

AGENDA NOTE HRPDC – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – FY 2012 GRANTS

SUBJECT:

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality manages the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. PDCs are eligible for formula grants to support technical assistance programs and for competitive grants for projects addressing a high priority issue, as determined by the CZM Program.

BACKGROUND:

In October 1986, Virginia received its first grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Since that time, the HRPDC and its predecessors have received over \$2,400,000 through this program to provide technical assistance on environmental issues to the local governments and to complete a variety of technical studies.

The process for distributing funds for FY 2012 is now underway. Under the formula grants for PDCs, the HRPDC is eligible to receive \$60,000 in funding to support the ongoing Technical Assistance Program. The required match is \$60,000. This grant proposal will be submitted to DEQ on March 15, 2011. Additionally, it will be included in the UPWP and Budget for FY 2012.

The process is also underway for distributing funds for the FY2012 CZM 309 Strategy. CZM 309 funds are match free and must propose creation of enforceable polices in any of nine identified areas: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean resources, energy and government facility siting and aquaculture. The HRPDC 309 proposal focuses on Cumulative and Secondary Impacts and was included in the state's proposed Section 309 Strategy. It will evaluate on a pilot basis the relationship between local plans and regulations and water quality. The grant proposal will be submitted to DEQ by April 1, 2011 and will be included in the UPWP and Budget for FY2012.

DEQ had also announced the availability of FY2012 CZM Program focal area funds, which are competitive, must be matched 1:1 by nonfederal fund sources, & areas of study must include one of the following categories: Water Quality, Coastal Resiliency, Working Waterfronts, & Public Access. The HRPDC staff was developing a focal area grant proposal to address Coastal Resiliency and Water Quality issues. On March 7, 2011, DEQ announced that the RFP for these projects had been suspended due to reductions in available federal grant funds and the raise granted to state employees through the FY 2012 state budget.

Matching funds to support these projects are available in the draft FY 2012 Budget. The proposal concepts were reviewed with the Joint Environmental Committee at its meeting on March 3, 2011.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit grant proposals to the DEQ to support the CZM Technical Assistance Program, CZM Focal Area grant, & CZM 309 Strategy grant as well as to accept grant offers when they are made.