



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2017-01**

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE VIRGINIA WORKING WATERFRONTS MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, working waterfronts are defined in Hampton Roads as areas or structures on, over, or adjacent to navigable bodies of water that provide access to the water and are used for water-dependent commercial, industrial, or government activities, including commercial fishing, recreational fishing, tourism, aquaculture, boat and ship building, boat and ship repair, boat and ship services, seafood processing, seafood sales, transportation, shipping, marine construction, and military activities;

WHEREAS, working waterfronts provide critical access to Virginia coastal waters for people engaged in commercial and recreational fishing, seafood processing, boat building, repair and maintenance, aquaculture, port activity, and other water-dependent businesses;

WHEREAS, some coastal communities are experiencing increased demand for waterfront properties along Virginia's coast that result in an increase in property values and higher costs for traditional waterfront businesses which has resulted in Virginia slowly losing its working waterfronts – an issue that may have long-term consequences for local economies, the environment, coastal culture and quality of life;

WHEREAS, other coastal communities are experiencing decreasing real-estate values, populations are leaving, and some are seeing an increase in donations of waterfront land for public use which presents a new opportunity for new public holdings for working waterfronts enhancements;

WHEREAS, natural factors of sea level rise, increasing frequency and magnitude of coastal storms, shoaling of navigable channels and shoreline erosion pose increasing threats to the existence of working waterfronts;

WHEREAS, a loss of Working Waterfronts constitutes a potential loss of jobs for watermen (e.g. fishers, shellfish farmers) and the agriculture industry (timber and grain barges); a loss of the identity of the region; and a loss of support industry jobs (boat building, transport, seafood processing, etc.);

WHEREAS, Virginia's coastal Planning District Commissions and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program have worked to address the threats and the loss of working waterfronts since FY 2011, these entities have collaborated to develop a Virginia Working Waterfronts Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Working Waterfronts Master Plan synthesizes the work completed to date under the CZM Cumulative and Secondary Impacts strategy (FY 11-FY15) and provides communities with a comprehensive understanding of what Virginia working waterfronts are; where existing water-dependent commercial infrastructure is

located; discussion of the long-term impacts associated with the loss of working waterfronts; and lastly recommend policy action and tools which the Commonwealth, regional organizations, local governments and private industry should consider to better manage growth pressures and ensure the preservation of Working Waterfronts as important economic drivers and cultural resources for rural, suburban and urban communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission accepts the Virginia Working Waterfronts Master Plan as a policy document to help preserve or encourage the redevelopment of working waterfronts throughout coastal Virginia.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 19th day of January, 2017.

Dr. Ella Ward
Chair

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/Secretary