For three years, the HRPDC has facilitated the Healthcare Organizations Emergency Preparedness Seminars (HOEPS). These seminars are an integral part of a community outreach planning initiative for vulnerable populations such as those that depend and/or live in healthcare related facilities in disasters. Such seminars better prepare healthcare workers and managers for a natural or manmade disaster. Participants were not charged to attend the two day seminar.

This year there were three separate seminars that focused on the differences each type of facility faces in a crisis. The first two seminars, held April 28, 2008, focused on home health, adult daycare and dialysis centers, and subsequently assisted living, group home and mental health facilities. The seminar on the following day focused primarily on preparing nursing homes.

The strength of the seminars, according to feedback from the participants, is the direct interaction and networking that occurs with the emergency managers, health planners and other stakeholders whose business is to help them prepare for, mitigate, respond and recover from disasters. This year, emergency managers, health planners and others from around the region sat down with these groups to help apply each facility’s emergency operations plan by presenting them with various plausible disaster scenarios, from beginning to end in what is commonly known as tabletop exercises. While each facility is now required to have an emergency plan by Virginia law, exercising it tests its integrity and helps strengthen it by identifying areas for improvement.

Got YOUR Ducks-in-a-Row?

Healthcare Organizations Emergency Preparedness Seminars
Debris Management Contracts Awarded in Time for Hurricane Season

URS Corporation, under contract to HRPDC, spent over a year rewriting and revising regional debris reduction, removal, and disposal contracts. The new contracts included lessons learned from Hurricane Isabel and input from Federal, State and local stakeholders. The contracts were put out for re-bid in early 2008, and a team of bid reviewers recently completed their analysis of all proposals.

Two groups of debris management stakeholder teams, one representing the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) contract service region and the other representing the region of the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (VPPSA) contracts, reviewed and ranked the bid proposals. SPSA’s representatives ranked the top four in order of meeting evaluation criteria, as Crowder Equipment Corporation, Phillips & Jordan, Inc., Ceres Environmental, and Ashbritt, Inc. and subsequently awarded these top four with pre-event contracts with pricing to be re-negotiated on an annual basis for up to five years. Similarly, VPPSA representatives chose and awarded contracts to Ashbritt Inc, Crowder Gulf Equipment Corporation, and Phillips and Jordan Inc.

Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team Deploys

On Monday, April 28, 2008, the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (HRMMST) completed its first emergency deployment. The HRMMST was requested by the city of Suffolk to assist in the emergency response to the EF3 tornado that struck the neighborhoods of Sadler Heights, Hillpoint Farms, Burnett’s Mill, and the village of Driver. This tornado narrowly missed Sentara Obici Hospital.

Within two hours of activation, 77 members of the HRMMST had reported to the designated assembly point, Lakeland High School. From there, the HRMMST was relocated to the National Guard Armory on Godwin Boulevard to await its mission assignment. The HRMMST was tasked to conduct a secondary ground search of the devastated Hillpoint Farms and Burnett’s Mill neighborhoods. After more than two hours of searching, the HRMMST completed its mission. This emergency deployment has validated the HRMMST Concept of Operations and the region’s contributions and on-going support for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System.
Ohio River Valley - HRPDC - 2009

Over the past several years, the HRPDC has undertaken a series of studies addressing Green Infrastructure/Conservation Corridors in the Hampton Roads Region. A comprehensive study, The Hampton Roads Conservation Corridor Study, was approved by the HRPDC at its June 2006 meeting. A second phase, Green Infrastructure in Hampton Roads, was completed and approved by the HRPDC at its July 2007 meeting.

The HRPDC staff has continued to work with the localities to refine the recommended Corridor System and with various state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify funding opportunities to support program implementation. Most recently, the Conservation Fund approached the HRPDC staff about land acquisition opportunities within the proposed Conservation Corridor System. After a query to several Chesapeake Bay localities about projects within the system that might be ready to proceed, several sites in Virginia Beach were identified and information provided to the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund is now working through the office of the Secretary of Natural Resources to develop a funding package to support this land acquisition.

Creating a Regional Historic Resources Database

HRPDC staff has completed Phase I of the Regional Historic Resources Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Database for Hampton Roads. The effort was partially paid for by $15,000 in matching funds from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources’ State Survey and Planning Cost Share Program. The HRPDC entered into an agreement with Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to carry out a multi-phase project, which will continue through 2009.

