

November 2021

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

CZM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



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Executive Summary

The Technical Assistance (TA) Program, funded through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, provides Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) staff the opportunity to create and implement adaptive management techniques, enhance communication between local, regional, and state stakeholders, and inform planning decisions by local, regional, and state coastal managers. The TA Program has been the backbone of coastal zone management in the Middle Peninsula by providing a resource that allows local governments to address coastal zone issues that may otherwise go unanswered. Specifically, the TA Program provides the MPPDC with the necessary administrative framework to assist rural Middle Peninsula coastal localities (i.e., staff, elected officials, and community level groups) in the enhancement of coastal zone management tools and techniques that allow for economic development while protecting coastal resources.

Middle Peninsula localities rely annually on MPPDC staff to provide professional and technical coastal zone management planning assistance on national, regional, and local coastal issues, and associated policy and legislation. Over the past year, the MPPDC has made significant strides in providing education and technical assistance on issues such as the regional impacts of COVID-19, solar energy, nature-based flood mitigation solutions, and dredging. For the Federal FY20 grant, there were seven tasks outlined and completed under the work program:

Coastal Management Analysis and Policy Support. MPPDC staff provided coastal management support to local government elected officials, chief administrative officers for local governments, local planning staff, local planning commissions and wetlands board staff. MPPDC staff worked to advance the regional [Fight the Flood \(FTF\) Program](#) that aims to connect property owners facing rising flood waters with tools and funding, including specialized businesses who can help evaluate, design, and build flood resiliency solutions. MPPDC staff consulted with local businesses to participate in the program and worked with local homeowners to connect them with financial tools available through the FTF.

Local and State Planning Coordination. MPPDC staff attended, convened, and participated in various monthly and quarterly meetings with local government level planners, government administrators, and other appropriate government and NGO committees to assist with improved coastal planning. Through these meetings, Coastal Planners illuminate choices which policy makers can use to help inform decisions.

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) Work Plan & Support for Online Facility Reservation System. MPPDC staff assisted the MPCBPAA in implementation of their annual work plan. Three meetings were held throughout the year. In part, MPPDC staff contracted with Consociate Media to launch the Virginia Coastal Wilds website (<https://vacoastalwilds.com/>); staff worked on a bid packet for a new pier on the Captain Sinclair Recreational Area Property; MPPDC staff helped to launch the Bay Direct app to serve as a virtual marketplace for local food; and [with VA Sea Grant and Go Virginia to launch a Rural Coastal Challenges competition.](#) .

Regional Resiliency Coordination. MPPDC staff participated in the development and management of the *Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan* (VCRMP) through TAC committee

and sub-committee meetings. MPPDC staff also provided standing monthly meetings for localities to discuss regional resiliency issues and to provide trainings on resilience topics.

CZM Resilience Database Support. MPPDC staff shared the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program database with CZM which included 51 potential resiliency projects within the region. .

Special Project – Fight the Flood Program. MPPDC staff launched the Fight the Flood program to connect citizens experiencing flooding and erosion issues on public and private property to specialist contractors offering resiliency or mitigation solutions. The program also connects private needs to viable funding sources. For instance, MPPDC submitted 39 applications amounting to over \$2.5 M to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)'s Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF).

Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants. MPPDC contracted with Consociate Media to develop an ongoing strategic outreach and awareness initiative to inform localities and stakeholders of the PDC's work and the benefits of the CZM program.

Introduction

With funding through CZM, MPPDC was able to provide coastal management support and coordination to local governments and their elected officials, local planning staff and planning district commission staff. The MPPDC was also able to collaborate and provide guidance to other planning district commissions on coastal issues, including COVID-19, mitigating for flooding with nature-based solutions, dredging, and public land access. This report will touch on the seven products of this project.

Product #1: Coastal Management Analysis and Policy Support

MPPDC's Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program provides the necessary administrative framework to assist rural coastal local governments across the Middle Peninsula with access to enhanced coastal zone management tools and techniques that balance economic development with protecting coastal resources.

The nine local governments of the Middle Peninsula region relied upon MPPDC staff for ongoing analysis and policy support for emerging issues (e.g., dredging, flooding, public water access, new grant funding, new regulations, and COVID-19's impact on the Middle Peninsula coastal economy) to assist and improve local and regional planning efforts. Technical policy assistance focused on a variety of topics including solar energy; dredging; and flood mitigation through nature-based solutions. For a list of staff activities throughout the grant year, please see Appendix A.

Example of Coastal Management Support

MPPDC staff worked with Delegate Keith Hodges, Virginia General Assembly 98th District concerning the development of approximately twenty bills focusing on addressing key issues impacting rural coastal localities. Bills that passed during the 2021 General Assembly Session that MPPDC directly worked on included HB 2187 (Recurrent Flooding Resiliency Clearinghouse) and HB 2217 (Access Authority Liability).

Additionally, PDC staff co-authored budget amendments which were successfully enacted including Item 302 #3c which directed the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), to work with MPPDC to initiate a 3-year project to analyze a vertically elevated unit subject to high water and flooding in coastal VA and budget amendment language pertaining to the Coastal Inundation Infrastructure Study. This language requires that VDOT report to the General Assembly annually with an up-to-date identification of at-risk rural, suburban, and urban infrastructure, and planning and options to mitigate or eliminate the identified risks; and a report on what work remains to be completed and an estimated time frame for completion of this work.

Leveraged Accomplishment

The 2021 General Assembly passed HB 2188 for a Pilot program for elevated septic systems. The bill requires the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with MPPDC, to initiate a three-year pilot program designed to study the use of engineered septic systems that house and treat sewage effluent in an elevated, self-contained unit suitable for areas with high water tables and susceptible to flooding in Coastal Virginia. MPPDC received \$120,000 for this pilot program.

Other leveraged accomplishments have also been seen with the previous legislation introduced by Delegate Hodges. During the 2020 General Assembly session, Delegate Hodges introduced HB1675 that *requires any applicant for a solar facility to give to the host locality written notice of the applicant's intent to locate a solar facility in an opportunity zone, defined in the bill, in such locality and request a meeting. Such applicant shall meet, discuss, and negotiate a siting agreement with such locality. The siting agreement may include terms and conditions, including mitigation of any impacts of such solar facility and financial compensation to the host locality to address various capital needs.* As an outcome of the session, the bill was passed. In a recent effort to research the benefits accrued to-date by this bill it was found that approximately \$115 million have returned to local rural communities because of solar hosting agreements.

Product #2: Local and State Planning Coordination

MPPDC hosted monthly and quarterly meetings as a forum and information exchange between the local planning staff, local government administrators, and local government appointed committees. This forum provided for continued coordination of coastal local planning efforts, specialized training opportunities and the impetus for leadership in progressive coastal zone planning techniques. Training topics revolved around assisting with implementation of existing state and federal regulations including, but not limited to repetitive flooding and coastal resiliency; COVID – 19 impacts; local land use (i.e., nutrient bank development, solar energy facilities, etc.), and other related matters. Forums, trainings, and meeting activities served as a conduit for information exchange between various user groups about state/federal initiatives and to solicit input from localities on state/federal initiatives. Coordination occurred at the local level for administrators and planners (monthly, bimonthly, and quarterly), and other appropriate committees, as necessary.

