January 8, 2020

Dear Utility Directors,

I am writing to inform you of an opportunity to participate with the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water in an EPA-sponsored workshop, related to developing long-term resilience planning strategies for climate impact on water utilities using the CREAT planning tool. EPA has funds to support this effort, which targets a workshop date of June 2020, but, they must have a commitment to participate within the next 2 weeks to retain funding.

Participation is limited to 20-30 people, and can include multiple interested utility staffs. The workshop structure can work two ways: 1) provide a workshop that provides a high-level overview of CREAT to many utilities in HRPDC, or 2) perform a detailed individual CREAT utility assessment on one HRPDC Utility that other utilities could mirror as part of the training. Timeframe for planning typically runs 6 months from start to end and will require utility participation in the planning process, typically by webinar.

As background, my office has been working with EPA Office of Water to identify opportunities for collaboration related to resilience planning that would add value to localities, and this effort was identified as one such opportunity. Our initial discussions stemmed from the need for the utility/community to address long-term planning as it relates to climate change impact.

We also understand that compliance with Section 2013 of AWIA is a current driving effort for near term risk assessment for your staffs, using the VSAT process. While this workshop is not targeted at AWIA compliance near term, there is a connection between VSAT and CREAT... in that VSAT will help to identify current day threats, which can then be assessed using CREAT to better understand long-term climate impact.

Additional background information is attached – including: an overview of CREAT and the assessment and workshop process, a CREAT Exercise/training sheet, and an example workshop format from the State of Minnesota.

Please contact me by January 14th (Tuesday) if you are interested in participating. I am also happy to talk further in the interim if desired. As stated, this opportunity arose quickly, and if interested, we have a short time to commit. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,

Ann C. Phillips, Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)
Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection
ann.phillips@governor.virginia.gov
(o) 804-786-0226
(c) 804-387-7425

Attachments:

2. Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool, (CREAT) EPA.
3. CREAT Training File development Approach-DRAFT, EPA, October 10, 2019
4. Resilience Planning and Adaptation Training for Water and Wastewater Utilities,
   Example Seminar/Workshop Schedule, Minnesota.