

# Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework and Related Efforts

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COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 11, 2020

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# Recent State-Level Developments

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Development of updated tidal wetlands guidance addressing sea level rise impacts (SB776)

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework

Request for Proposals to develop Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Proposed amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (HB504)

Draft Guidelines for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund

# VIRGINIA COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLANNING FRAMEWORK

*Principles and Strategies for Coastal Flood  
Protection and Adaptation*



# Framework Overview

Announced by Governor Northam on  
October 29, 2020

Implementation of Executive Order 24



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RALPH S. NORTHAM  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
OCTOBER 2020

# Guiding Principles

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1. Acknowledge climate change and base decision-making on best available science
2. Identify and address socioeconomic inequities
3. Protect and enhance green infrastructure
4. Utilize community and regional-scale planning to the maximum extent possible
5. Focus on cost-effective solutions

# Goals

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1. Identify priority projects for increasing community coastal resilience
2. Establish a financing strategy informed by regional differences and equity considerations
3. Incorporate climate change projections into all state programs
4. Coordinate all state, federal, regional, and local coastal adaptation and protection efforts

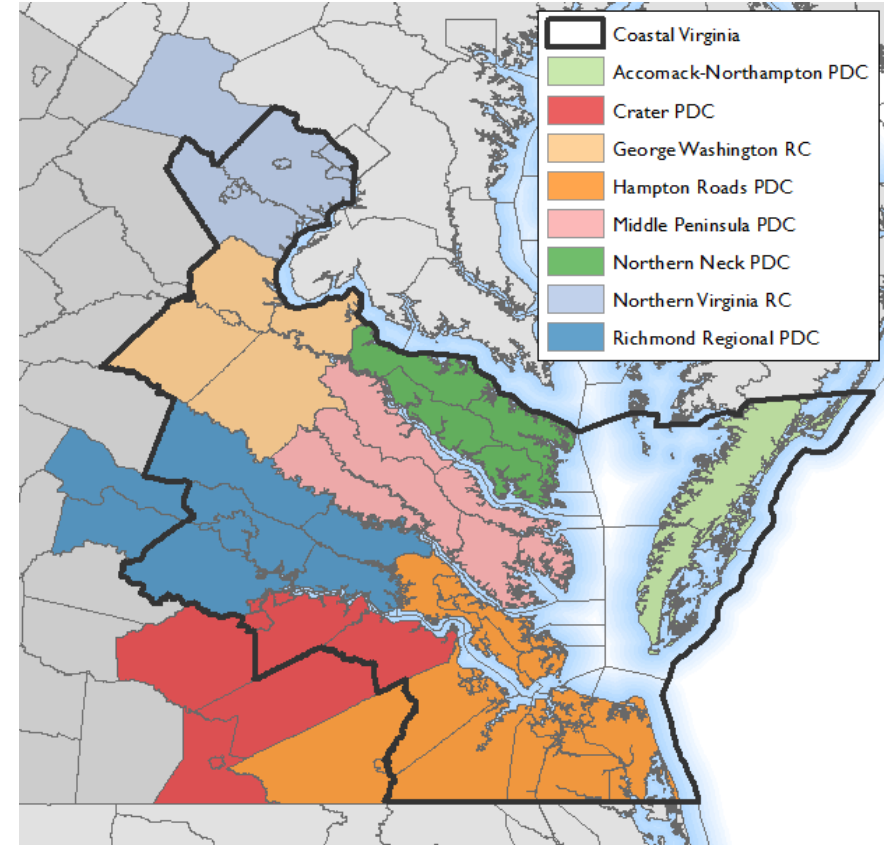
# Planning Regions

Hampton Roads

Rural Coastal Virginia – ANPDC,  
MPPDC, NNPDC

Fall Line North – GWRC and  
NVRC

Fall Line South – Crater PDC and  
PlanRVA



# Initial Actions and Recommendations

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## Establish a Technical Advisory Committee

- Coastal PDCs
- State Agencies: DCR, VDEM, DHCD, VRA, DEQ, VTRC, VMRC
- Governor's Staff: Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer; Chief Data Officer
- Academics: CCRFR, VIMS, VCPC, VT, UVA, VSG
- Other: Commander, Norfolk District, USACE, others