MPPDC staff specifically convened forty-eight meetings of the local government administrators. Approximately half of these meeting were led by Dr. Richard Williams of Virginia Department of Health Three Rivers District and focused on the regional impacts of COVID-19 and vaccine deployment. Additionally, three meetings of the MPCBPAA were convened to discuss ongoing and new issues related

to coastal zone management. Additionally, MPPDC staff hosted four trainings throughout the grant year, including the following:

1. **11/18/2020** – An overview of USGS Water Monitoring and discussion of local data needs. The USDOT “BUILD” Working Waterfronts Enhancement Proposal was also discussed. There were 8 participants.
2. **12/16/2020** – An overview of the report entitled Large Scale Solar Development: A Playbook for Southwest Virginia, a presentation on the SolTax model by DMME, and a discussion of proposed Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Regulatory Amendments, CFPF guidelines, and proposed dredging projects. There were 6 participants.
3. **2/24/2021** – A presentation on SolSmart from DMME, a presentation on conservation easements and solar farms, and further discussion of CBPA amendments, CFPF guidelines, and the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) process. There were 11 participants.
4. **3/31/2021** – Further discussion of SolSmart and CBPA and Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) Tidal Wetlands Act updates, as well as a presentation/training on Fight the Flood. There were 10 participants.
5. **4/28/2021** – A review of the CFPF Grant Manual and discussion of CBPA guidelines. There were 14 participants.
6. **5/26/2021** – A presentation on Ecotourism Resilience Business Training as well as a discussion of a VHDA grant to house working watermen. Outreach for the VCRMP was discussed. There were 12 participants.
7. **6/30/2021** – A training on the CFPF Grant Manual and how to apply for funds, as well as a discussion on CBPA amendments and local engagement with the VCRMP. There were 9 participants.
8. **7/8/2021** – The regularly scheduled meeting was replaced by the VCRMP Pre-Charette meeting. There were 6 participants.
9. **8/25/2021** – The standing meeting was replaced by Integrated Shoreline Management Training, including CBPA and VMRC Wetlands amendments. There were 20 participants.
10. **9/29/2021** – A discussion of ongoing Fight the Flood/CFPF applications. There were 12 participants.

Product #3: MPCBPAA Work Plan & Support for Online Facility Reservation System

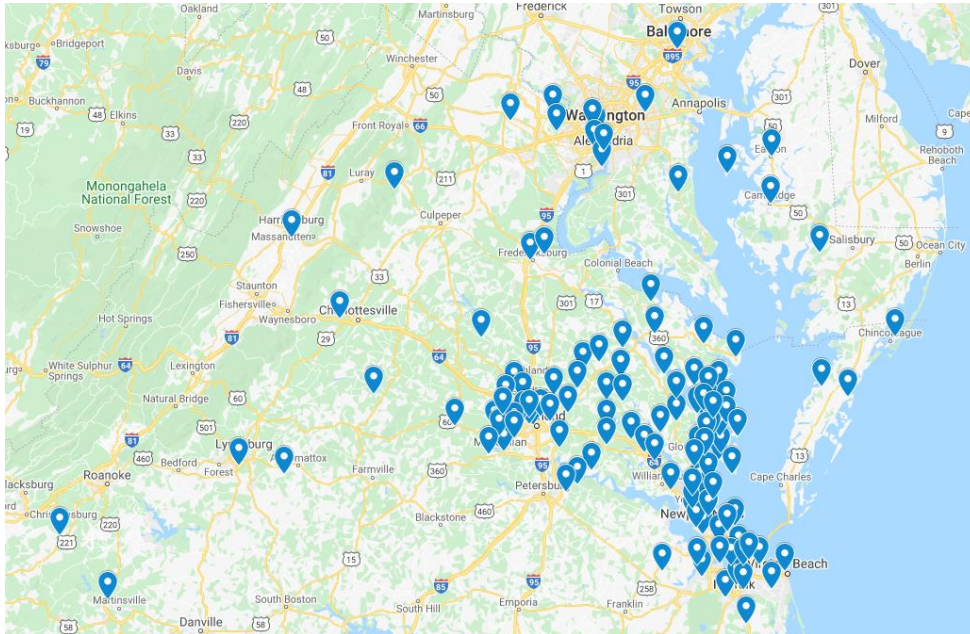
MPPDC Coastal Technical Assistance staff assisted the MPCBPAA with project facilitation, research, and data collection to support implementation of the MPCBPAA annual work plan. MPPDC staff assisted the Virginia Interactive with Online Facility Reservation system design by providing technical planning assistance including but not limited to outdoor trail planning, public access use capacity assessment, site mapping, improved social media awareness, and other aspects of coastal recreational planning to enhance the user’s interactive experience with the reservation system. MPPDC staff convened several meetings to implement the work program.

Throughout the year, MPPDC staff convened three meetings of the MPCBPAA. Meeting dates were November 20, 2020; April 2, 2021; and June 25, 2021. In conjunction with the meetings, MPPDC staff also worked to advance the work of the MCBPAA, including:

- MPPDC staff contracted with Consociate Media to launch Virginia’s Coastal Wilds as the outward facing rebranding of the MPCBPAA agency. In part a new website was developed to

feature the brand (www.vacoastalwilds.com) and new logos and merchandise concepts for monetizing the MPCBPAA were also developed. Please see Appendix B for logos and concepts.

- The MPCBPAA and MPPDC staff worked to develop a bid packet for the construction of a new pier on the Captain Sinclair Recreational Area property. The bid packet was advertised and there was one response from a local contractor. Construction is expected to begin in early 2022.
- MPPDC staff helped launch the new Bay Direct app for the MPCBPAA which serves as a virtual marketplace for local seafood and agricultural products. To-date the app has been downloaded approximately 500 times and has about 50 product listings from 20 vendors. Here's a map of the location of the downloads as provided by about 88% of users.



- The MPPDC, in partnership with GO Virginia, Virginia Sea Grant and the MPCBPAA, launched a \$1.5 Million rural coastal resiliency challenges directing resources towards 3 rural challenge areas, including flood management, protection of building and property, and water quality. Winners of this rural challenge will have access to MPCBPAA land that will act as pilot sites and laboratory for these projects. The waterfront properties are experiencing flooding, erosion, and other impacts of sea level rise - these are perfect and unique conditions to field test resilience innovations. For more information about this rural resiliency challenge visit - <https://riseresilience.org/rural-resilience-challenge/>.
- MPPDC staff partnered with Virginia Sea Grant to utilize MPCBPAA lands as resiliency R&D laboratories through their Go Virginia funded project.

Product #4: Regional Resiliency Coordination

The MPPDC established a regional resiliency stakeholder group and conducted regional stakeholder meetings. The group explored and discussed policy issues such as resiliency solution implementation including the financial, technical, and entrepreneurial implications, and barriers to implementation. MPPDC staff used the existing Middle Peninsula local government administrators and local planner's

meetings as monthly forums for dialogue. As discussions ensued the MPPDC board adopted a [Middle Peninsula Regional Flood Resiliency Plan](#). The Middle Peninsula’s Regional Flood Resiliency Plan is comprised of two primary approved policies which form the implementation and foundation of the Middle Peninsula flood protection approach and are indirectly and directly supported by multiple specific regional planning documents, both approved by various required federal, regional, or local partners as required by statute. The two primary approved policies include:

