

## **MEETING SUMMARY COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMITTEE**

The Coastal Resiliency Committee met on March 24, 2017. The following items were discussed:

- Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, and Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer, updated the Committee on discussions with FEMA Region III regarding permit requirements for development in Special Flood Hazard Areas.
- Mr. McFarlane updated the Committee on the outcomes of the General Assembly's legislation, including the status of the proposals the Commission included in the regional legislative agenda. Funding for the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund and the creation of a standalone Chief Resiliency Officer were not approved. The General Assembly allocated \$500,000 for FY18 for 3x3x3 studies with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Hampton Roads and Northern Neck regions.
- Dr. Derek Loftis, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, briefed the Committee on an effort to install more water level sensors throughout Hampton Roads to improve storm surge modeling and forecasts. Dr. Loftis evaluated 85 potential sites for sensors and identified 22 sites as the most valuable. The Committee agreed that staff should work with Dr. Loftis to develop a project proposal based on his analysis as a first step to eventually finding funding or a grant for sensor acquisition.
- Paul Robinson, Executive Director of RISE, briefed the Committee about the new non-profit's mission and goals for encouraging private sector innovation in Hampton Roads with respect to coastal resiliency.
- Ms. Katchmark updated the Committee on a proposal to fund a benchmark network to monitor subsidence with the U.S. Geological Survey. The newest proposal would require a total of \$35,000 per year of total local funding for five years. Norfolk staff asked for additional time to review the proposal before making a commitment.
- Mr. McFarlane updated the Committee on a grant project to identify and develop best practices for integrating coastal hazards into local plans and policies. The project is funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and NOAA.
- Mr. McFarlane updated the Committee on the status of Joint Land Use Studies in the region. These projects are collaborative efforts with localities, the state, and the Department of Defense.
- Committee members and guests were given an opportunity to provide updates and reports on related matters.