



Coastal Policy Team Meeting Summary

January 28, 2021

1:00pm – 4:30pm

Welcome and Introductions: (*Laura McKay, CZM*)

Laura gave a brief welcome and referred attendees to “handouts” including the agenda and a contacts sheet with the names, affiliations, and email addresses of all invitees in lieu of individual introductions. Laura then welcomed VA Tribal representatives and read the following Land Acknowledgement statement: *“We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we live and work today, represented by the Tribes that have joined us today. We pay our respect to their elders, past and present.”* The meeting was recorded for CZM note taking purposes and will not be publically posted.

Tribal Policies Grant Update: (*Elizabeth Andrews, VCPC*)

Elizabeth gave an overview of the recently completed CZM-funded Tribal Policies grant (FY18) which identified Tribal priorities for the Coastal Zone and engagement best practices. She also referred to work DEQ has done to address environmental justice (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=1815> and <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=1813>)

Questions from Tribal Reps to State Agency Reps about Natural Resource Management:

Several Tribal representatives had the opportunity to ask state agency meeting participants about policies, regulations, funding opportunities, and resources for technical assistance on a variety of topics: septic systems, wetland delineations, visitor facilities on Tribal lands, interpretive signage, cultural resource documentation and preservation, and GIS mapping assistance. Please see the attached ***Tribal Resource Guide*** for additional information on agency contacts and capabilities.

FY16-20 Section 309 Strategies and FY20-22 Section 306 Focal Area Updates:

CZM staff gave brief overviews of progress made to date on the following:

- **Cumulative and Secondary Impacts** (*Jeff Flood*): Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project is focused on land conservation and supporting sustainable economic development in the watershed. The project team (PlanRVA, UVA-IEN, CZM) are working on a draft MOU between the three Tribes and three local governments in the region to promote further collaboration on cultural and natural resource issues. The MOU, if signed, would meet the NOAA grant deliverable of an enforceable policy. The potential signatories will meet on February 3 for further discussion.
- **Ocean Resources** (*Laura*): Todd Janeski (VCU) continues to coordinate with fishermen about doing surveys of Dominion’s offshore wind lease area, is working on bringing GLDs into the Federal Consistency review process, and is working on a report on the value of offshore fisheries to Virginia. The Nature Conservancy also has a grant to develop an offshore wind siting tool that allows a user to draw a polygon on a map and then find out the relative abundance of species in that polygon.

- **Marine Debris (Laura):** Currently the focus is on developing a social marketing campaign for curtailing balloon releases. A Marine Debris Leadership Team has been created for Virginia and on February 23-25, 2021 there will be a meeting focusing on the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan, which will be updated since its inception in 2014. Katie Register (Clean Virginia Waterways) has created a group called the Plastic Pollution Prevention Network (PPPN) and is a co-facilitator (with Jeff) of the recently formed Abandoned and Derelict Vessels Workgroup (ADVWG). Assistant Chief Keith Anderson (Nansemond Indian Tribe) asked if there was funding for removing ADV from Tribal property and Laura/Jeff replied that the ADVWG is looking into options, also inviting Asst. Chief Anderson to join the ADVWG for further discussion.
 - **Coastal Hazards (Shep Moon):**
 - RAFT evaluations and technical assistance
 - CRS analysis and training
 - Impacts of road flooding analysis
 - Resilience project database
 - Shoreline planning and policy guidance
 - Living shoreline contractor training
 - Local shoreline evolution studies
 - Beneficial use of dredge material study
 - Bay Act flooding guidance (FY 20 PSM)
 - Shep noted that a number of these initiatives had helped inform the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan Framework and that several, including RAFT and Bay Act Resilience, are specifically included in the document under actions and outcomes.
- **FY20-22 Resilience Focal Area (Shep, Jeff, and Laura):**
 - *PDC Resiliency* – PDC’s are continuing efforts to enhance local & regional resilience by, 1) expanding the Coastal Zone Resilience Projects Database, 2) helping to implement the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, & 3) providing assistance to local governments on resilience issues. Funding is attached to their *technical assistance grants. (Shep Moon)*
 - *Conservation Targeting for Resilience* – VIMS is collaborating with DWR, DCR Natural Heritage Program, & VMRC to develop projections of shifts in coastal habitats and their impacts on natural communities and native species due to climate change and sea level rise. (Shep Moon)
 - *Advancing Resiliency in Virginia’s Coastal Zone by Supporting Climate-Adaptive Nearshore Natural & Nature-Based Restoration Projects* - CBNERRVA is supporting the development of a York-Piankatank-Mobjack Bay nearshore restoration “community of practice” to collectively advance coastal community resiliency projects. Funding will also support the creation of detailed design plans for one climate adaptive project in this area. (Jeff Flood)
 - *Promoting Ecotourism to Support Conservation of Conserved Lands & Resilient Communities* – Lower Chickahominy is being added as a region; guide certification course is running now – Georgia and S. Carolina are using it as a model; promotion is emphasizing the value of conserved lands as both economic and climate resilience drivers. Also promoting conserved lands as drivers of health resilience amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Atlantic Joint Venture Conservation Plan:

Becky Gwyn (DWR) gave an update on DWR's conservation planning efforts involving two bird species, the saltmarsh sparrow (<https://acjv.org/saltmarsh-sparrow/>) and the black rail (<https://acjv.org/black-rail/>), which are threatened by sea level rise encroachment in their tidal marsh nesting areas and are rare in Virginia, respectively. American black duck conservation planning efforts still underway with a plan and updated decision support tools to be finalized this winter/spring (<https://acjv.org/american-black-duck/>). There's also a possibility of a February webinar/workshop on Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative sponsored by Coastal States Organization and Manomet Bird Observatory. DWR will be adding breeding bird atlas data into Coastal GEMS and adding sea turtle conservation plan into the CZM Ocean Strategy.

Resilience Academy Updates:

Elizabeth Andrews gave a brief overview of progress in the development of a Virginia Resilience Academy:

- After asking entities in Virginia if Virginia should have a Resilience Academy, the answer was "Yes." VCPC wants to get input from business groups as well.
- It was determined that a partnership should be used to offer the training and that follow-up training should be held.
- May look at DEQ's Climate Change Webinars as models.
- Will send this to the Secretary of Natural Resources (SNR) next.

FY 20 Section 309 Project of Special Merit - Bay Act Regulation Amendments:

Justin Williams (DEQ) gave a brief update on both the PSM project team effort as well as the concurrent DEQ regulatory process for revising the existing CBPA regulations to incorporate resiliency, as mandated by the General Assembly in 2020. While originally intended to develop guidance for the existing regulations at the time submittal to NOAA, the PSM will now focus on providing guidance to the new regulations.

- SWCB tabled discussion until June 2021 meeting, extended public comment period for 90 days
- SWCB asked DEQ to set up an advisory group after GA session ends
- It was suggested that the Stakeholder Advisory Group begin early in the project because if it doesn't it may not be consistent with what the stakeholders want.
- It was noted that VIMS CCRM is getting input from stakeholders now.
- VCPC does not want to do a regulatory analysis until the regulations are done so it would be more applicable.
- It was suggested that a Scope of Work Amendment be done to make sure the Project of Special Merit (PSM) relates to the new regulatory development.
- DEQ noted that the public comment period for the Framework for Regulatory Amendment will inform it.

CZM Resilience Database Update:

Ross Weaver (Wetlands Watch) gave a brief update on progress made on the database

- Have 230 projects in the inventory now. Discussed the project types.
- There is a second tab of information – Plans and Studies – 112 projects on this tab.
- Now there is a funding database where red, on the left-hand side, means the funding is not active and green means the funding is active. There is also a

- calendar view that shows what days the funding is active.
- Wetlands Watch has already talked to some PDCs and will continue to work with all of the coastal PDCs to get their input.
- It was asked if a project can be listed in multiple categories – No.
- It was asked if this database is connected to AdaptVA; it is on the Resilience Resources on that site. (??)
- Ross to share link and password to database with PDC's only

VA Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework:

Adm. Ann Phillips (OSNHR) shared updates from the December 2020 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, which kicked off the CRMP development process:

- Update: TAC meeting schedule & first meeting recap (see PowerPoint??)
 - Immediate Actions are the TAC, VA CZM and Community Engagement; need to find more state funding to support these goals.
- Role of PDC participation via their CZM TA grants
- *Discussion*
 - It was asked if the TAC meetings are public and if there is a website for these meetings. The answer is yes, they are public and the SNR Resilience webpage has information on the TAC meetings.