1. MPPDC Fight the Flood Program Design
2. MPPDC Living Shoreline Resiliency Incentive Funding Program

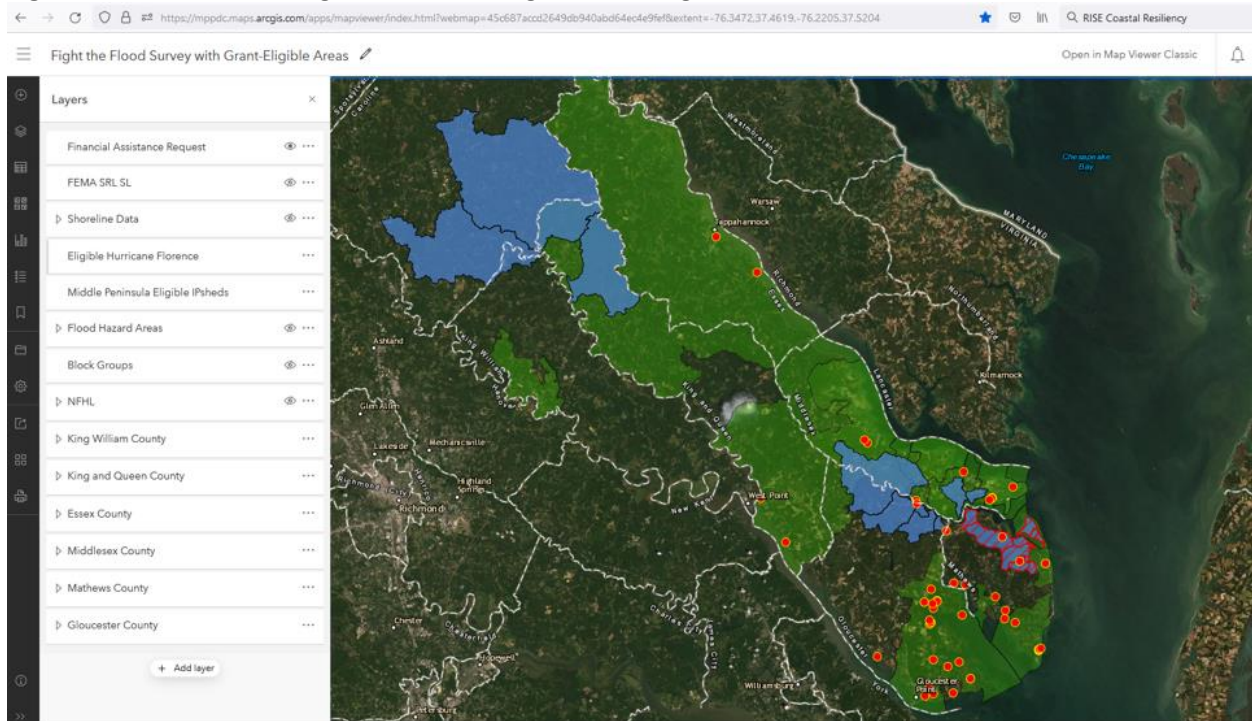
Please see the [Middle Peninsula Regional Flood Resiliency Plan for more information](#).

MPPDC staff also supported the development and of the VCRMP. MPPDC participated in TAC meetings on December 14, 2020, and in 2021 on February 26, April 21, June 22, September 2, and October 7; Finance Subcommittee meetings on February 22, March 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, and August 30, 2021; and Economic Development Subcommittee meetings on February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 2, June 28, and August 2, 2021. The Master Plan is expected to complete by December 2021.

Product #5: CZM Resilience Database Support

MPPDC staff provided data from the Fight the Flood program information portal that included resiliency project needed throughout the region. **Figure 1** shows a snapshot of the working interface:

Figure 1: Screen Shot of Fight the Flood Program Working Interface.



In **Figure 1** red dots represent the location of submitted resiliency projects throughout the region; the green shaded areas represent low-income areas within the Middle Peninsula; the blue areas are HUC with approved WIP plans; and the blue areas with red hatch marks are congressionally approved disaster areas from Hurricane Florence. *Please see supplemental final product – Excel spreadsheet titled “Fight the Flood Project List 11-9-21 FINAL (Product 5)” for a list of projects submitted.*

This portal allows for an ongoing collection of potential resiliency-related projects (public and private) in the region and an opportunity for MPPDC staff to seek funding to address and implement these projects.

Product #6: Resiliency Special Project – “Fight the Flood” Resilience Industry Accelerator Program Expansion

MPPDC staff continued to help mitigate the risk of sea-level rise and flood damage by accelerating the growth of the resiliency industry sector on Virginia’s Middle Peninsula. The purpose of the special project is to support and expand the development of a formalized approach to assist with the implementation effort for the 2019-created MPPDC Fight the Flood Program, the first resilience industry accelerator program of its kind in the Commonwealth and perhaps the nation.

The MPPDC Fight the Flood program features 6 core components: 1) Resiliency Marketplace, 2) Resiliency Professional Services, 3) Research and Product/Service Development, 4) Mitigation Construction, 5) Resiliency Insurance and 6) Project Administration. The driving force of the program is the Resiliency Marketplace, which involves attracting and growing companies that can provide products and/or services to meet the needs for the protection of coastal land, infrastructure, and water quality related to flood mitigation and flood water management, and connecting them with at-risk residents in a manner that offers incentives and benefits for all parties while facilitating resiliency improvements to real property located in the vulnerable areas of the Middle Peninsula. The Fight the Flood Program launched in March 2021. To date there are 19 businesses and 61 property owners have registered with the Fight the Flood Program. Also, MPPDC staff actively pursued funding through DCR’s CFPF grant program in effort to implement resiliency projects. In Round 1 of funding, MPPDC submitted 19 applications on behalf of homeowners with flooding and shoreline erosion issues on their properties, and a total of 37 proposals were submitted for Round 2. As MPPDC staff continue to improve the underlying geodatabase/GIS system and tools, increase targeted outreach efforts, train localities and individuals on how to submit projects, and refine the steps for processing applications, the Fight the Flood Program will be one of the main methods for addressing shoreline and flooding issues in the region going forward.

MPPDC staff provided professional planning, strategic thinking, and technical assistance to expand and promote the program within the region and beyond, including state and national flooding and resilience networks. MPPDC staff prepared Fight the Flood Program material for dissemination to various national level groups, such as American Flood Coalition and RES Home Raising Academy. Additionally, MPPDC staff presented the program to a North Carolina Coastal Flooding Conference as a premier solution-based model for rural coastal communities.

Finally, MPPDC staff contracted with Consociate Media to develop a marketing strategy for the program. The strategy centered around applying targeted geofencing of local stakeholders within the region and online promotional materials. Strategies were developed for leveraging identified Section 309 Coastal

Hazards strategies involving the development of next generation Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs), including feasible conceptual shoreline management solutions along privately owned shorelines. Specific outreach to directly engage property owners in these areas notified them of financing strategies and incentivized services available through the Fight the Flood program.

Product #7: Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants

The challenges faced by residents and businesses on the Middle Peninsula, in the heart of rural coastal Virginia, are complex and diverse. Years of regulatory overlap, combined with a strong need to maintain clean waters and a resilient shoreline, created an environment that made it difficult for businesses to grow, homeowners to protect their property and the economy to thrive. Reductions in federal spending in regional waterways further made maintaining some of them difficult and created a need to find unique solutions. With the support of CZM, the MPPDC set out to help address the challenges that rural coastal Virginia region faces along its shorelines and beyond. The benefits of having an ongoing focused effort on finding solutions – smart solutions – in this complex environment have steadily accrued and been realized over time.

MPPDC projects funded by CZM in previous years have produced measurable benefits in subsequent years and/or have served as a foundation for additional projects. The MPPDC full Commission recently expressed a desire to develop a more strategic outreach and awareness initiative for all local elected officials within the Middle Peninsula concerning the essential work of the PDC, and especially the work supported by CZM's direct and indirect investment and its value to rural coastal communities.

MPPDC contracted with Consociate Media to help develop a narrative for the region. Products include a new public outreach strategies such as media calendar, focused media stories about coastal issues and other strategies to bring awareness of the importance of CZM funding.

Appendix C paints the picture of those benefits and where the investment by the CZM showcases results today. With continued investment, these benefits can be even further realized and built upon into the future.

