



Coastal Policy Team

Final Agenda

January 26, 2022

1:00pm – 3:30pm

Via GoToMeeting

The meeting was recorded for CZM note-taking purposes only.

Welcome & Introductions (Laura McKay, CZM)

Laura welcomed the CPT and reviewed the current roster to confirm if any changes were needed. April Bahen (CZM) provide these new individuals with forms to officially make changes to Appointees or Alternates. Laura also gave an update on the new CZM Coastal Planner hiring process to replace Shep Moon (retiring) – the position has closed and a final candidate selection will hopefully be made by Feb 14.

FY22 Grant Application (Laura)

Laura gave a detailed overview of factors to consider for CZM FY22 grant proposals, including the following highlights:

- Grantees should use FY21 budget levels given that the Congressional continuing resolution runs through Feb 18 and funding increases are unknown.
- Shep's position will be moving to DEQ (previously a CBNERR contractor)
- CZM to leave Task 9 as TBD for Land Acquisition, Public Access Construction, or Restoration in case CZM doesn't get Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) funding. For the latter, NOAA encouraged CZM to request project ideas from the CPT and other partners ASAP although we will need to see the final guidance in the Federal Funding Opportunity when it is published.
- CZM will continue to negotiate individual FY20-22 Resilience Focal Area (RFA) Technical Assistance scopes of work with PDCs to reflect differences in capacity and regional needs.
- There is a need to coordinate creation of tools with end users to ensure usefulness and applicability. Proposals to develop tools to be used by others must include a schedule of meetings held by the grantee with end users. Results of these meetings must be documented in semi-annual progress and final reports. April will provide requirements in the updated Grant Guidance to be sent soon.

FY20-22 Section 306 Coastal Resilience Focal Area Updates (Laura)

- **VIMS-DCR Conservation Targeting for Resilience (Task 71):** DCR completed modeling distribution of 15 species focused on the Eastern Shore and models of habitat shifts are near completion. VIMS will have a meeting with end users though not previously required in scope of work. DCR's Natural Heritage Program (NHP) is assessing Element Occurrences in their modelling and have updated associated vulnerability models. The VIMS-DCR team will look to build more capacity in the FY22 (Year 3) scope of work.
- **Ecotourism (Task 72):** Ecotour Guide classes have begun and an inventory of ecotourism sites vulnerable to SLR is underway.
- **Nearshore Habitat Resilience (Task 73):** For the FY20 grant, CBNERR hosted a restoration workshop in Sept 2021 and created a steering committee. For FY21 the grant has been transferred to MPPDC. VIMS is working on a shoreline restoration design plan for Machicomoco State Park.

- **Year 3 (FY22) Ideas:** CZM will consider using some CZM funding to maintain the CZM/Wetlands Watch Resilience Project Database if needed. CZM is currently monitoring the political climate regarding the state's resilience project database and the CZM database can serve as a backstop should support wane for the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan (VCRMP).

VCRMP Updates (Matt Dalon, DCR)

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is still in place from a previous Executive Order, and FOIA is also in place, but the next TAC meeting is not scheduled yet. The VCRMP was released in December and Dewberry will continue work (technical studies, total/compound flood hazard, a coastal erosion pilot study, resilience database enhancements, and outreach). PDCs are encouraged to submit new projects into the database.

FY21-25 Section 309 Strategies (Laura)

Laura gave an update on the 3 Strategies recently begun on Oct 1, 2021, including the following highlights:

- **Coastal Hazards:** VCPC's scope of work changed from updating CZM's Narrative Enforceable Policies with regard to resilience, to considering in lieu fees for impacts to habitats other than wetlands. MPPDC's current Next Generation Shorelines project is currently part of the FY20-22 Resilience Focal Area (FY21 Task 73), but for FY22 the project could be shifted to the Coastal Hazards Strategy since new enforceable policies or research to inform policies are anticipated outcomes. In this event, some funds could be shifted from the ongoing RAFT and CRS projects. Any remaining funds could be used for Ocean Resources or Marine Debris projects.
- **Ocean Resources:** VCPC students reviewed ocean plans from other states and will draft an outline for a Virginia Ocean Plan this grant year. Feb 17 is next meeting for the VA Ocean Planning Committee.
- **Marine Debris:** MARCO is submitting an FY22 proposal to NOAA for reducing plastic water bottle usage on beaches & waterfront recreation areas, including funding for water bottle refilling stations (with a location app) and social marketing efforts. The Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan update for 2021-2025 was completed in December and is available at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/coasts/marine-debris> CZM's Jeff Flood will continue to co-facilitate the Virginia Abandoned & Derelict Vessels Work Group (ADVWG) along with Clean Virginia Waterways' Katie Register. The ADVWG has had regular stakeholder meetings since Jan 2021 and is close to finishing a report with policy recommendations. Lynnhaven River NOW, a key ADVWG participant, submitted a proposal to NOAA in mid-Jan 2022 for FY22 funding to remove ADV, continue policy research, and conduct a public outreach campaign.

