff will continue to compile local studies and data to assist with the assessment. The Regional Housing Assessment Working Group will reconvene once funding is awarded.

Mr. Grootendorst stated that the Regional Housing Assessment Working Group is looking for new members to fill vacant positions. Chair Glover stated that he would be submitting a name to fill the vacant spot for Portsmouth.

The Regional Housing Assessment Update presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

<https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14651/051525-PDC-11 Presentation-Regional-Housing-Assessment-Update-PDF?bidId=>

**Commissioner Patricia King departed*

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Crum noted that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025. There is no HRPDC meeting scheduled for June 2025.

Mr. Crum introduced Mr. Marcellus Nixon, SNA Executive Director. He encouraged the Commissioners to contact Mr. Nixon if they are interested in fiber or its connection to economic development.

Commissioner Kaplan thanked the Commissioners from Isle of Wight and their staff for their support to Franklin's Planning and Community Development department as they were experiencing vacancies, and for helping to keep up with permits and inspections.

Advisory Committee Minutes

Mr. Crum stated that links to HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting minutes approved since the last Commission meeting were provided in the agenda packet for Commission member information.

Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

Mr. Crum indicated that summaries of HRPDC Technical Committee meetings held since the last Commission meeting were included in the agenda for Commission member information.

For Your Information

Mr. Crum referenced the correspondence of interest included in the agenda packet for Commission member information.

Old/New Business

Chair Glover stated that Ms. Kelli Arledge would send an email on behalf of the HRPDC/HRTPO Joint P&B Committee to request feedback in evaluating the Executive Director's performance during the past year.

There was no other old or new business.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.



Shannon E. Glover
Chair



Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/ Secretary