Appendix A: Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Staff Activities

October 2020

- Drafted and submitted the semi-annual report to CZM.
- Submitted 4 pre-proposals for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funding.
- Discussed resilience proposals with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).
- Participated in VA Coastal Policy Center webinar regarding financing resilience projects.
- Participated in meeting of General Assembly Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding.
- Participated in CBSSC Wetlands Monitoring Partners meeting.
- Participated in meeting with UVA Law Students regarding environmental justice research project.
- Received contract from CZM and subcontracted to The Berkley Group.
- Participated in VA/MD Bay Enhancement Workgroup meeting to discuss beneficial reuse of dredge materials
- Investigate technologies for creating a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County staff member regarding the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) grant review process and the inability of VDEM to fund rural projects of need while urban areas continue to collect significant grant funds.
- Consulted with Debbie Messmer, VDEM State Hazard Mitigation Officer concerning various applications submitted to FEMA as well as BRIC matching requirements. Requested official determination of what constitutes eligible match under various FEMA programs, including BRIC.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County resident concerning workforce retraining needs related to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Consulted with Deltaville Marina owner regarding septic issues at a marina and possible funding options.
- Participated in a call with Region 6 Go Virginia concerning updating the Growth and Diversification Plan and the need for closer alignment with regional and local needs.
- Provide Ann Mitchell, King William Department of Social Services with census data for a habitat for humanity project.
- Consulted with representative of Reef Tech, a North Carolina resiliency based company regarding FEMA approved shoreline products. Also agreed to speak at the North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association annual conference on the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood program.
- Consulted with Lauren Stuhldreher, U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Virginia representative regarding modification to the EDA Coastal Resiliency proposal focusing of business assistance and mitigation planning.
- Discussed dredging approaches and financing needs with representative from Hunting Creek in Middlesex County.
- Convened the Local Govt Administrators meeting for October. Discussed COVID, Broadband deployment, and CSB staffing matters.

- Advised all Middle Peninsula elected officials and community stakeholders of a DEQ public comment period related to the State Water Control Board promulgating regulations to allow for the mitigation of flooding within the RPA.
- Consulted with Virginia Dominion Power Broadband Engineer concerning opportunities to partner on fiber drops to connect Dominion sub stations and private sector providers running lateral connections to serve homes with no service.
- Consulted with the CEO of NATRX regarding the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood program and inclusion of NARTX. NATRX uses a concrete 3D process to build equivalent to granite for flood mitigation structures that are more cost effective and weight controlled.
- Participated in the General Assembly called JCOTS Resilience committee call. Discussed urban, suburban and rural challenges with managing climate change and flooding issues.
- Consulted with Mary-Carson Stiff of Wetland Watch regarding deed encumbrances for FEMA acquired parcels. Reviewed a draft deed and suggested modifications to assist with the transfer of the land to a non- profit.
- Consulted with Essex County Board of Supervisors member, John McGruder regarding General Assembly Special Session as well as possible Boy Scout demonstration projects on land owned by the PAA.
- Consulted with Mike Vernon, Flood Mitigation Specialists regarding an Essex County resident who has requested assistance under the Fight the Flood program. Mr. Vernon contacted the homeowner and addressed the Flood Insurance policy need.
- Consulted with Kevin Landry, Gloucester County Environment planner regarding calculations for stormwater impervious surface and Beaver Dam. Offered approaches for recalculating impervious cover.
- Received multiple requests from hunters from across the Middle Peninsula and beyond regarding bow hunting on land owned by the PAA. Opened three new parcels for bow hunting to accommodate growing need.
- Consulted with Robert Crockett, Advantus Strategy regarding establishing a revolving loan fund for shoreline projects that do not meet the eligibility for existing living shoreline funding programs. Mr. Crockett will consult with DEQ staff regarding program flexibility.
- Participated in the Coastal Policy Team meeting as a representative of the Coastal PDCs to discuss CZM policy matters, including VCRMP and shovel ready projects.

November 2020

- Consulted with Debbie Messmer, VDEM State Hazard Mitigation Officer concerning BRIC and FMA applications to be submitted to FEMA. Discussed Coastal Barrier Resource Act implications for BRIC proposals.
- Consulted with Sands Anderson regarding RFQ design for use under Fight the Flood to procure professional services following the Virginia Beach model.
- Consulted with Beth Otto, FEMA Community Recovery Assistance-Interagency Coordination Division Recovery Directorate concerning the development of the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program INFORMATION RESOURCES/ASSISTANCE COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL Funding – DEQ, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), DCR, local match from MPPDC General Fund & partners 106 framework and other resiliency matters.
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- Presented the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program to the Virginia Floodplain Managers Association.

- Presented, as the Keynote Speaker, the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program to the North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association.
- Presented the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program to New Paradigm Global Virtual Conference.
- Serving on a planner for the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities to present on the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program and how MPPDC uses state revolving loan funding to protect the tax base and improve water quality.
- Consulted with Robert Crockett, Advantus Strategies regarding VDOT-VIMS Flooding Study and local government representation.
- Consulted with a Middlesex County citizen regarding scenic rivers designation.
- Consulted with a local Gloucester County builder interested in FEMA residential grants to mitigate flooding and participation under the Fight the Flood program.
- Consulted with Jason McGarvey, Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) regarding a new grant program focused on addressing social justice issues.
- Convened the Local Government Administrators meeting for November. Discussed COVID, Broadband deployment, and CSB staffing matters.
- Participated in the DEQ public comment period related to the State Water Control Board promulgating regulations to allow for the mitigation of flooding within the RPA.
- Consulted with the CEO of NATRX regarding the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood program and potential job creation within the Middle Peninsula for resiliency products.
- Consulted with Essex County Board of Supervisors member, John Magruder regarding DEQ RPA public comment session.
- Received multiple requests from hunters from across the Middle Peninsula and beyond regarding bow hunting on land owned by the PAA.
- Consulted with Robert Crockett, Advantus Strategies regarding establishing a revolving loan fund for shoreline projects that do not meet the eligibility for existing living shoreline funding programs. Mr. Crockett consulted with DEQ staff regarding program flexibility and it has been determined that a subrevolving loan designation is possible.
- Consulted with Gloucester County real-estate agent regarding a septic repair issue.
- Discussed volunteer services assistance offer from a Gloucester County resident. Arranged for labor to help with waterfowl blind bushing and wildlife improvements.
- Participated in a Coastal PDC call with Ann Phillips to discuss the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.
- Participated in the final VMRC RFAB meeting requesting funding for the rebuild of the Captain 107 Sinclair's fishing pier.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Participated in a meeting with Ann Phillips on the newly released VCRMP Framework, the plan for developing the VCRMP, and the role of PDCs on November 4th.
- Finalized and submitted FEMA BRIC grant proposal to VDEM November 10th.
- Presented to Gloucester County Go Green Committee the WIP program, approach, and progress on November 17th.
- Researched US GAO report regarding potential closure of Coast Guard stations and discussed matter with Congressional representatives to ensure local stations were not being targeted for closure.

- Coordinated with VA Main Street staff regarding needs for technical assistance for community development purposes in Tappahannock and Gloucester Courthouse.
- Researched training materials to assist local government planners with how to consider host agreements for solar energy development projects.
- Met with RAFT team to explore opportunities for program in Middle Peninsula for FY21.
- Participated in Chesapeake Bay Dredge Material Disposal and Reuse meeting with USACE and VMRC.
- Met with prospective resiliency business from North Carolina for Fight the Flood.
- Coordinated with UVA Law Students regarding potential environmental justice legislation for the 2021 General Assembly.
- Participated in Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding meeting on November 4th.

