

**Action Summary**  
**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting**  
**July 15, 2021**

The Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

**Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order by HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan at 12:33 p.m.*

**Announcements**

*Chair McClellan announced the appointment of Norfolk Councilwoman Danica Royster and invited members attending in person for the first time to introduce themselves. Chair McClellan welcomed Gloucester Acting County Administrator Carol Steele, Suffolk City Manager Al Moor, and James City Deputy County Administrator Brad Rinehimer.*

**Approval/Modification of Agenda [Action Requested]**

*The Commission unanimously approved the agenda as presented.*

**Submitted Public Comments**

*There were no submitted comments.*

**Public Comment Period**

*There were no public comments.*

**Executive Director's Report**

*Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC Executive Director, referenced his monthly report and highlighted the following items:*

- *A one-pager from a regional non-profit named RISE Resilience Innovations. RISE is an entity that was formed out of the City of Norfolk's National Disaster Resiliency Competition federal grant award, and its goal is to resource companies to develop technologies and products that address sea level rise and resiliency in Hampton Roads.*
- *The GetFloodFluent.org regional outreach campaign, spearheaded by the HRPDC, encourages area residents to purchase flood insurance to protect themselves as flood risks continue to grow. The website features a rate estimating Flood Risk Calculator and includes extensive media resources for local governments and others, including a campaign toolkit of social media-ready posts, testimonial videos, audio interviews, and pre-made printed materials.*
- *The HRPDC and HRTPO were invited to attend a Hampton Roads Caucus Meeting in the City of Hampton on July 21, 2021. Mr. Crum and HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan were scheduled to present regional legislative priorities and Mr. Crum, HRTPO Chair Donnie Tuck, and HRTAC Executive Director Kevin Page were scheduled to provide an update on regional transportation projects.*
- *The HRPDC was scheduled to host a Regional Resiliency Roundtable with Senator Warner in the new 757 Room on Friday, July 23, 2021.*
- *Specific examples of some of the recent HRPDC staff efforts to publicize regional messaging throughout the community.*

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report**

*Ms. Terry Danaher, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), provided a brief report of the CAC's activities, noting that the CAC membership feels strongly about providing members the option and flexibility to participate remotely. She requested that the Commission consider submitting a formal request to the*

*Commonwealth of Virginia that the current laws and FOIA requirements are changed to allow organizations the option to convene electronically.*

*Due to schedule constraints, Chair McClellan stated that the Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund – Legislative Recommendation Agenda Item would be heard next.*

### **Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund – Legislative Recommendation [Action Requested]**

*Chair McClellan welcomed Mr. Doug Smith, Hampton Roads Alliance President and CEO, to brief the Commission on the proposed Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund.*

*Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project will allow Virginia to deliver clean and reliable energy, jobs, and economic growth to Hampton Roads and the entire state. The offshore wind (OSW) initiative and the growing OSW industry in the eastern United States create an opportunity for Hampton Roads to support this emerging industry. Hampton Roads' best-in-class port, central location, highly-skilled workforce, and supportive businesses provide our region the opportunity to become a hub that can serve the industry as a whole as it grows on the East Coast.*

*The Hampton Roads Alliance commissioned a study of the existing OSW Supply Chain to determine its readiness to support this growing industry. This analysis found that the qualification process required by the industry for companies seeking to enter this field can be expensive and time-consuming. The duration of time between when investment companies enter the industry and when they start receiving revenue can be outside of standard business practices. Many companies believe that entering into this process can carry too much financial risk, especially given the lack of experience and familiarity with a developing industry.*

*The HRPDC Executive Director and the President and CEO of the Hampton Roads Alliance were proposing that the HRPDC request the Virginia General Assembly to consider the creation of a \$30 million Economic Development fund to grow the adjacent OSW Supply Chain and develop an OSW Workforce Pipeline Project.*