The idea of creating a Virginia shoreline stakeholders group was discussed and supported by the CPT. Jeff will send the CPT a list of suggested state agency representatives for review and refine prior to sending a Doodle poll to schedule the first meeting. The Group could include VMRC, DWR, VIMS, PDCs, Wetlands Watch, James River Association, CBNERRS, DCR-NHP, DCR Soil & Water, DCR Floodplain, and DEQ – Chesapeake Bay Program. The initial meeting will likely only include state agency staff, but membership expansion will be discussed.



FY22 IIJA CZM Funding (Laura)

Funding will include two types:

- **Capacity Building: \$150k/year (match-free)** for 5 years of non-competitive funds for staff capacity. The CPT supports funding this position within the CZM Program and having that person be available to assist partner agencies with development of grant proposals including required documentation of permits, SHPO clearance letters, appraisals, etc. as well as project implementation and reporting.
- **Land Acquisition or Habitat Restoration: Opportunity to submit 3 Letters of Intent/year for 3 projects up to \$5M/each (match-free) for a national competition with ~\$M/each year for 5 years.** John Kuriawa (NOAA) will get clarification on whether funds can be used for subtidal restoration projects (publically-owned subaqueous lands) offshore of private property. Per usual NOAA guidance, projects must be on public lands and have obvious benefits to the public or the ecosystem.

Funds will flow from NOAA to state CZM Programs through Section 310 of the CZMA. Grants are expected to begin by October 1, 2022. There will be a very short turnaround time between the FFO being published and applications due to NOAA. All CPT members should think about the land acquisition or habitat restoration projects they want to propose. As soon as the FFO comes out, CZM will request draft letters of intent and set a deadline for submittal to CZM. We will then compile all of them and send them back out to the CPT for review and voting on the top 3. We will ask the CPT if they would like to meet (virtually or in person) to discuss the LOIs before voting.

FY16-20 Lower Chickahominy Section 309 CSI Strategy (Jeff Flood, CZM)

Jeff gave an update on the 5-year project, which is set to end on March 31, 2022. Notable accomplishments include the signing of a MOU by the region's 3 localities, 3 Tribes, PlanRVA, and HRPDC to create the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC) to improve coordination and communication on land use planning, sustainable economic development, and protection of sensitive cultural sites. A third Stakeholder Summit will be held on February 16. 3 workgroups have been established and have met twice as an extension of the LCWC that will continue after the grant ends. The MOU was the first of its kind in this area of the country and while some questions were raised about the ability of localities to enter into an agreement with Tribal sovereign nations, the agreement is cooperative in nature and is not legally binding.

CZM/DEQ Water Division FY20 Section 309 Project of Special Merit on Bay Act Regulation Amendments (Justin Williams (DEQ), Pam Mason (VIMS), and Elizabeth Andrews (VCPC))

The project team gave an update on the project, including the project being extended through Sept 2022 and that in early March, DEQ will send stakeholders a draft of the guidance document being written by VCPC to review in advance of a meeting later that month. HRPDC will also be working with DEQ on a separate, but related project funded by EPA.

November 2021 Coastal Partners Workshop Recap (Laura)

Laura gave a brief recap on the topics of the workshop and directed the CPT to following link to the workshop recording: <https://padlet.com/ctpcordinatorcbnerr/CZMpartners>. FY23-25 Focal Area topics identified by participants included public access for underserved communities in conjunction with the current DEQ EJ communities mapping project, various types of habitat restoration, and a resiliency assessment for fixed infrastructure. The next Focal Area ideas are will be discussed at the September 2022 CPT meeting and voting to select one will occur at the

January 2023 CPT meeting. Our next workshop is likely to occur in November 2023, following the biennial schedule.

