

**THE DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HRPDC COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMITTEE
June 23, 2017**

1. Summary of the March 24, 2017 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Coastal Resiliency Committee

The summary of the March 24, 2017 meeting of the Hampton Roads Coastal Resiliency Committee was approved as distributed. The attendance record was adjusted to reflect the attendance of Mr. Donald Goodwin, Franklin, and Ms. Beth Lewis, Southampton County.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Update on Discussions with FEMA Region III Regarding Requirements for Permitting Development in Special Flood Hazards Areas

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC, reported to the Committee common concerns regarding the FEMA Policy: Guidance for Participating Communities on Satisfying National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Floodplain Development Permit Requirements. The public comment period for this document is open until August 23, 2017. The Committee will submit a list of comments for approval by the HRPDC at the July meeting. The current proposed comment topics include:

- (1) Current definition of development is too broad and should be revised to address only significant activities regarding flood risk or insurance liabilities.
- (2) Language concerning permitting process is inconsistent.
- (3) Requirements should be amended to apply to riverine situations.
- (4) Model ordinances or policies should be provided for permitting and exempting classes of activities.

Mr. Steve Shapiro of Hampton updated the Committee on the city's FEMA Review, Assess, and Document (RAD) process. Hampton has determined a class of development activities that are considered compliant with the FEMA permit requirement. However, if planned development activities exceed 40% of the assessed value of a house, or the property is in a floodway, the property owner must contact the local government. This compliant class of activities will be adopted by reference in the city's ordinance. Hampton's list of compliant development activities will be distributed to the Committee to serve as a template for other localities.

4. Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the HRPDC's presentation on June 20, 2017, to the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding in Richmond, Virginia. The HRPDC recommended that the Joint Subcommittee provide more distinct guidelines regarding the annual capacity of the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency (CCRFR). Ms. Emily Steinhilber, Old Dominion University, encouraged localities to continue submitting inquiries for support and collaboration with the CCRFR.

Ms. Andria McClellan, Norfolk City Council, proposed the Committee establish a lobby day regarding coastal resilience in Hampton Roads. The Committee discussed focusing lobbying efforts on flooding threats to national security and infrastructure, as well as supporting the establishment on a cabinet level position on resiliency. The HRPDC will assist in the development of draft discussion points for the lobby day.

5. Storm Surge Modeling and Water Level Sensors

Ms. Katchmark presented a proposal to the Committee to expand the existing water level sensor network in Hampton Roads. Dr. Derek Loftis, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), briefed the Committee on his selection process for the 22 proposed water level sensor installment sites. Under the current StormSense project, Newport News, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach own and maintain the water level sensors, and have the option to share collected data with VIMS.

Mr. Eric Martin of Chesapeake explained the city developed a contract with USGS to install additional water level sensors. USGS will operate and maintain the sensors, and the data will be published nationally online. Mr. Greg Johnson of Virginia Beach reported the city is also collaborating with USGS, and in addition, deploying temporary gauges to vulnerable areas. The temporary gauge data is not currently publicly accessible.

Mr. Sridhar Katragadda of Virginia Beach explained to the Committee that through the Amazon cloud innovation challenge award, the city is planning to build a publicly accessible database that aggregates USGS, NOAA, and locality sensor data. An interactive map of the current location of gauge sites will soon be released.

The Committee expressed interest in a workshop on local efforts regarding water level sensors. For the workshop, the Committee suggested providing an overview of predictive technology, a comparison of hydrodynamic models, and suggestions for

implementing early warning and alert messaging systems. Regarding installation of additional sensors, the localities will determine if a regional grant with VIMS or independent locality efforts is preferred.

6. Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS)

Mr. McFarlane briefed the Committee on the results of stakeholder interviews regarding the Norfolk-Virginia Beach JLUS. The initial findings highlighted the importance of:

- (1) Addressing flooding impacts on access to Navy installations.
- (2) Improving communication of land use proposals between cities and installations.
- (3) Exploring opportunities to expand transit access to Naval Station Norfolk and NSA Hampton Roads.
- (4) Collaboration between cities and Navy installations on stormwater and flood mitigation efforts

A working group will be established to determine sea level rise scenarios and planning targets for the region. The working group's recommendations will be presented to the Committee.

7. Coastal Hazards Grant Update

Mr. McFarlane updated the committee on the coastal hazards project funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. Following a workshop in May for local government staff and other interested groups, Mr. McFarlane reported significant progress has been made throughout Coastal Virginia regarding evaluating vulnerability to coastal hazards. Examples of goals to address sea level rise were compiled from locality comprehensive plans and will be included in the final report.

A review of locality participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) indicated that participation in the program is easier for riverine communities and challenging for coastal urban communities. Thus although CRS provides benefits, other incentives for resilient floodplain management should be explored.

Mr. McFarlane highlighted Hampton, Virginia, as an example of local improvements to floodplain management. Hampton has expanded their floodplain management to include the 0.2% annual chance of flooding, which roughly encompasses the area predicted to be affected by 7ft sea level rise. Hampton has also increased freeboard to 3ft in their zoning ordinance.

In addition to Virginia management efforts, Mr. McFarlane reviewed the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact to provide an additional example of a regional approach to addressing sea level rise. The four participating Florida counties developed a statement of principles and commitment to action regarding climate change. The Regional Climate Action Plan provides 110 specific planning recommendations, including actions such as developing sea level rise scenario maps, revising building codes, and updating floodplain maps to include sea level rise scenarios.

The final deliverables for the HRPDC coastal hazards project will be distributed for review in July and include:

- (1) Assessment of Coastal Hazards in Current Local Plans and Policies in Virginia
- (2) Coastal Hazards Planning Case Study Identification and Analysis
- (3) Assessment of Best Practices for Addressing Coastal Hazards in Local Policies
- (4) Education and Training on Best Practices Addressing Coastal Hazards

Any localities interested in hosting a workshop should contact Mr. McFarlane. The opportunity also exists for development of a clearinghouse for localities to use during planning.

8. Update on Federal and State Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding

Mr. McFarlane reported the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is up for reauthorization this year and includes private flood insurance. A detailed review of this topic will be provided in September.

Mr. Brian Lewis briefed the Committee on a recent tour of NASA Langley Research Center's innovative green infrastructure for stormwater management. He recommended contacting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation if interested in organizing an additional tour.

9. Updates on PDC and Local Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding

Mr. Eric Martin from Chesapeake announced the MOA with HRSD regarding nutrient credits will be voted upon by City Council. Ms. Meg Pittenger of Portsmouth reported on plans to install 6 water level sensors in the downtown area.

10. Other Matters

The next meeting of the Coastal Resiliency Committee will be held in September 2017.