*This fund would grow the adjacent OSW Supply Chain by assisting Hampton Roads companies to participate by offsetting some of the company costs to support this emerging industry. Grants would be awarded for a minimum of \$20,000 with a maximum of \$250,000 for up to five years to ensure companies can be brought into the industry as it matures with new project approvals. Grant funds would be used by approved companies for worker training/certification, new product development or repositioning, equipment upgrades, and implementing new operational processes to support OSW. Grants should not be used for facility construction, market research, industry consulting, or investment in unrelated products and services.*

*Hampton Roads is well poised to lead OSW development for the entire mid-Atlantic region; however, this cannot be achieved without a skilled workforce. The OSW Workforce Pipeline Project goal would be to produce at least 1,000 new OSW professionals by 2025. Grant funds could be used to provide community outreach and supportive services to cultivate a skilled workforce, particularly one comprised of under-resourced and under-represented populations. Community Navigators, comprised of 30 individuals from the targeted populations across the region, would be provided comprehensive training regarding the OSW industry in Hampton Roads, employed part-time for 29 hours per week at a rate of \$18 per hour, and perform various job duties, including community outreach, peer advising, service referrals, and related event planning.*

*The proposed fund received unanimous support from the HRPDC Regional Legislative Committee at its June 30 meeting and also received support at the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Committee meeting on July 7. The General Assembly will reconvene for a special session on August 2, which presents an opportunity for regional support of this proposed fund through the action of the Commission.*

*The Commission unanimously took action to request that the Virginia General Assembly create an Offshore Wind Supply Chain Fund during its upcoming special session.*

## **Appointment of Nominating Committee**

*Chair McClellan requested that the following Commissioners serve on the HRPDC Nominating Committee and provide a report to the Commission at its October meeting:*

*Chesapeake – Ella Ward  
Franklin – Frank Rabil  
Gloucester – Phillip Bazzani  
Hampton – Donnie Tuck  
Isle of Wight – Joel Acree  
James City – Jim Icenhour  
Newport News – David Jenkins  
Norfolk – Andria McClellan  
Poquoson – Gordon Helsel*

*Portsmouth – Shannon Glover  
Smithfield – Carter Williams  
Southampton – William Gillette  
Suffolk – Leroy Bennett  
Surry – Robert Elliott  
Virginia Beach – Louis Jones  
Williamsburg – Doug Pons  
York – Sheila Noll*

## **Consent Agenda [Action Requested]**

*Chair McClellan referenced the Consent Agenda, which included the following items for consideration and approval:*

- *Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2021 Commission Meeting*
- *Public Comments – May 20, 2021 Commission Meeting*
- *Treasurer’s Report – April 2021*
- *Treasurer’s Report – May 2021*
- *Executive Director’s Contract*
- *Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment #3*
- *Consultant Services Contract – Special Legal Consultant on Stormwater Matters*
- *Fiscal Year 2022 Hampton Roads Regional Meeting Schedule*
- *Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Contract*
- *Rural Transportation Planning Task*

*The Commission unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as presented.*

## **Regional Legislative Committee Update**

*Mr. Crum reported that for the past five years, the HRPDC and HRTPO have adopted a regional legislative agenda to convey to the General Assembly and Federal Delegation issues of regional significance that should be addressed on behalf of Hampton Roads. This regional legislative agenda is typically approved by the Commission and HRTPO Board at their October/November meetings to allow these regional legislative priorities to be shared with Hampton Roads Caucus members before the start of the General Assembly session in January.*

*This year, a Joint HRPDC and HRTPO Regional Legislative Committee was formed to develop a recommendation for a regional legislative agenda to be considered by the Commission and HRTPO Board. The membership of this Hampton Roads Legislative Committee is as follows:*

- *Andria McClellan, Norfolk*                      *HRPDC Chair*
- *Mayor Donnie Tuck, Hampton*              *HRTPO Chair*
- *David H. Jenkins, Newport News*            *HRPDC Vice-Chair*
- *Mayor Rick West, Chesapeake*              *HRTPO Vice-Chair*
- *Mary Bunting, Hampton*                      *CAO Committee Chair*
- *Mike Johnson, Southampton County*        *CAO Committee Vice-Chair*