Elevate VCZMP by having program director report directly to SNR on coastal adaptation and protection

Community Engagement Roundtables

# Near Term Actions

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Identify priority projects to protect critical built and natural infrastructure

Establish a financing strategy

Incorporate climate change projections in state programs (floodplain management, CBPA, Tidal Wetlands Act, water management)

Coordinate state, federal, regional, and local coastal efforts

- Strategic Coastal Relocation Handbook



# Funding and Financing

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Environmental Impact Bonds

Resilience Bonds

Catastrophe Bonds

Green Banks

Tax Increment Financing

Philanthropic Support

# Concerns

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## Framework Priorities

- Establishes strategic relocation and preservation of natural resources as the Commonwealth's preferred choice for adaptation

## Capacity

- Identifies specific agencies and individuals to assist with plan development and implementation, most with limited additional capacity to contribute to a new major planning effort
- Plan doesn't acknowledge the need to fund additional staff to build long-term capacity - state briefings on the framework focus on hiring a consultant to write the Master Plan

# Concerns

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## Stakeholder Engagement

- Framework developed with extremely limited stakeholder engagement. As a result, the plan does not address potential community concerns or conflicts with other local or regional priorities.
- First Technical Advisory Committee meeting on December 14, 2020

## Implementation

- Process appears to be designed for speed as opposed to consensus-building and sustainability – does not address continuity between administrations

# Coastal Master Plan RFP

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Not discussed in Framework

RFP for A/E services to help prepare the plan released on November 27th

Scope of Services includes:

- Conducting a full coastal analysis of current and future sea level rise and nuisance flooding impacts to coastal Virginia
- Prioritized list of critical built infrastructure
- Prioritized list of critical natural infrastructure
- Project database
- Detailed funding needs assessment and recommended funding sources
- A whole host of specific services are listed as needed to complete the work

# Coastal Master Plan RFP

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## Timeline:

- December 30, 2020      Proposals Due
- May 19, 2021          Coastal Analysis Due
- July 28, 2021        Project Database Due
- September 1, 2021    First Draft of Master Plan Due
- September 29, 2021   Incorporation of Agency Feedback Due
- October 27, 2021     Final Draft Due

# CBPA Regulatory Amendments

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HB504 added preservation of mature trees and coastal resilience/adaptation to factors State Water Control Board must consider in developing CBPA regulations

Also exempted development of regulations from APA requirements

Proposed regulations released as part of SWCB Agenda for December 9, 2021

- Agenda:

[https://townhall.virginia.gov/I/GetFile.cfm?File=meeting\103\31888\Agenda DEQ\\_31888\\_v3.pdf](https://townhall.virginia.gov/I/GetFile.cfm?File=meeting\103\31888\Agenda DEQ_31888_v3.pdf)

# CBPA Regulatory Amendments

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## Highlights:

- 3 years for localities to adopt once final
- Directs localities to consider impacts of climate change or sea level rise on any proposed development in RPA
  - No less than 30 years out
  - 2017 Intermediate high scenario for SLR
- No sole use of fill
- Best management practices “recognized or approved by state or federal agencies”

# CBPA Regulatory Amendments

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Limited engagement – no draft language available for discussion beforehand

Language is unclear in terms of what is allowed and what is not

- DEQ appears to be counting on guidance to answer any questions

CAO letter to SWCB requesting delay and better process

SWCB approved release of regulations for 90-day public comment period and directed DEQ to hold at least one stakeholder meeting following the 2021 GA session



# Community Flood Preparedness Fund

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Established by HB22 and HB981– allocates 45% of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds to Community Flood Preparedness Fund

Directed DCR to develop guidelines for how the fund would be allocated

Posted to Virginia Town Hall last week:

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewNotice.cfm?gnid=1175>

Comments due January 31, 2021

Guidelines finalized by March 1, 2021

# Community Flood Preparedness Fund

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Limited engagement – no draft language available for discussion beforehand

Questions/concerns about eligibility, minimum requirements, criteria, selection process

# Discussion

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