New FY2021-2025 Section 309 Strategies:

CZM staff provided an overview of the following new Section 309 projects scheduled to begin in FY21 and continue in FY22-25.

- *Coastal Hazards* (Shep): \$167,000 per year
- Resilience Evaluation of CZM Enforceable Policies & Programs - The Virginia Coastal Policy Center will analyze the new enforceable policies (that they helped develop) for resilience-building opportunities and prioritize future, more detailed projects.
- Local Resilience Building through RAFT and CRS - The RAFT Team and Wetlands Watch will continue local resilience evaluations and technical support.
- Next Generation Shoreline Management Plans - Projects and grantees will be based on priorities identified through the Coastal Resilience Master Planning Process.
- *Ocean Resources* (Laura): CZM will be setting up a Planning Committee and contracting with VCPC to work on stakeholder engagement for the development of a Virginia Ocean Plan. DMME will look to identify additional offshore wind lease areas and VMRC will be developing a Virginia Ocean Acidification Plan. The Plan may also feature protection for marine mammals and other marine species.
- *Marine Debris* (Laura): Meeting in February 2021 to begin update of 2014 version of Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan, identifying specific policy actions to take. General Assembly working on establishing Plastic Waste Advisory Council, will coordinate efforts going forward.
- Kickoff meeting for each of the Section 309 Strategies to be scheduled soon via Doodle polls from Laura.

Virginia Ocean Acidification Plan Updates:

Ellen Bolen (VMRC) noted that VMRC is working on a Virginia Ocean Acidification Implementation Plan, hoping to have a draft to the SNHR by mid-February 2021. Virginia

joined the Ocean Acidification Alliance in 2018, but would like to hear from anyone who is doing work in this area. VMRC is currently looking at models from other states.

GEMS Version 4.0 Updates:

Nick Meade (CZM) noted that demo and beta testing is in progress and GIS layers for Priority Areas for Mapping Bay and Ocean Resources and Uses will be a new addition to the interactive database. Version 4.0 will hopefully be released in March 2021.

Project to Investigate No Discharge Zones in Chesapeake Bay:

Anne Schlegel (DEQ) provided an update on the project, noting that DEQ's Water Division has a grant from the OSNHR to research barriers to adopting a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) in the Chesapeake Bay to support shellfish populations and other sensitive environmental areas. Funding is subcontracted to VIMS and VCPC to determine the most feasible places to have a NDZ, while navigating the challenges to doing so. A report including data and recommendations is anticipated to be submitted to the OSNHR by end of summer 2021.

FY2021 CZM Grant Application Schedule & Guidance:

- Feb 1: CZM sends FY21 proposal template and grant guidance to grantees
- Feb 16: CZM Grant allocation numbers due from NOAA (*grantees draft their proposals based on FY20 funding*)
- Feb 26: Continuing grant proposals due to CZM
- Mar 12: New Section 309 1st year proposals due to CZM
- Mar 19: All continuing grant proposals to DEQ/OFM
- Mar 26: New 309 proposals to DEQ/OFM
- Apr 15: Draft application due to NOAA/OCM
- Apr 30: NOAA comments on draft due to CZM and shared w/grantees
- May 10: Grantee's revisions due to CZM
- May 14: Final application due to NOAA/OCM
- Jun 4: Final application due to NOAA/GMD

November 2021 Coastal Partners Workshop: Hoping to do in-person on Nov 16-18, 2021 at DEQ Richmond offices. Requested volunteers to help in planning, Jessica Steelman (A-NPDC confirmed).

Narrative Enforceable Policies Update:

Tina Rayfield (DEQ) provided updates on

- Policies effective date
 - The Federal Consistency Manual was updated in October 2020
- Training
 - Will try to schedule a NOAA training for agency personnel.
 - There will be a PDC training in May. More PDCs may reach out to DEQ EIR to be included.
 - Possibly will do a training for the public.
- Additional policies to add to the CZM Program?
 - Overall environmental management policy
 - Tidal and non-tidal wetland no net loss language
 - Protection of state parks

- Others?
-It was asked if anyone objected to including these items, and no objection was offered by any attendee.

