HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2015-01

RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
ENCOURAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN HAMPTON ROADS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING
NEW OR HIGHER FREEBOARD REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF
RECURRENT FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the “Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia,” completed at the
request of the General Assembly by the Center for Coastal Resources Management of the
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, found that “recurrent flooding is a significant issue in
Virginia coastal localities and one that is predicted to become worse over reasonable
planning horizons.”

WHEREAS, reports by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission staff have found
the Hampton Roads region to be vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise.

WHEREAS, implementing freeboard requirements makes structures safer and better able
to withstand damage from flooding.

WHEREAS, incorporating freeboard into residential construction can result in lower flood
insurance premiums for individual homeowners.

WHEREAS, higher freeboard requirements can help communities earn credit through the
Community Rating System, which can reduce flood insurance premiums community-wide.

WHEREAS, freeboard requirements can provide continued protection against flooding by
keeping structures above the base flood elevation as sea level rises.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
hereby encourages localities in Hampton Roads to consider adopting freeboard
requirements as part of their floodplain management regulations if they have not already
done so and to consider adopting higher freeboard requirements if such requirements are
already included in local regulations.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 15th
day of January 2015.