The completed GIS work for Phase I of this project encompassed archaeological resources found on the Virginia Peninsula and in Gloucester County on the Middle Peninsula. Phase I included a total of approximately 3,240 historical resource records located throughout those jurisdictions. Archaeological sites in the remaining HRPDC jurisdictions are being redigitized by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in cooperation with DHR. The resulting data will also be incorporated into the Hampton Roads database.

Phase II of the regional database project will address architectural resources throughout Hampton Roads. Work on Phase II begins in July.

Virginia Beach Land Acquisition Proposal

Staff from the city of Virginia Beach and the HRPDC met with Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Nikki Rovner and representatives of the Conservation Fund on April 25, 2008, to discuss the proposal for a partnership between the State and Virginia Beach to protect conservation lands in the Lynnhaven and Elizabeth River watersheds. The discussion included an overview of the Hampton Roads conservation corridor network and the role of strategic conservation planning in the development of the proposal. Ms. Rovner expressed interest in the project and asked that Virginia Beach supply additional information on opportunities for coordination between the City and State agencies in the accomplishment of mutual land management and programmatic goals. To this end, a meeting was held between representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Virginia Beach and the HRPDC on May 19, 2008, to discuss partnership opportunities. This meeting resulted in a commitment by DCR staff to draft a letter of support for the project.
Regional Technical Standards Training Offered
Approximately 150 attendees participated in the Regional Technical Standards Trainings offered by the HRPDC through the Regional Wastewater Program. The trainings were offered as a part of a series of regional training sessions to assist localities in meeting the requirements of the State Special Order by Consent with the Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ). Thirteen Hampton Roads localities and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) are affected by the Consent Order and meet regularly to address technical issues of regional importance.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s national enforcement priorities targeted sanitary sewer overflows as a major cause of water quality degradation. Their Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) national enforcement strategy aims to achieve maximum compliance with environmental regulations in order to protect human health and the environment. SSOs have a variety of causes, including severe weather, equipment failures, management, operation and maintenance issues, and vandalism.

Properly designed, operated, and maintained sanitary sewer systems are meant to collect and transport sewage to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW). However, releases of raw sewage from municipal sanitary sewers can occur. When this occurs, sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) can pose a risk to public health and the environment. The main pollutants in raw sewage from SSOs are bacteria, pathogens, nutrients, untreated industrial wastes, toxic pollutants, such as oil and pesticides, and wastewater solids and debris. These pollutants can lead to diseases that range in severity from mild gastroenteritis to life-threatening ailments, such as cholera and infectious hepatitis. Hampton Roads localities and HRSD pride themselves on quick response, containment and clean-up, thus minimizing the threat to human health and safety.

The Regional Consent Order provides a timeline and milestones for studying, improving and repairing the system. The associated tasks are costly and ratepayers should anticipate wastewater rate increases in the years ahead. By approaching these issues regionally, solutions can be found which best serve the citizens of Hampton Roads to maintain water quality, public health and safety in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

New Report Provides New Perspective on Regional Groundwater
The United States Geological Survey (USGS) report entitled *The Virginia Coastal Plain Hydrogeologic Framework* by Randy McFarland and T. Scott Bruce has recently been printed and distributed to local governments. This USGS report presents the results of the multi year study done in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and the HRPDC. The report provides a new perspective on the regional groundwater system by incorporating the recently discovered Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater and other emerging geologic relations.

Such as:

- The Potomac aquifer has been designated as a single aquifer because the interbeds are not sufficiently dense across the region to act as barriers to groundwater flow. In previous studies, the Potomac aquifer has been designated as three aquifers.
- Previous studies of the regional geology were conducted before the Chesapeake Bay impact crater was discovered. This new study identifies the location of the crater and defines the sediments that filled the crater. These sediments have a low hydraulic conductivity so the regional groundwater flow pattern goes around the rim of the crater.

The new hydrogeologic framework has been incorporated into the revision of the regional groundwater model and supports the Region’s groundwater programs. The report is available at http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/2006/1731/.
The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) was charged with implementation of the state’s stormwater management program including several elements which are required by the federal Clean Water Act in 2005. Legislation enacted in 2004 transferred responsibility for the construction permitting and municipal stormwater permitting programs to DCR from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Since that time, DCR has been working to put in place the regulatory framework for the programs. This effort involves a substantial rewriting of the procedural regulations concurrently with increasing the stringency of the technical criteria governing stormwater quantity and quality.