Agency Updates:

- **Dept. of Forestry:** The Virginia Trees for Clean Water Program RFP is for projects to support statewide tree planting for spring and fall of 2021. Project applications should be from \$1,000 to \$14,000. Applications are due by email at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. Contact Lara.Johnson@dof.virginia.gov for application forms.
- **NOAA Office for Coastal Management:**
 - Resilience Grants (<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>).
 - See “handouts” in GoToWebinar control panel (VA received 2, FY20 grants)
 - \$34M appropriated in FY21 (\$1M increase over FY20)
 - At least \$3M to go to planning and design projects
 - RFP will go out in March
 - Laura.Petes@noaa.gov is the lead
- **CZM Land Acquisitions:** Currently finalizing acquisition for land for Chickahominy Tribe, which may be the last large land acquisition due to 306A regulation changes at NOAA.
- **Virginia CZM Webpage:** Have experienced delays in uploading content to new DEQ webpage. CZM continues to work with DEQ Communications Division to post new content.

****At approximately 4:30pm the meeting was adjourned****

Attendee List

Alexander	Shannon	A-NPDC
Allston	Chief Lynette	Nottoway Indian Tribe
Anderson	Asst. Chief Keith	Nansemond Indian Tribe
Andrews	Elizabeth	VCPC
Atwood	Karri	
Austin	Doris	Chickahominy Indians - Eastern Division
Bahen	April	CZM
Barber	Michael	
Bateman	John	NNPDC
Baxter	Sharon	DEQ
Begg	Steve	VDOT
Bolen	Ellen	VMRC
Brebner	Alec	Crater PDC
Brown	Chief Walt Red Hawk	Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe
Buford	Brandy	
Button	Andrew	VMRC
Cannady	Keith	HRPDC
Chance	Cindy	National Park Service
Davis	Angela	DCR
Egerton	Todd	VDH
Fernald	Ray	DWR
Fisher	John	DEQ
Flood	Jeff	CZM
Gillingham	Lewis	VMRC
Gonzalez	Cirse	CBNERRVA
Gray	Chief Robert	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Gregory	Lance	VDH
Gwynn	Becky	DWR
Janeski	Todd	VCU
Jurman	Ken	DMME
Kirchen	Roger	DHR
Kuriawa	John	NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Larkin	Andrew	NOAA Bay Program
Lasher	Terry	DOF
Lassiter	V'lent	DEQ/Water
Lawrence	Lewie	MPPDC
Mason	Pamela	VIMS
McFarlane	Benjamin	HRPDC
McKay	Laura	CZM
McKelvey	Kristal	DCR
Meade	Nick	CZM
Messmer	Debbie	VDEM
Miles	Corey	NVRC
Mitchell	Leigh	
Moon	Shep	CZM
Moore	Elizabeth	DHR
Nelson	Denise	Berkely Group
Owen	Randy	VMRC

Parker	Taylor	VDOT
Phillips	Adm. Ann	OSNHR
Phillips	Jessica	Chickahominy Indians - Eastern Division
Rhur	Roberta	DCR
Rayfield	Bettina	DEQ
Reiblich	Jesse	VCPC
Rickards	Jackie	MPPDC
Roach	Beth	Nottoway Indian Tribe
Ruffa	Jay	Crater PDC
Salkovitz	Daniel	DEQ
Sandridge	Scott	Virginia Sea Grant
Schlegel	Anne	DEQ
Schneider	Jutta	DEQ
Schul	Hannah	DEQ
Seaton	Kellie	
Skiffington	Lorrie	DMME
Smith	Curt	MPPDC
Spears	David	DMME
Steelman	Jessica	A-NPDC
Stewart	Sarah	PlanRVA
Thiel-Goin	Carl	DCR
Tretina	Marilee	DEQ
Tupponce	Reggie	Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Varnell	Lyle	VIMS
Watkinson	Tony	VMRC
Weaver	Ross	Wetlands Watch
Wendt	Aaron	
Williams	Justin	DEQ
Witmer	Virginia	CZM
Wynn	Courtney	Spec. Assist. to Gov. for Tribal Relations