*The Regional Legislative Committee held its first meeting on June 30. At this meeting, the Committee reviewed last year’s regional legislative agenda and related actions by the Virginia General Assembly. The Committee*

also began to identify potential topics that could be regional legislative agenda items to be considered by the Commission and HRTPO Board. The Committee will continue to meet between now and the fall meetings of the HRPDC and HRTPO to prepare recommendations for this year's regional legislative priorities. Mr. Crum presented the following potential 2022 regional legislative priorities for Commission consideration:

- *Create the Commonwealth Flooding Board*
- *Offshore Wind*
- *Broadband*
- *Economic Development Site Readiness*
- *Affordable Housing*
- *Urban Areas Security Initiative*
- *Complete the I-64 Gap Between Hampton Roads and Richmond*
- *Elizabeth River Crossings Toll Agreement*
- *Improved Passenger Rail Service*
- *Alternative funding source for transportation – fuels tax insufficient*
- *Support funding for School Construction and Modernization*
- *Public Safety – address Virginia Code language on blight, repetitive criminal activity*

*Additional suggestions for consideration were as follows:*

- *Optional electronic participation in public meetings*
- *Address Public Health District deficiencies*
  - *Increase Public Health Department Funding*
  - *Reconsider the consolidation of Public Health Districts*
  - *Reconsider city/county-run health districts rather than state-run health districts*
  - *Commission a study of Public Health Districts' structure, resources, and lessons learned from the pandemic*
- *Enhance traditional land use processes to improve a locality's ability to quickly react to problem short-term rental (STR) properties and allow localities to implement civil penalties*
- *Increase funding for school construction*
- *Implement municipal funding to address electric and autonomous vehicle infrastructure*

*The Committee will continue to meet to prepare recommendations for this year's regional legislative priorities.*

### **Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding [Action Requested]**

*Mr. Benjamin J. McFalane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, provided an overview of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project and Collaborative.*

*The Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative is a proposed partnership between three counties (Charles City, James City, and New Kent), three tribal nations (Chickahominy Tribe, Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, and Pamunkey Indian Tribe), PlanRVA, and the HRPDC. The partnership is an outcome of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project, which is a five-year project led by PlanRVA and funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The overall goal of the project is to identify and recommend policies and other actions to promote the economic development of the watershed while protecting its significant natural resources. The proposed Collaborative will provide a forum for the partners to work together to identify and establish a shared vision for the watershed that builds on the work done over the last five years.*

*A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been drafted to formalize the partnership and to facilitate enhanced cooperative and collaborative efforts to increase sustainable ecological and economic activity in the Lower Chickahominy Watershed. Following the establishment of the MOU, representatives from each*

*signatory and state, federal, and other partners, will meet to identify the next steps for the collaborative that builds on the priorities identified throughout the five-year effort, which include:*

- *Improving physical recreational infrastructure;*
- *Supporting sustainable economic development;*
- *Enhancing river advocacy, education, and marketing;*
- *Promoting land conservation and landowner education;*
- *Ensuring protection of sites and traditions that are sacred and historic to the tribes; and*
- *Increasing ecological restoration and stewardship.*

*Execution of this MOU by the HRPDC is authorized by §15.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia, which provides that any two or more political subdivisions may enter into agreements with one another for a joint exercise of any power, privilege, or authority, and §15.2-4205, which enables Planning District Commissions to enter into contracts or agreements, as they may determine, which are necessary or incidental to the performance of their duties and to the execution of those powers that each may be enabled to exercise.*

*The Commission unanimously took action to authorize the HRPDC Executive Director to sign the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding.*

### **Three-Month Tentative Schedule**

*This item was for informational purposes.*

### **Advisory Committee Minutes**

*This item was for informational purposes.*

### **Technical Committee Summaries**

*This item was for informational purposes.*

### **For Your Information**

*This item was for informational purposes.*

### **Old/New Business**

*There was no old/new business.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**