

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #20: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – FY 2013 GRANTS

SUBJECT:

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality manages the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. PDCs are eligible for formula and competitive grants for projects addressing a high priority issue, as determined by the CZM Program.

BACKGROUND:

In October 1986, Virginia received its first grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Since that time, the HRPDC and its predecessors have received over \$2,500,000 through this program to provide technical assistance on environmental issues to the local governments and to complete a variety of technical studies.

The process for distributing funds for FY 2013 is now underway. Under the competitive grants for PDCs, the HRPDC is eligible to receive up to \$60,000 in funding. In addition, PDCs are eligible to compete for grants focusing on one or more of the five topics prioritized by the Virginia Coastal Policy Team (CPT): water quality, coastal resiliency, working waterfronts, habitat restoration, and public access. The required match is up to \$60,000. The HRPDC staff solicited project input through the Joint Environmental Committee and for public access projects from the local government parks and recreation departments. A subcommittee of the Joint Environmental Committee will meet on June 15, 2012 to recommend two local public access or regional projects for Commission consideration. Recommendations will be presented to the Commission at the Executive Committee meeting. This grant proposal will be submitted to DEQ on June 22, 2012. Additionally, it will be included in the UPWP and Budget for FY 2013 during the November 2012 amendment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit grant proposals to the DEQ to support the CZM Competitive grant as well as to accept grant offers when they are made.