

**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Chief Administrative Officers Meeting
Summary Minutes of July 6, 2022**

The Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee meeting was called to order at 11:44 a.m. by Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director, at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Education Center Classrooms D and E located at 200 Water Street Yorktown, VA 23690. Mr. Neil Morgan, York County Administrator, provided an overview of the state-owned museum. Mr. Crum noted that Ms. Mary Bunting, Hampton City Manager and Chair of the CAO Committee, will not be able to join and asked him to preside over the meeting.

The following members of the CAO Committee were in attendance:

Cynthia Rohlf	Newport News
Brian DeProfio for Mary Bunting	Hampton
Amanda Jarratt	Franklin
Randy Keaton	Isle of Wight County
Al Moor	Suffolk
Neil Morgan	York County
William Saunders	Town of Windsor
Carol Steele	Gloucester County
Randy Wheeler	Poquoson
Michael Stallings	Smithfield
Brian Thrower	Southampton County
Tonya Chapman	Portsmouth
Chip Filer	Norfolk
Scott Stevens	James City County

Others in Attendance:

Robert Crum, HRPDC/HRTPO
Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC
Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC
John Harbin, HRPDC
John Sadler, HRPDC
Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth Resident
Drew Lumpkin, Senator Warner's Office
Diane Kaufman, Senator Kaine's Office
Michelle Gowdy, Virginia Municipal League
Jay Bernas, HRSD
Terry Hall, York County
Rae Fleming, York County
Heather Schott, York County
Michael Barakey, Suffolk
Robb Braidwood, City of Chesapeake

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crum asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The Summary Minutes from the May 4, 2022 CAO Committee meeting were attached to the agenda for the Committee's consideration and approval. Mr. Randy Keaton from Isle of Wight County made a motion to approve the Summary Minutes as presented. A second was provided by Mr. Randy Wheeler from Poquoson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Members of the public were provided an opportunity to address the CAO Committee. There were no in-person requests to comment.

Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) – Introduction of HRSD General Manager Jay Bernas

Mr. Jay Bernas of HRSD provided a brief overview of his tenure with the organization beginning in 2005. He served as Chief Financial Officer for six years before being promoted to General Manager in 2022. In his new role, he hopes to foster regional relationships to pursue projects that benefit public health and the environment.

Hampton Roads Interoperability System – presented by members of the All Hazards Advisory Committee

Following an introduction by Mr. Crum, Mr. Terry Hall of York County, representing the Regional Preparedness Advisory Committee for Interoperability (RPAC-I) of the All Hazards Advisory Committee (AHAC), briefed the CAO Committee on a proposed regional interoperable communications system. In 2005, the Hampton Roads region was at the forefront of addressing a critical need of first responders when the region advanced plans to implement the Overlay Regional InterOperability Network (ORION). ORION is a public safety voice communication overlay system funded primarily by the Homeland Security Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program.

In 2019, an operational and engineering analysis, based on information provided by stakeholders, identified a series of challenges with the ORION system, including:

- Need for additional capacity – ORION is a five-channel system
- Need for improved coverage – especially in areas more distant from the radio towers
- Need portable coverage – portable radios are out of range
- Need to own frequencies – a longstanding problem with frequencies on loan to the region from the state

- Need sustainable financial model – originally funded their own equipment
- Need reliable maintenance by all localities – one jurisdiction can make a decision that negatively impacts another jurisdiction
- Need structured governance – no one has done anything wrong with ORION, 66% of ORION usage is by the state (port authority)
- Need user training – to publicize how to respond to events

As a follow-up to this analysis, stakeholder interviews were conducted to develop a strategic plan in 2021 that aligned with the DHS National Emergency Communications Plan and sets an interoperability course and measures of success for the region. While the ORION command and control interoperability solution has served the Hampton Roads region well for over 16 years, the contractor that conducted the studies recommended a new system to better meet the interoperable communications needs of the region. This system, the Hampton Roads Integrated Regional Interoperable System (HR-IRIS), leverages existing locality infrastructure to connect all localities in Hampton Roads to provide seamless interoperability. Non-municipal users were also considered in the design of HR-IRIS and could help fund its implementation. However, a lack of needed funding and disagreement on the need to replace ORION served as a roadblock to the implementation of HR-IRIS. As a result, the AHAC voted (8 in favor, 2 against) to seek direction from the CAO Committee.

After the presentation, several CAOs expressed support of or objection to the HR-IRIS system for various reasons. The overall sentiment, however, was the need for additional information on both the preexisting ORION system and the HR-IRIS system and if both systems could be utilized.