December 2020

- Received notice of a Gubernatorial appointment to the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which includes representatives from the eight coastal Planning District Commissions, academic and technical experts, and state and federal agencies. The TAC will hold its first public meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020.
- Agreed to serve on the VCRMP Request for Proposal review team to assist Ann Philips Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.) Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection with the selection of a private consultant to assist the state with implementing the resiliency master plan.
- Consulted with VHB Consultants regarding a locality desiring to activate dormant Intensely Developed Area status under the Chesapeake Bay Act. INFORMATION RESOURCES/ASSISTANCE COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL Funding – DEQ, VIMS, DCR, local match from MPPDC General Fund & partners.
- Consulted with Chris Davis of Ready Reef concerning TenCate GeoTube, a marine structure used for the storage of dredge material for resiliency and dredging project need. TenCate is interested in the Middle Peninsula market to assist with dredge material storage.
- Consulted with Anita Powell, Dominion Energy regarding a presentation to the Middle Peninsula Local Government Administrators and the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission on solar matters.
- Convened multiple meetings of the Middle Peninsula Local Government Administrators due to the need for weekly pandemic updates provided by Dr Rich Williams, Director for Three Rivers Health District. Received a presentation from the new Executive Director, Linda Hodges, for the Middle Peninsula Northern Neck Community Service Board
- Consulted with Matt Campbell, CEO for Natrx, a company that enables builders, architects, and ecologists to incorporate nature directly into infrastructure. Natrx will advance and launch its Mobile Manufacturing Units, an innovative digital production technology to efficiently produce nature-based, custom shoreline protection structures to reduce flooding and overall project costs while enhancing ecological outcomes. Visit the Natrx website: <https://natrx.io/>.
- Consulted with several Middle Peninsula citizens with questions related to hunting on PAA lands.
- Consulted with a Deltaville resident concerning the need for dredging on Hunting Creek in Middlesex County.
- Consulted with a resident of Hampton who has a public access legal matter. Directed the resident to Greg Davis, Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

- Consulted with Shelia Hascall, Manager of Mitigation Programs for IEM regarding FEMA grant applications and Benefit Cost Analysis. Also conversed with IEM about joining the MPPDC Fight the Flood program.
- Assisted Del. Keith Hodges with speakers for the December Joint Flood Commission presentation. Arranged for Natrx, Ready Reef, and Atlantic Reef Maker to speak on shoreline flood matters and new product innovation.
- Consulted with Craig Mulligan, owner of Davis Creek Marina regarding dredging status for Davis Creek.
- Participated in a strategic meeting of the Workforce Investment Board to discuss future directions of the WIB.
- Provided a support letter for a grant request from the Rappahannock Tribe.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Made edits suggested by VDEM and resubmitted FEMA BRIC grant proposal to VDEM December 7th.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Attended the Wetlands Watch State Policy Update webinar with Ann Phillips on the newly release VCRMP Framework, the plan for developing the VCRMP, and the role of PDCs on November 20th.
- Developed a workplan for delivery of tasks.
- Presentation to Middlesex Board of Supervisors regarding the update to the All Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Coordinate with US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Section 510 habitat restoration funding projects.
- Meet with RAFT team to explore opportunities for program in Middle Peninsula for FY21.
- Coordinate with UVA Law Students regarding potential environmental justice legislation for the 2021 General Assembly.
- Submit letter of support to VIMS and VA Coastal Policy Center for their proposal for coastal resilience projects to NOAA.

January 2021

- Participated in the State Water Control Board meeting to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act area flood mitigation alternatives for the resource protection area.
- Consulted with GIS staff assigned to the Berkeley Group regarding illustrating FEMA risk map data for the Middle Peninsula to aid in future project identification areas in need of flood mitigation solutions.
- Convened weekly Local Government Administrators (LGA) meeting as requested by Dr. Rich Williams, Director of the Three Rivers Health District to discuss COVID-19 and vaccine deployment matters.
- Consulted with Robert Crockett, President of Advantus Strategies regarding multiple resiliency and flood mitigation bills to be introduced by Delegate Keith Hodges.
- Received numerous requests from the general public for public hunting information for the land owned by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority.

- Authorized the Middle Peninsula Chapter of the Audubon Group to conduct their annual bird count on PAA owned property.
- Consulted with the principal owners of an underwater drone surveying company to enroll in the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program.
- Agreed to participate in the VCRMP Technical Advisory Committee at the request of Governor Northam.
- Submitted an application to VOF looking to encourage minority and low-income, recreational opportunities at the Captain Sinclair public fishing pier.
- Coordinated for three private companies to give presentations to the General Assembly Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding. These companies are participants in the MPPDC Fight the Flood program and are looking to expand and grow their resiliency footprint across the Middle Peninsula and beyond.
- Received multiple requests from various waterfront property owners in Gloucester and Mathews Counties requesting application for future grant funding to address shoreline flooding needs. Referred constituents to the middle Peninsula Fight the Flood program for application intake.
- Consulted with UVA Law School Clinic Director, Andrew Block regarding student assistance in the preparation of a Bill to elevate septic systems within the floodplain and RPA within Coastal Virginia.
- Participated in the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel workgroup meeting call by Katie Register, Longwood University. The focus on the workgroup follows:
 - Authority
 - Funding
 - Removal and Deconstruction
 - Prevention
 - Public Outreach and Education
 - Building an inventory of ADV in Virginia
 - Other topics as determined by the workgroup
- Participated in a workforce survey interview conducted by Elaine Silverstone on behalf of Rappahannock Community College.
- At the request of the Essex County Board of Supervisors attending a meeting to advise on questions related to establishing scenic river designation.
- Consulted with Sean Crumlish, Virginia Resources Authority regarding the applicability of funding septic repair projects for rental properties. VRA has no objection. Advised VRA that we would be requesting the loan be to the LLC. The operating agreement would need to show how the LLC incurs debt, corporate consent document and individual tax returns with possible personal guarantee.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Developed an intake form for the Fight the Flood website where participants can report needs and the information can be used for advancing the implementation of projects using grants and loans.
- Participate in the December meeting of the VCRMP Technical Advisory Committee.
- Coordinated with staff from the VA SolSmart team regarding prospects for conducting the solar technical assistance program regionally for the MPPDC and local governments. Discussed the program with Local Government Administrators and local planners.

- Coordinated with US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Section 510 habitat restoration funding projects.
- Review 2020 Water Resource Development Act and coordinate with US Army Corps Norfolk District regarding authorized opportunities for local dredging and reuse/restoration activities.
- Meet with RAFT team to explore opportunities for program in Middle Peninsula for FY21.
- Participate in working group exploring solutions for abandoned vessels in Virginia.
- Coordinated with UVA Law Students regarding coastal legislation for the 2021 General Assembly.
- Review and track coastal and environmental bills introduced during the 2021 General Assembly.
- Participate in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the Baltimore Channel in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Assist Northern Neck PDC staff with dredging project questions.
- Coordinated with VA Port Authority regarding Waterway Maintenance Fund strategies.
- Coordinated with current and prospective Fight the Flood businesses including a call with VA Sea Grant to explore opportunities for FTF businesses as part of VSG's GO Virginia project.
- Participated in the Coastal PDC meeting on December 18.
- Participated in the VA Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding meetings on December 21 and January 12.