To assist it in this effort, DCR has convened a number of Technical Advisory Committees, comprised of representatives from local governments, private engineering consultants, environmental organizations and the development community. The Hampton Roads region is very actively involved in these efforts with local and private representation on each of the Committees. These efforts include:

**Stormwater Management Regulations.** This element addresses the technical criteria that will govern development activities and Construction General Permits. It also includes requirements for local program development and approval, stormwater permit fees and special consideration for those instances where DCR administers programs in lieu of the locality. The Technical Advisory Committee is beginning its third year of study. Because of the importance of considering not only stormwater quality but also stormwater quantity, a special work group is now addressing technical aspects of managing stormwater quantity.

Other efforts to support the technical component of these regulations include development of a web-based Best Management Practices Clearinghouse consistent with the state’s Stormwater Management Handbook which is being revised to reflect new information about the effectiveness of best management practices and the new technical criteria.

**Construction General Permit.** DCR has recently begun the process of revising the regulations governing construction activities. It is expected that the new regulation will incorporate elements of the existing state regulations dealing with Erosion and Sediment Control, Stormwater Management and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, as well as the new technical criteria.

**Phase II MS4 General Permit.** At its meeting on May 15, 2008, the Board of Soil and Water Conservation approved the Phase II MS4 General Permit Regulation. This General Permit applies to the stormwater discharges from small communities. An Advisory Committee assisted in the development of the new regulation. Hampton Roads localities governed by this regulation include the cities of Poquoson, Suffolk and Williamsburg and the counties of Isle of Wight, James City and York.

The draft MS4 Stormwater Permits for the region’s six Phase I localities - the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach – were approved in November 2007 by the Board of Soil and Water Conservation for review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the public. It is expected that this review process will begin later in 2008.

A full analysis of the implications of these sweeping changes to the state’s stormwater management regulations on the region’s localities is being developed. However, it is apparent that the new program will be more stringent and expensive.

To address the requirements and minimize the costs of program implementation, the Hampton Roads localities continue to work together. Regionally consistent stormwater management programs have been proposed in permit applications and stormwater management program plans. A web-based reporting system, known as PARS – the Permit Administration and Reporting System - is being developed in a cooperative effort through the HRPDC. Regional education about stormwater management continues to be provided through HR STORM and will reflect the new priorities of the local permits.

**Stormwater Management Program Requirements Affecting Hampton Roads Local Governments**
Virginia Beach staff identified this site along the Lake Gaston pipeline easement to install the nest of observation wells in Southampton County. Water level observations will improve the regional groundwater analysis at DEQ and HRPDC.

**First Phase of Southampton County Observation Wells Installation Completed**

USGS has completed the first phase of the installation of a vertically nested cluster of observation wells in north-central Southampton County. This effort was funded by HRPDC and will improve our understanding of the hydrogeologic framework in a portion of the region where very little field data has been collected. Phase I completed a mud-rotary borehole to a depth of 600 ft and generated a geophysical log from the borehole. The geophysical log will allow USGS and VDEQ to identify the aquifers present at this location and install the observation wells to depths that will maximize the usefulness of future water level measurements. On May 27, 2008, Phase II began with roto-sonic drilling of a continuous sediment core to a depth of 550 ft, followed by construction of 3-4 ground-water observation wells. The installation of observation wells will provide the HRPDC and VDEQ staff with real-time water levels. This information will allow us to evaluate the accuracy of the ground water model and groundwater resource in this area.

**HRWET Trailer Update**

The HR WET trailer has become a prominent presence at festivals and events throughout the Hampton Roads area. You may have seen it at the Red Wing Park Relay for Life in early June or at Olden Days in Smithfield in late June. The trailer is where you can learn about water conservation, pick up water conservation tools, and even take a water-hog quiz. When you attend an event, and see the trailer, be sure to stop by and say hello!

**Current Schedule**

| Hampton Bay Days | Sep. 5-7, 2008 | Downtown Hampton (Near Carousel) |

Soil cuttings from the borehole installation are flagged according to depth so geologists can get an initial indication of the aquifers and confining units present at this location.
Virginia Energy Plan and Governor’s Commission on Climate Change

Mr. Steve Walz, Senior Advisor to the Governor for Energy Policy, presented an overview of the Virginia Energy Plan at the May 21, 2008 HRPDC Executive Committee meeting. The purpose of the Energy Plan “is to chart a path forward that will provide reliable energy supplies at reasonable rates and increase the use of conservation and efficiency measures in Virginia.” The primary goals contained in the Plan are to:

- Increase energy independence, with an emphasis on conservation and clean fuel technologies,
- Expand consumer energy education to overcome barriers to implementing energy-efficiency and conservation actions,
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2025, bringing emissions back to 2000 levels,
- Capitalize on economic development opportunities through business expansion and increased research and development in areas of strength, including alternate transportation fuels, nuclear technology, coastal energy production and carbon capture and storage.