Facing a December 2022 deadline, Mr. Hall asked the CAOs for direction on the use of \$250,000 in UASI grant funds allocated to York County. Based on the discussion and recommendations from Mr. Hall, the CAOs directed the RPAC-I to use these funds to:

1. Evaluate the allocation of newly obtained frequencies.
2. Provide an updated snapshot of the current ORION system.
3. Provide an estimate to refresh the ORION system (ORION 2.0).
4. Determine if a hybrid solution of the two systems is possible and recommended.

Update/Information Sharing on Regional Violence Prevention

Mr. Crum provided an update on regional violence prevention efforts. The HRPDC held two roundtable meetings that were well attended by mayors, chief administrative officers, key stakeholders, and the public. As part of this effort, a subgroup of CAOs met to develop a proposed structure for regional information sharing and collaboration. One product of these meetings is a “fishbone” chart that identifies the various root causes of violence and demonstrates the need and opportunities to address violence holistically.

Dr. Chip Filer from Norfolk explained that addressing violence will require more than government interventions and involves collaboration with community partners, educators,

businesses, non-profits, and other stakeholders. Other outcomes of regional discussions among CAOs included shared procurement of public safety equipment that could offer significant cost savings to participating localities and a regional crime dashboard to better understand crime data and justify any future actions and strategies. A meeting on the crime dashboard with locality representatives is planned for later in July.

Regional/Local Legislative Items

Mr. Crum explained that the 2023 General Assembly will be starting in less than six months and asked the localities for their top issues to be considered for legislative priorities.

Mr. Chris Price from Chesapeake suggested taxation of vaping products and expanding public safety personnel's ability to make traffic stops.

Ms. Tonya Chapman from Portsmouth said they are currently discussing possible priorities with their legislative liaison.

Ms. Carol Steele from Gloucester suggested funding to build out infrastructure and amenities at Machicomoco State Park.

Mr. Scott Stevens from James City County suggested funding to protect Jamestown Island from the threats of rising seas and storm surge.

Dr. Filer agreed with expanding public safety personnel's ability to make traffic stops and suggested ensuring funding for flooding and resiliency projects is allocated appropriately to match federal dollars.

Ms. Cynthia Rolf from Newport News suggested \$40 million to attract a new supercomputer to Jefferson Lab. Mr. Crum indicated this will be a regional legislative priority due to its potential to bring significant investment and jobs into the region.

Mr. Al Moor from Suffolk also agreed with expanding public safety personnel's ability to make traffic stops and suggested transportation improvement projects for Route 58 and Route 460.

Mr. Randy Wheeler from Poquoson suggested reestablishing voting rules to allow for citywide voting for district representatives, addressing issues related to the legalization of marijuana, and restoring local authority for the permitting of small group and recovery homes.

Mr. Brian DeProfio from Hampton suggested increasing state support for public defenders and incorporating conflict resolution into the education curriculum.

Mr. Neil Morgan from York County suggested modifying state regulations to reduce frivolous appeals of business assessments.

Mr. Michael Stallings from Smithfield supported expanding public safety personnel's ability to make traffic stops and addressing issues related to the legalization of marijuana.

Mr. Brian Thrower from Southampton County said economic development, broadband, and transportation improvement projects on Route 58.

Mr. Randy Keaton from Isle of Wight County suggested support of utilizing sales tax revenues for schools.

Mr. Williams Saunders from Windsor agreed with addressing issues related to the legalization of marijuana and taxation of vaping products.

Mr. Crum provided an update on funding for the I-64 Gap. Adding a third travel lane in each direction between Williamsburg and Richmond is estimated to cost \$750 million. The General Assembly has allocated \$350 million in year one and if state revenues are sufficient, \$100 million in year two. The Virginia Department of Transportation is applying for \$100 million in federal funding. The Central Virginia Transportation Authority has allocated \$100 million. Additional funding from the Regional Surface Transportation Program may be available as well. Transportation Secretary Shep Miller has indicated the project may go to bid by the end of 2022.

Ms. Michelle Gowdy from Virginia Municipal League (VML) provided an update on VML's legislative efforts. They support expanding public safety personnel's ability to make traffic stops but some compromise will be needed to avoid targeting. There is likely to be legislation introduced that will reduce local zoning and permitting authorities for short-term rentals and affordable housing. Governor Youngkin is set to release recommendations on these topics in September. In an effort to reduce regulatory burdens, the Governor's administration will likely target some environmental regulations. A Special Session of the General Assembly will convene on September 7 to address budget amendments.

Other Business

Mr. Crum said that due to Michael Johnson's retirement from Southampton County, the CAO Committee will need to appoint a new Vice Chair and asked that the Southside CAOs discuss and make an appointment at the August meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the CAO Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Crum
Recording Secretary