February 2021

- Convened 5 weekly meetings of the Middle Peninsula Local Government Administrators (LGA) and with Dr. Rich Williams, Director of the Three Rivers Health District to discuss ongoing pandemic and vaccine deployment matters.
- Consulted with Del. Keith Hodges regarding numerous bills impacting the Middle Peninsula. Discussed scenic rivers and enactment clause along with possible ways to make the program more coastal compatible.
- Referred local government Attorney, Andrew McRoberts of Sands Anderson to the Town of Urbanna to advise on VMRC permitting matters.
- Consulted with Chris Beatley of Premier Tech regarding elevated engineered septic systems and possible General Assembly budget amendment to the Middle Peninsula for a pilot.
- Consulted with a landowner interested in purchasing land in Mathews County near New Point. Landowner had questions about Dutchman's Point and land owned by the MPCBPAA. Advised the citizen to also check with Mathews County as the site may be turned over to Mathews County for other public need under consideration.
- Provided assistance to an assisted living facility in Essex County regarding vaccine matters.
- Consulted with Michael Meredith of Meredith Marine regarding living shoreline marine construction building opportunities under the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood Program and future NFWF grant opportunities.
- Consulted with Ann Phillips, Special Assistant to the Governor and Matt Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources regarding appointment as Subcommittee Chair for project identification. Discussed the role of the Chair and the expectations as related to the development of the Virginia Flood Resiliency Master Plan.
- Consulted with Shep MoonCZM regarding the development of the next generation management plans as a potential Section 309 strategy.

- Consulted with the CEO for NATRX and VIMS Shoreline Studies Program on ways to leverage lower cost shoreline protection products that offer same level of resiliency as granite.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County absentee landowner regarding possible donation of waterfront land on Perrin River.
- Consulted with DCR staff regarding two proposals submitted to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to review proposal scores for submitted proposal. The Public Access Authority was #6 application and the top five were funded. The Town of Tappahannock did well and was above the middle of the applications submitted, which is good for the first attempt.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Continued developing the structure for the Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase.
- Developed an intake form for the Fight the Flood website where participants can report needs and the information can be used for advancing the implementation of projects using grants and loans.
- Developed administrative matrix for project workflow in the Fight the Flood program.
- Developed and submitted comments regarding the draft guidelines for the VA Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Participated in DEQ meeting on proposed amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Communicated outcomes to member jurisdictions and registered to participate in a stakeholder working group and GIS modeling technical advisory group.
- Developed application to have the region designated as an Economic Development District by the US EDA. Coordinated with the local government administrators on required proposal elements.
- Coordinated with staff from the VA SolSmart team regarding prospects for conducting the solar technical assistance program regionally for the PDC and local governments. Discussed the program with local government administrators and local planners.
- Met with Wetlands Watch staff to discuss the development of a state database for prospective resilience projects.
- Coordinated with US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Section 510 habitat restoration funding projects.
- Reviewed 2020 Water Resource Development Act and coordinated with US Army Corps Norfolk District regarding authorized opportunities for local dredging and reuse/restoration activities.
- Met with RAFT team to explore opportunities for program in Middle Peninsula for FY21.
- Participated in working group exploring solutions for abandoned vessels in Virginia.
- Reviewed and tracked coastal and environmental bills introduced during the 2021 General Assembly.
- Advised a prospective business on potential grant opportunities for launching business.
- Coordinated with local economic development practitioners on the development of small-scale manufacturing activities for the region.
- Coordinated with local planners regarding updates to the regional list of projects in the VA Outdoors Plan.
- Participated in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay. Developed conceptual restoration project with VIMS staff in the vicinity of the 20 Hole In The Wall in Mathews County.

- Participated in discussion regarding the proposed creation of the Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area.
- Gave presentation to the VA Port Authority regarding Waterway Maintenance Fund priority projects.
- Coordinated with one current and one prospective Fight the Flood business. • Participated in the January Coastal Policy Team meeting.

March 2021

- Consulted with VOF staff regarding placement of fiber for broadband service within either a public or private right-of-way where a conservation easement has been located. The easement is a private contract between the landowner and VOF. Local government has no relationship to a private contract.
- Consulted with Chris Thompson, Director of Virginia Housing on elevating septic systems within the floodplain.
- Convened weekly meetings of the Local Government Administrators (LGA) group to discuss vaccine matters as well as other local government issues of concern including update to the FEMA required Middle Peninsula All Hazard Mitigation Plan and local budget discussions.
- Responded to a constituent's question regarding Living Shoreline design for a multi-parcel project and potential erosion matters on the adjoin side of the project. The landowner was interested in the design requirements to ensure that erosion does not transfer to the neighboring property.
- Consulted with CZM staff regarding section 306A funding to identify publicly owned property in need of shoreline resiliency designs. Offered up land owned by the MPCBPAA. Also discussed the need for the next generation shoreline management plans. MPPDC staff will provide a next generation shoreline plan draft scope of work in partnership with VIMS Shoreline Studies program.
- Participated in a DCR grant application review debrief for two proposals submitted under DCR's Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF)'s program. The review looks to improve scoring for the South Garden land acquisition project on the Severn River and the Hoskins Creek land acquisition project in the Town of Tappahannock.
- Consulted with a Middlesex County Board of Supervisors member interested in the history of how a public access site became owned by Middlesex County. Provided research documentation on file.
- MPPDC Fight the Flood program client intake form is live for use by the Middle Peninsula's residents. Received multiple inquiries from Mathews, Middlesex and Gloucester requesting financial assistance to manage recurrent flooding and erosion problems on the shorelines.
- Convened the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Virginia Coastal Resiliency Master Plan Project Identification Subcommittee.
- Received multiple inquiries of donations of waterfront land in Gloucester County to support the work of the MPCBPAA for public access and flood resiliency protection.
- Consulted with FEMA and VDEM regarding official recognition of acknowledging the utility of donating waterfront land to be used as match against FEMA flood mitigation grant programs.
- Provided multiple Middle Peninsula realtors with the link to the MPPDC Fight the Flood program to assist buyers and sellers' agents with gaining access to flood mitigation solutions.
- Consulted with Virginia Home Builders Association and the Virginia Realtors Association regarding Chesapeake Bay Act flood mitigation measures within the RPA.

- Consulted with David Rose, Senior Vice President and Co-Head of Public Finance of Davenport Financial regarding capitalizing the MPPDC Fight the Flood program to an appropriate level to support the need for shoreline improvement projects.
- Met with a landowner on the Dragon Run interested in donating or selling land to the MPCBPAA. Provided conservation easement and grant information.
- Continued to work with Kimberly Gaines, DCR regarding delayed receipt for Fight the Flood reimbursement request which was originally submitted in October 2020.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Continued developing the structure for the Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase.
- Continued refining the Fight the Flood intake form where participants can report needs and the information can be used for advancing the implementation of projects using grants and loans.
- Participated in VA Coastal Resiliency Technical Advisory Committee meeting on February 26.
- Participated in the VA Coastal Resiliency TAC Finance Subcommittee meeting on February 22.
- Respond to VCZM/Coastal States Organization request for planned resilience projects.
- Coordinated with staff from the VA SolSmart team regarding prospects for conducting the solar technical assistance program regionally for the PDC and local governments. Discussed the program with Local Government Administrators and local planners.
- Coordinated with US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Section 510 habitat restoration funding projects.
- Coordinated with localities to kick off the RAFT program to explore opportunities for advancing coastal resilience projects.
- Participate in working group exploring solutions for abandoned vessels in Virginia.
- Coordinated with local economic development practitioners on the development of small-scale manufacturing activities for the region.
- Submit updates to the regional list of projects in the VA Outdoors Plan on behalf of the MP localities.
- Participate in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay. Develop conceptual restoration project with VIMS staff in the vicinity of the Hole-in-the-Wall in Mathews County.
- Participate in a kickoff meeting with the Go! VA water management economy grant team.
- Participate in the Governor's Office webinar on Coastal Resilience & Equity on March 12.
- Participate in the Hampton Roads Coastal Resiliency Working Group meeting on March 12. • Participate in discussion regarding the proposed creation of the Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area.
- Submit application to the VA Port Authority for Waterway Maintenance Fund for dredging and beneficial reuse at Hole-in-the-Wall in Mathews County. Coordinate with VDOT and VPA regarding timing of bridge repairs at Gwynn's Island and HITW dredging.
- Develop proposal for NFWF Small Watershed Grant Funding to construct part of the shoreline protection designs for Hog Island.
- Respond to request from the VA Coastal Policy Center regarding No Discharge Zones in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