The Plan contains chapters on Virginia Energy Resources and Consumption, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Energy Infrastructure, Energy and the Environment, Energy Research and Development, and a chapter on recommended future actions. The Plan is available for download at:


A copy of Mr. Walz’s presentation can be found on the HRPDC website at:

Governor Timothy M. Kaine established the Governor’s Commission on Climate Change in December of 2007. The Commission is working on preparation of a plan for Virginia that identifies ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Commission began meeting once a month in February of 2008 at various locations around the state. The remaining meetings are scheduled as follows:

- August 27: Virginia Commonwealth University (This meeting will continue after normal work hours to allow the public to attend and will include a public hearing.)
- September 10: Patrick Henry Building, Richmond
- November 13: Patrick Henry Building, Richmond

Background information on the Commission and meeting materials are available at:
http://www.deq.state.va.us/info/climatechange.html

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Energy Use in Virginia by Sector, 2003

Source: State Energy Policy & VA Energy Plan, Steve Walz
State Housing Counseling Conference Held In The Region

The Virginia Association of Housing Counselors’ (VAHC) 2008 Conference, Empowering Ourselves to Empower Others, was held in Virginia Beach, May 3-8, 2008. Over 180 participants from across the State attended. The VAHC was established to provide support and resources to housing counselors and/or those in related fields. The mission of the organization is to strengthen housing counseling as a profession and assure that all low and moderate income families and individuals are offered the opportunity to live in safe, decent, and affordable housing.

Several local housing experts, including Catherine (Katie) Kitchin, Office to End Homelessness-city of Norfolk, Cheryl Smith, city of Virginia Beach-Workforce Housing, Cynthia Pankey, Hampton Redevelopment and Housing, Vantoria Clay-Endependence Center, LaShawn Fortes, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing, and Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC, presented on a variety of housing related matters. Some topics included the Development of Workforce Housing, housing needs for the homeless and disabled, current real estate trends, the Housing Choice Voucher program, as well as addressing urban housing issues. Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia, David Smith, was a keynote speaker at the conference. Deputy Secretary Smith addressed VAHC members on the state of the foreclosure crisis in Virginia and the Governor’s Foreclosure Taskforce’s response to combat this problem. The conference was opened with a motivational address from Mayor Dave Norris, Charlottesville, Virginia.

One of the highlighted sessions of the conference was a poverty simulation entitled “Roller Coaster of Life.” This hands-on project was sponsored in conjunction with the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Housing providers were tasked with stepping into the roles of the clients they serve. The simulation provided participants with a clearer understanding of the choices and situations low to moderate income citizens face on a daily basis. Participants were given a family profile and a set amount of money to make it through an entire month. Through this month, families were faced with evictions, collection notices, unexpected illnesses, and other circumstances that made day-to-day living more challenging. This simulation was designed to ultimately show the importance of housing counseling and the need for safe and affordable housing. Many participants stated that not having an advocate to turn to really made it difficult when it came to finding resources and assistance.

Organizers were pleased with the record number in attendance this year and considered the conference to be a great success. Planning is already in the early stages for the 2009 conference with plans to keep the conference in the Hampton Roads region. Shernita Bethea, the HRPDC’s Housing and Human Services Planner, serves as VAHC President and was instrumental in the planning and coordination of this year’s conference.
Dwight Farmer Selected as New HRPDC Executive Director

Dwight L. Farmer has been chosen to succeed the HRPDC’s long-time leader, Arthur L. Collins, who retired May 1, 2008, as the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission’s next Executive Director/Secretary. Mr. Farmer assumed the duties at the HRPDC Executive Committee meeting on May 21, 2008. Mr. Farmer will also serve as the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Executive Director/Secretary.

A Virginia native, Mr. Farmer has served the HRPDC/MPO since 1978. He was appointed Deputy Executive Director of Transportation and Emergency Management in 1998. He received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and an M.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and received an appointment for the past 29 years with Old Dominion University in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department as an Adjunct Associate Professor.

