

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #4: DUTCH DIALOGUES

SUBJECT:

The “Dutch Dialogues” are collaborative efforts of Dutch technical experts, the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, D.C., local and state governments and other stakeholders. The HRPDC staff has been working with Mr. Dale Morris, Senior Economist at the Netherlands Embassy, to assess the possibility of establishing a similar effort in Hampton Roads.

BACKGROUND:

The first Dutch Dialogues were held in New Orleans, Louisiana, and were the result of a series of interactions between Dutch technical experts, New Orleans designers, the Dutch Embassy, and the American Planning Association. The goal of this effort was to improve the region’s approach to water management through learning about the Dutch perspective on “living with water.” The first event was held in March 2008 and was followed by a second event in October 2008. Additional efforts have been held in other cities around the world. Attendees have included architects, landscape architects, engineers, urban designers and planners, geologists, hydrologists, and others.

The HRPDC staff was contacted by Mr. Tom McNeilan, a local consultant, and Mr. Ron Williams, Norfolk Assistant City Manager, to discuss the possibility of holding a regional “Dutch Dialogues” workshop in Hampton Roads. The HRPDC staff talked and met with Mr. Dale Morris, Senior Economist at the Netherlands Embassy, to estimate the costs of holding the event and the possible deliverables. Based on these discussions, the HRPDC staff has been working with Mr. Morris and Mr. McNeilan to set up a series of stakeholder interviews that will identify critical areas, needs, and interests. Preliminarily, the HRPDC staff has identified recurrent flooding, sea level rise, groundwater, and stormwater management as primary focus areas for an integrated water resources planning effort.

The first phase of the Dutch Dialogues is a series of stakeholder interviews. Once these interviews are complete, a decision will be made to continue or not with a workshop or series of workshops, tentatively scheduled for October 2014. The total estimated cost for hosting the workshop is approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000, some of which would be provided the Dutch Embassy.

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, will brief the Commission on this topic.

NOTE: This item is for informational purposes only.