April 2021

- Developed and submitted interim progress report to CZM staff.
- Compiled data and worked with Berkley Group GIS staff to create a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight-the-Flood website.
- Continued developing the structure for the Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase.
- Continued refining the Fight-the-Flood intake form where participants can report needs and the information can be used for advancing the implementation of projects using grants and loans.
- Participated in the VA Coastal Resiliency TAC Economic Development Subcommittee meeting on March 22.
- Participated in the York River and Small Coastal Basins Habitat Restoration Subcommittee meeting on March 23.
- Participated in the Coastal PDC meeting on March 30.
- Participated in a webinar on Green Banks on April 14.
- Coordinate with the RAFT team to review resilience scorecards for participating localities.
- Coordinate with VIMS staff regarding resilience strategy for Mill Creek boat ramp in Middlesex County.
- Explore reuse opportunities for utilizing muddy dredged material as concrete for construction purposes.
- Participate in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay. Develop conceptual restoration project with VIMS staff in the vicinity of the Hole-in-the-Wall in Mathews County.
- Coordinate with US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) staff regarding prospective Section 510 dredging and beneficial reuse project prospects and other authorities issued during the 2021 Water Resource Development Act.
- Coordinate with localities and SolSmart team regarding a regional program. It was determined during the March Planners Roundtable Meeting that a regional program would not be pursued due to lack of interest from localities. Any localities interested in participating were advised to go through the program individually.
- Participate in a kickoff meeting with the GO! VA Water Management Economy Grant Team.
- Coordinated with VA Housing regarding an elevated septic system pilot project.
- Develop proposal for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Grant Funding to construct part of the shoreline protection designs for Hogg Island. Proposal may not be submitted due to Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) determining it will not commit match for the project.
- Consulted with Elizabeth Andrews, Director for the Virginia Coastal Policy Center regarding NO Discharge Zone (NDZ) vessel designation areas in rural communities.
- Consulted with Del. Keith Hodges regarding sales tax regulations.
- Participated in a meeting regarding the development of the King & Queen business innovation/tele-health center. Discuss various Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant programs available to assist potential tenants locating at the facility.
- Consulted with Davenport & Company financial advisors and Sands Anderson acting as bond counsel for the MPPDC, looking at ways to capitalize the MPPDC Fight-the-Flood Program at a level to meet constituent flood mitigation needs.

- Participated in a meeting to discuss the Chesapeake Bay national recreation area designation. Emphasized the need for rural coastal participation in the development of any draft legislation at the federal level.
- Convened a meeting of the MPCBPAA. Discussed various land donations, pier at Captain Sinclair's as well as the road. PAA directed staff to advise the Gloucester Crew Team of likelihood of the inability to access the facility due to the deteriorated condition of the road leading to the facility.
- Discussed the need to rebuild the Mathews County overlook at New Point utilizing Rotary Club funding. Jack White, Mathews County citizen is coordinating and has requested information of various grant programs available to assist with this project.
- Consulted with an absentee landowner interested in donating a waterfront home in lower Guinea to the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. Advised the owner of a motion passed by the PAA Board to accept the donation, pending appropriate due diligence.
- Consulted with an Essex County citizen interested in learning about conservation easements and tax credits. Directed the citizen to VOF as well as the Virginia Department of Tax conservation tax credit program website.
- Continued ongoing conversation with Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) regarding leveraging donated waterfront land as match against future FEMA flood mitigation projects. Utilizing donated land as match essentially protects two properties for the price of one.
- Consulted with an absentee landowner on the Perrin River in Gloucester County regarding potential donation of a waterfront land to the PAA. Advised the owner of a motion passed by the PAA Board to accept the donation, pending appropriate due diligence.
- Participated in a meeting of the project Technical Advisory Subcommittee for the development of the Virginia Coastal Master Plan.
- Participated in a call with Dewberry to discuss the development of the Virginia Coastal Master Plan and the work of the Project ID Subcommittee.
- Consulted with Mary Carson Stiff of Wetlands Watch regarding FEMA floodplain regulations and manmade disturbances within the floodplain.
- Consulted with Gloucester County Engineer, Ann Paine regarding homes within the FEMA floodplain looking to be mitigated against flood damage.
- Convened the monthly Local Government Administrators meeting. Discussed status of the pandemic with Dr. Rich Williams, Director for the Three Rivers Health District; unemployment fraud cases; explored the development of a regional cigarette tax program.
- Received a call from an interested citizen looking to grow and expand eco related business opportunities on PAA lands, including aquaculture development.
- Worked with April Bahen (CZM) to update budget tables for FY22 proposal.

May 2021

- Consulted with Davis Creek Marina owner regarding future dredging schedule for Davis Creek.
- Received an inquiry from a Gloucester County resident exploring the creation of a Waterman's heritage tour and connecting to the Captain Sinclair's Recreational Area and Gloucester County.
- Received an inquiry from a Gloucester County resident requesting information on financial assistance for a 400 ft living shoreline project. Referred citizen to the MPPDC Fight-the-Flood program.
- Delivered the Flood Program Design and the MPPDC Living Shoreline Program Design for review to Russ Baxter, Deputy Director, Soil and Water Conservation, Dam Safety and Floodplain

Management at DCR under the proposed Flood Fund guidelines as a potential model for a regional plan submission.

- Participated in a Coastal PDC meeting to discuss potential FOIA/COIA conflict of interest matter with the development of the Virginia Coastal Resiliency Master Plan and the work of Coastal PDC. Provided Ann Phillips, Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, with a draft letter with a recommendation to send to the FOIA/COIA for clarification.
- Consulted with VDOT regarding the Gwynn's Island Hole-in-the-Wall dredging project and VDOT's need to perform this work as fast as possible.
- Received an inquiry from an absentee Gloucester County landowner interested in donating land to the Public Access Authority.
- Consulted with a participating Fight-the-Flood mitigation business looking to submit a research grant to the federal government to explore the development of wave attenuation devices on PAA waterfront land.
- Received multiple inquiries from Gloucester County citizens regarding financial assistance to address erosion and flood mitigation concerns along the shoreline.
- Received phone call from a landowner on Aberdeen Creek who discovered illegal dumping of construction material within the right-of-way. Directed caller to contact the local Sheriff's Office.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County attorney regarding septic repair and recordation of divorce documents needed to determine ownership before the applicant can request financial assistance to repair a failed septic system.
- Assisted Congressman Rob Wittman staff with researching tidal and non-tidal wetland regulations.
- Consulted with Troy Hartley, Director Virginia Sea Grant at VIMS regarding the recent funding of Go Virginia Water Management Economy Grant and Virginia Sea Grant's usage of Public Access Authority properties for research sites.
- Consulted with Elizabeth Andrews, Director for the Virginia Coastal Policy Law Center regarding RAFT planning processes and ways to assist low-income communities with managing flood issues.
- Participated in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act RPA regulatory amendment update process.
- Assisted King William County citizen possibly interested in selling or donating waterfront property on Severn River in Gloucester County for flood mitigation and outdoor recreation purposes.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County landowner who received local wetlands board permit for construction of a living shoreline and seeking funding under the Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Consulted with principal owners of ReadyReef regarding geo tube installation in front of failing bulkheads and using clean sand to fill the bags.
- Convened monthly meeting of the Local Government Administrators. Representatives from Sands Anderson discussed the statutory process for setting up a Cigarette Tax Board.
- Contacted the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service requesting assistance with projecting revenue if MP localities approved the creation of a Cigarette Tax Board.
- Created a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Continued developing the structure for the Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase.

