Coastal Barrier Resources System Update

HRPDC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 7, 2019
Intro to the CBRA

In 1982, the U.S. Congress passed the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to remove federal incentives to the development of areas that serve as barriers to coastal storms and habitat for aquatic species.

The CBRA resulted in the creation of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), which includes relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, U.S. Virginia Islands, and Puerto Rico coasts.

Current CBRS Units (USFWS)
Intro to the CBRA

The CBRA does not prevent property owners from developing or utilizing coastal areas, but does prohibit most federal funding and financial assistance:

- Federal flood insurance for new construction or substantially improved structures
- Subsidies for road construction, channel dredging, and other coastal engineering projects
- Construction or purchase of any structure, appurtenance, facility, or related infrastructure
- Construction or purchase of any road, airport, boat landing facility, or other facility on, or bridge or causeway to, any System unit
- Carrying out of any project to prevent the erosion of, or to otherwise stabilize, any inlet, shoreline, or inshore area

Exempted activities include emergency assistance, military activities essential to national security, exploration and extraction of energy resources, and maintenance of existing federal navigational channels

The CBRA does not prohibit private, local, or state funding of projects
Intro to the CBRA

The CBRS is divided into System Units and Otherwise Protected Areas (OPAs)

- **System Units** were relatively undeveloped at the time of their designation within the CBRS and consist of mostly privately owned areas
  - Boundaries generally follow geomorphic, development, or cultural features
  - CBRS currently includes 585 System Units covering 1.4 million acres of land and associated aquatic habitat
  - In Virginia, there are 51 System Units covering X acres

- **OPAs** are generally conservation or recreation areas such as wildlife refuges, state and national parks, and local and private conservation areas
  - Boundaries coincide with the boundary of the included feature
  - Only prohibition in OPAs is federal flood insurance
  - CBRS currently includes 277 OPAs covering 2.1 million acres
  - Virginia has 13 OPAs covering X acres
Changes to the CBRS

Following Hurricane Sandy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began revising system boundaries in nine states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (Long Island), Rhode Island, and Virginia

- USFWS is required by the 2006 reauthorization of the CBRA to modernize boundaries for the entire CBRS
- Proposed revisions based on objective mapping criteria
  - Fix technical errors
  - Add qualifying areas

Batch 2 includes Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia
The CBRS in Hampton Roads

5 Hampton Roads localities have CBRS System Units or OPAs

| Gloucester County | VA-57 (Ware Neck)  
|                  | VA-58 (Severn River)  
|                  | **VA-66 (Lone Point)***  
|                  | **VA-67 (Oldhouse Creek)***  
| Hampton          | VA-60 (Long Creek)  
|                  | VA-60P (Long Creek)  
| Poquoson         | VA-59P (Plum Tree Island)  
| Virginia Beach   | VA-61P (Cape Henry)  
|                  | VA-62P (Back Bay)  
| York County      | **VA-68 (Bay Tree Beach)***  
|                  | **VA-68P (Bay Tree Beach)***  

* New unit
The CBRS in Hampton Roads

Existing and Proposed CBRS Units (USFWS)
https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/Mapper.html
Gloucester County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current Acres</th>
<th>Proposed Acres</th>
<th>Current Structures</th>
<th>Proposed Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA-57</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-58</td>
<td>3,519</td>
<td>4,990</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-66*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-67*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* New unit
## Hampton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current Acres</th>
<th>Proposed Acres</th>
<th>Current Structures</th>
<th>Proposed Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA-60P</td>
<td>941</td>
<td>1,172</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-60</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Poquoson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current Acres</th>
<th>Proposed Acres</th>
<th>Current Structures</th>
<th>Proposed Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA-59P</td>
<td>3,656</td>
<td>6,548</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Virginia Beach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current Acres</th>
<th>Proposed Acres</th>
<th>Current Structures</th>
<th>Proposed Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA-61P</td>
<td>3,253</td>
<td>3,192</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-62P</td>
<td>18,788</td>
<td>20,947</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Current Acres</td>
<td>Proposed Acres</td>
<td>Current Structures</td>
<td>Proposed Structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-68P*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-68*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,515</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* New unit
Next Steps

A series of virtual public meetings was originally scheduled for late January – cancelled due to the government shutdown

A recorded presentation will be made available on the USFWS website in mid-February

More information is online at https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/Hurricane-Sandy-Project-Batch-2.html. Proposed changes can be viewed online at https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/Mapper.html.

The public comment period for the proposed changes ends on April 17, 2019

Related: Starting in mid-February, CBRS boundaries will no longer be included on Flood Insurance Rate Maps issued by FEMA. Up-to-date boundaries will be available online.