Mr. Farmer has served as chairman and a member of numerous statewide advisory committees to the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Department of Transportation and the office of the Virginia Secretary of Transportation during the past twenty years. These appointments have included a review of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s public infrastructure investment policies as well as the equity of statewide allocation formulas.

Mr. Farmer was appointed by the Governor to the Virginia Rail Advisory Board in 2005, and currently is President of the Virginia Rail Policy Institute. He was awarded Government Engineer of the year award in 2004 by the Norfolk Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Congratulations Dwight!

Staff Accolades

Greg Grootendorst, Deputy Executive Director for Economics

Over the past year Greg Grootendorst, Deputy Executive Director for Economics, participated in the Lead Hampton Roads (LHR) leadership program. The mission of LHR is to build and strengthen regional leadership through education, partnerships, and networking across traditional boundaries for the purpose of improving the quality of life in greater Hampton Roads. Greg graduated from the program in May, and was presented with a leadership award for Inspiring a Shared Vision.

Julia Hillegass, Senior Planner, Environmental Education

Julia Hillegass, HRPDC Senior Environmental Planner, took over the reigns as president of the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), July 1. ASPA promotes professional development and ethics in public service. The local chapter meets bimonthly with a guest speaker during lunchtime. For more information about upcoming events or how to join, log on to www.aspahr.org.

Joe Turner, Public Communications Administrator

Joe Turner, Public Communications Administrator and editor of The Hampton Roads Review, completed work on his Master’s degree in March of this year. In accordance with the University of Denver’s commencement schedule, Joe was awarded his Master’s of Liberal Studies, Creative Writing, in June. In addition, his coursework also earned him a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Creative Writing.
Richard Flannery, Regional Emergency Management Planner

Mr. Flannery joined the HRPDC staff on April 1, 2008. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Health from Old Dominion University and a Masters degree in Emergency Management from Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Prior to joining the HRPDC, Mr. Flannery worked for Battelle as a contractor working with the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and other federal and state agencies in a variety of emergency management projects throughout the United States. Additionally, Mr. Flannery spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy that included two surface combatant tours and 12 years in the submarine force to include two Los Angeles class submarines.

As the Regional Emergency Management Planner, Rich will serve as an advocate of emergency management and homeland security by supporting the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC) and the Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) for the Hampton Roads Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program. In addition, he will provide regionally oriented planning, research, and grant management in areas determined to meet the region’s needs with both public and private organizations to complement the existing preparedness programs for disasters and emergencies.

Jenny Redick, Assistant Special Needs Planner

Ms. Redick joined the HRPDC Emergency Management team on May 16, 2008. She earned her BA in Psychology at Berry College and an MA in Counseling at Regent University. She has worked both in the mental health and education fields.

Her responsibilities as Assistant Special Needs Planner will be to provide regionally oriented planning and advocacy for special needs emergency management matters as well as conduct research and training for the local jurisdictions, agencies and businesses across the region.

Natalie Easterday, Assistant Regional Emergency Management Planner

Ms. Easterday joined the HRPDC’s Emergency Management staff in June 2008. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from North Dakota State University and is currently writing her thesis to complete a Master’s degree in Emergency Management also from North Dakota State. Prior to working at the HRPDC, Ms. Easterday was a Graduate Research Assistant for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute in Fargo, North Dakota.

Andrea Gayer, WebEOC Coordinator

Ms. Gayer is a consultant from ESi Acquisitions, Inc. assigned to the Medical Special Needs Regional WebEOC Implementation, a UASI funded project. She started working with the HRPDC Emergency Management staff on April 9, 2008. Ms. Gayer completed her Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics at the University of Maryland. She has over twenty years of government experience both at the federal and local levels primarily in the areas of public safety, cartography, and information technology. Ms. Gayer has extensive experience in grant management, budgeting and procurement, project management, configuration and implementation of internet based enterprise applications, and GIS.
The Hampton Roads Review is a quarterly publication of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, is funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and local area governments.

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The Hampton Roads Review is published quarterly and is available at no cost. The HRPDC is a voluntary association of sixteen local governments. The purpose of the HRPDC is to provide a forum for local governments to address issues of regional importance and to encourage regional cooperation and coordination. For more information contact the HRPDC at 757.420.8300 or visit our website at www.hrpdcva.gov.

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JUL 16
held at: HRPDC Quarterly Commission
The Regional Board Room

AUG 20
held at: HRPDC Executive Committee
The Regional Board Room

SEP 17
held at: HRPDC Executive Committee
The Regional Board Room