Web Accessibility, Progress Reports, & Proposal Guidance for FY22 (April Bahen, CZM)

April provided a brief overview of new guidance for grantees to report training events on CZM Progress Reports based on coordination with NOAA to confirm what constitutes an acceptable event. April also reviewed general FY22 grant proposal guidance items, including the new requirement for fringe tables and justifications in proposal budgets.

NOAA Program Updates (John Kuriawa, NOAA-OCM)

John noted that the next Section 312 CZM program evaluation (covering the period of summer 2015 through December 2021) will take place either in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid format TBD. A date for the evaluation as well as two areas of focus need to be chosen. CZM will reach out to NOAA within the next week to do so.

Agency Updates

- **HRPDC (Ben McFarlane):** FY22 Section 309 Project of Special Merit (Ben McFarlane, HRPDC) submitted to NOAA on Dec 3, 2021, but no updates yet.
- **CZM (Laura):** Need to get 306A documentation to NOAA by 2-15-22 for Eastern Shore land acquisition. Will use all of FY19 and FY20 funds and may have to use some FY21 funds. Laura discussed some possibilities for future Section 306A funding, including restoration of the New Point Comfort boardwalk (originally funded by CZM in FY90) and ecotourism infrastructure construction at the Chickahominy Tribe's newly-acquired Mamanahunt property.
- **CZM (Virginia Witmer):** Will have to push back production and printing of the CZM magazine due to other pending deadlines. Progress is being made on content for the CZM webpages and will focus on Issue pages next.
- **DWR (Becky Gwynn):** Took ownership of the Guinea marshes from the Wildlife Foundation of VA – there are public access opportunities there. DWR has had a Virginia Sea Grant fellow since October, working on outreach/education to wildlife recreationists/enthusiasts regarding coastal climate change issues for DWR. DWR has acquired 8,600 acres in Accomack County with 12 different funding partners; there is another 110 ac adjacent to these parcels – habitat management on these parcels will be individualized to the habitats. The Winter Wildlife Festival is happening this weekend.
- **CBNERR (Cirse Gonzalez):** William & Mary is having Climate Change and Water in Virginia community conversations – let Cirse know if you want to tell your story; <https://www.wm.edu/sites/dwoj/>
- **DCR – NHP (Joe Weber):** Working on land acquisition adjacent to Natural Area Preserves (NAP), working with DWR on this.
- **VIMS (Pam Mason):** Recent focus on tidal and non-tidal wetland restoration to meet Bay-wide goals, including the following upcoming workshops: **March 22-23, 2022:** Chesapeake Bay Program's Wetlands Workgroup (crediting habitat restoration while minimizing unintended adverse consequences to other adjacent habitats) and **May 24-25 2022:** EPA's Office of Research & Development workshop in May on marsh resilience, collaborating with the Wetlands Workgroup to maximize habitat co-benefits). Pam is co-chair of the CB Wetlands Workgroup so please contact her with any questions and for upcoming meeting information.



Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

At approximately 3:30pm the meeting was adjourned

Attendee List

CZM

April Bahen
Jeff Flood
Laura McKay
Nick Meade
Virginia Witmer

DEQ

Sharon Baxter
Stephanie Bellotti
Dave Davis
Meghann Quinn
Bettina Rayfield
Daniel Salkovitz
Justin Williams

NOAA

John Kuriawa
Andrew Larkin

CBNERRS

Cirse Gonzalez
William Reay

VDACS – Not able to attend

DCR

Matt Dalon
Joseph Weber

VDEM

Robbie Coates

VDOF

Caitlin Verdu

VDH – Not able to attend

DHR

Elizabeth Moore

VDOT

Steve Begg
Taylor Parker

DWR

Becky Gwynn
Amy Martin
David Norris

Virginia Energy

Ken Jurman
David Spears

VIMS

Mark W Luckenbach
Pamela Mason
Lyle Varnell

VMRC

Andrew Button
Lewis Gillingham
Alicia Nelson

Wm&M-VCPC

Elizabeth Andrews

Gray Montrose

Jesse Reiblich

A-NPDC

Jessica Steelman

Crater PDC

Alec Brebner
Jay Ruffa

GWRC

Chip Boyles
Luke Peters

HRPDC

Ben McFarlane

MPPDC

Lewie Lawrence
Jackie Rickards
Curt Smith

NNPDC

John Bateman

NVRC

Norm Goulet

PlanRVA

Rebekah Cazares
Sarah Stewart