

**THE DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HRPDC SEAL LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 31, 2015**

1. Summary of the May 29, 2015 Meeting of the Special Committee on Recurrent Flooding and Sea Level Rise

The Summary of the May 29, 2015 Meeting of the Special Committee on Recurrent Flooding and Sea Level Rise was accepted as distributed.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. HRPDC Work Program Discussion

The Committee broke up into small groups to discuss potential projects or task for a regional sea level rise program. Ideas included:

- Study on the viability of storm surge barriers
- Study on the impacts from sea level rise on groundwater
- Prioritization of infrastructure for adaptation
- Interstate study on salt water intrusion
- Regional messaging on recurrent flooding
- Developing examples for shoreline management in different situations
- Regional communication for sea level rise and flooding
- Regional approach toward addressing repetitive loss properties
- Sea level rise web page on HRPDC website
- Regional preparedness plan
- Studying the impacts of sea level rise on stormwater management
- Acquiring first floor elevation data
- Requiring flood zone disclosures in real estate transactions
- Messaging
- Mapping of areas vulnerable to recurrent flooding
- Identifying “underwater” properties vulnerable to flooding
- Sea level rise vulnerability analyses
- Regional modeling of wetland impacts on flooding and storm surge
- Legal analysis of withdrawing utilities from vulnerable areas
- Assistance with local CRS participation
- Regionalization of the message regarding flood risk management
- Economic analysis of sea level rise impacts
- Improving regional political voice on sea level rise

- Developing an iterative planning approach to sea level rise
- Developing an alternative to FEMA's program for raising homes
- Promoting templates for intra-locality/multi-departmental coordination and collaboration on communications and planning (Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk have similar groups established)
- Minimum best practices for localities to implement
- Regional message on "Knowing Your Risk"
- Developing different messages for different groups – public, realtors, state and federal agencies, local staff
- Identifying funding sources for local projects
- Developing and prioritizing projects through regional process for when money becomes available

4. Updates on University Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding

Dr. Hank Meyer, Rutgers University, briefed the Committee on a proposal to implement a NOAA tool in Hampton Roads. The Port Tomorrow tool was originally designed for promoting better planning between communities and port facilities. Dr. Meyer proposes to build on this platform to enable better coordination between Hampton Roads communities and other stakeholders/facility operators when planning for sea level rise and other coastal hazards. The tool would house spatial and other data which could then be accessed by stakeholders and members of the general public. Dr. Meyer proposes to complete four tasks:

- 1) Review and update the Port Tomorrow data and mapping features with 2-3 focus groups
- 2) Develop an updated prototype for further discussion
- 3) Demonstrate the updated prototype in specific planning exercises
- 4) Incorporate feedback from these planning exercises in to the final prototype design recommended to NOAA for investment

Mr. Fred Brusso, Portsmouth, and Ms. Katerina Oskarsson, Norfolk, volunteered to review the existing site and provide feedback. Mr. Ron Lovell, public, suggested also reviewing local property viewers and online GIS viewers.

Ms. Emily Steinhilber, Old Dominion University, updated the Committee on ODU's work related to sea level rise. The Hampton Roads Adaptation Forum will continue to meet, but the original funding has run out. ODU is currently looking at other funding opportunities. A newsletter on the intergovernmental pilot was sent out today. The IPP steering committee will meet on August 4th. ODU will host a meeting for all six DOD/White House pilot efforts on December 10th.

5. Dutch Dialogues

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the outcomes from the regional working group at the recent Dutch Dialogues workshop held in Norfolk June 19-23. The regional group focused on some of the larger issues related to sea level rise and flooding

- Identifying areas that are currently vulnerable to flooding and those that will be vulnerable in the future;
- Assessing the viability of storm surge barriers around the region;
- Identifying categories of strategies to address flooding (infiltration, storage, discharge);
- Examining different shoreline typologies in the region and the different types of strategies that would be appropriate in each;
- Examining different governance and collaboration options for addressing sea level rise and flooding from a regional perspective

6. National Disaster Resilience Competition

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC, updated the Committee on the status of the NDRC. Virginia has been advanced to the second phase of the competition. The Phase II application is due in October. NDRC and VDEM will be coordinating with eligible localities on the application.

7. Regional Sea Level Rise Inundation Maps

Mr. McFarlane reported that the HRPDC staff is continuing to work on updated sea level rise maps for the region. The chief administrative officers will be shown draft maps showing 2' of sea level rise in August.

8. Update on State Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding

Mr. McFarlane reported that the workgroups for the Governor's Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission continue to meet. Each of the five work groups is responsible for developing up to three recommendations that will be up for consideration by the full Commission when it meets in August. The final recommendations are due to the Governor at the end of September.

9. Updates on Local Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding

Virginia Beach staff reported that they have applied for a NOAA coastal resilience grant to continue the city's work on watershed-level planning for sea level rise. The city staff will keep other localities informed through the Committee.

Portsmouth staff reported that they presented a proposal to the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding that would require real estate disclosures on flooding. The subcommittee did not appear to be receptive to the recommendation. Some options being considered moving forward are FEMA flood map screenshots that would accompany listings and requiring seller statements on flooding. VHDA is going to be incorporating flood insurance into its first-time home buyer program. Mr. Lovell noted that real estate licensees are now required to get one hour of flood insurance training and that they have developed a two-page document to educate prospective buyers.

10. Committee Comments

There were no additional comments from the Committee.

11. Other Matters

The next meeting of the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 25, 2015.