- Developed press release instructing Fight-the-Flood participants on the program intake form where participants can report needs and the information can be used for advancing the implementation of projects using grants and loans.
- Developed press release advising Fight-the-Flood participants on the grant process and expectations.
- Participated in the VCRMP TAC meeting on April 21, the Finance Subcommittee meeting on April 26, and the Plan Studies, Research and Best Practices Subcommittee meeting on May 10.
- Participated in the VCRMP Project Evaluation Subcommittee meeting on May 11.
- Participated in meeting regarding an oyster restoration project in the Piankatank River on April 29 and advised on public engagement options.
- Coordinated with the RAFT team regarding a proposal which would create mini-grants for community groups for resilience activities within the participating RAFT communities on May 10.
- Coordinated with VIMS staff regarding resilience strategy for Mill Creek boat ramp in Middlesex County.
- Developed and submitted public comment regarding the draft VA Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Manual.
- Explored reuse opportunity for utilizing muddy dredged material as concrete for construction and other industrial purposes.
- Participated in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting on May 13 for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay. Develop conceptual beneficial reuse project with VIMS staff in the vicinity of the Hole-in-the-Wall in Mathews County.
- Held coordination meeting on May 11 with US Army Corps Staff regarding prospective dredging and beneficial reuse project prospects for authorities issued under 2021 Water Resource Development Act.
- Participated in meetings with the GO Va water management economy VA Sea Grant team on May 7 and 10 regarding business competition activities on PAA properties.
- Coordinated with localities and the Virginia SolSmart team regarding regional and local participation in the program.

June 2021

- Consulted with Virginia Resource Authority (VRA), the DEQ Clean Water Program, and Davenport Financial regarding financial strategies to re-capitalize the MP Living Shoreline Revolving Loan Program. Agreed on a strategy to combine septic pumpout and living shoreline loans into one larger loan for both programs.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County waterfront landowner interested in donating or selling a piece of property for flood mitigation protection reasons. Advised the resident that the DCR Flood Fund guidelines have not been released yet and until this happens, we have no idea what final rules will be.
- Consulted with an aquaculture startup company doing business around Brown's Bay and Kings Creek in Gloucester County. Business owner had questions related to accessing the VDOT wharf at Brown's Bay.
- Consulted multiple times with Virginia Sea Grant regarding the Go Virginia Water Management Economy grant and the role of the PAA in the project.
- Participated in several Virginia Coastal Resiliency Master Plan TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meetings and subcommittee meetings for the development of the Resiliency

Master Plan. Provided comments on how rural coastal areas struggle with managing against flood risks.

- Consulted with multiple businesses participating in the MP Fight the Flood program looking to add more marketing content related to flood mitigation services.
- Participated in the Go Virginia Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Economy Steering Committee meeting convened by Carol Considine, Director of Applied Projects, CCRFR Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR) Old Dominion University.
- Consulted with Virginia Sea Grant and Virginia Housing Development Authority regarding a PDC-PAA cooperative housing grant. The MPPDC will be the applicant of record and the PAA will make properties available to focus on residential resiliency needs.
- Convened the June meeting of the Local Government Administrators. Topics of discussion were: Chesapeake Bay Act; RPA regulation changes; DCR Flood Fund Guidelines; Pandemic update; and Regional Cigarette Tax Board.
- At the request of the Virginia Homebuilders and the Commercial Realtors Association, as well as Hampton Roads PDC Executive Director, Bob Crum, participated in a call regarding anticipated regulatory changes to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to address flood mitigation issues within the RPA.
- Consulted with Dylan Sheets, GIS Project Manager for Timmons Group regarding the development of a GIS dashboard to illustrate Fight the Flood constituent needs across the Middle Peninsula.
- Participated in a meeting with the Town of Tappahannock and staff from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund regarding a grant award for the Town of Tappahannock to purchase the site where the Capt. Thomas once docked. Discussed public access and eco-related businesses to ensure consistency with VLCF guidelines.
- Consulted with multiple Gloucester County waterfront property owners looking to access grant funding and loan funding to protect their shorelines from significant coastal erosion.
- Consulted with a resident of the Town of West Point regarding placing an easement on or donating waterfront property to either the Town or the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. Provided information related to grant programs.
- Created a geodatabase (online map with data) showing flood hazard risks and sharing on the Fight the Flood website.
- Continued developing the structure for the Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase.
- Participated in the VCRMP Finance Subcommittee and Economic Development Subcommittee meetings on May 24th.
- Participated in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meetings on May 26, 27, and June 10 for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Participated in the VCRMP Outreach Subcommittee meeting on June 1st.
- Participated in meetings with the GO Va water management economy VA Sea Grant team on June 2 & 7 regarding business competition activities on PAA properties.
- Participated in Coastal PDC quarterly meeting on June 4th.
- Participated in the VCRMP Project Identification Subcommittee meeting on June 7th.
- Reviewed final VA Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Manual and submit MPPDC Resilience Plan to DCR for review/approval. Begin identifying and prioritizing projects for the first round of funding with applications due in early September.

- Participated in the VCRMP Finance Subcommittee and Economic Development Subcommittee meetings on June 28.
- Participated in the VCRMP Project Identification Subcommittee meeting on June 22.
- Participated in the VCRMP Technical Advisory Committee meeting on June 22.
- Participated in VDEM Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Equity workshop for Essex and Mathews Counties on June 28.

July 2021

- Served as a guest speaker for the Old Dominion University (ODU) Park Management for Professionals course (ODU – PRTS 730). Discussed the work of the MPCBPAA and its relationship to the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) and overall blue-green marketing and tourism strategy utilized within the Middle Peninsula.
- Consulted with a private land donation partner requesting copies of the final recorded deed of gift. Advised the donor the deeds were forthcoming from the closing agent.
- Consulted with Sarah L. Stafford, Chair of the Department of Economics, Chancellor Professor of Economics, Public Policy, and Law College of William & Mary regarding low-income definition included within DCR's CFPF guidelines. Discussed multiple methodologies for qualifying areas as low-income.
- Consulted with multiple Gloucester County waterfront property owners requesting financial assistance to address flood mitigation and significant erosion along the shoreline.
- Consulted with Anthony Creech (VDH) regarding septic and private well legislative issues for the next General Assembly session.
- Consulted with a Rockbridge County Board of Supervisor member regarding solar host agreement and usage in rural settings.
- Consulted with John Sergeant and Roderick Scott, Principle for RES, Home Raising Academy. Discussed potential home elevation needs across rural coastal Virginia.
- Convened the July Local Government Administrators (LGA) meeting. Discussed COVID-19 surge; VDOT Residency matters; Bay Act regulations and State Master Plan development for flooding.
- Received a call from Gloucester County constituent regarding dock boards missing from Perrin Wharf. Directed maintenance to attend to replacing of the missing boards. 15
- Consulted with Frank Sanders, Town of Tappahannock regarding DCR flood map and ordinance revisions. Directed Mr. Sanders to the DCR four copies of model ordinance requirements.
- Consulted with a Town of West Point property owner struggling with ditch drainage issues. Requested clarification from VDOT regarding their interest in the drainage pipe and ditch.
- Initiated grant application for submission to VRA requesting \$3,000,000 to capitalize the Middle Peninsula Fight-the-Flood/Living Shoreline program and MPPDC Septic program at an appropriate level.
- Reviewed Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grant awards. Provided copies to each client (Town of Tappahannock and South Garden LLC) for review and approval for signing to start the grant funding.
- Updated locality staff on resilience initiatives at monthly planners' meeting.
- Continued developing the structure for the Fight the Flood Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase showing local flood hazard risks and needs.

- Responded to requests for advice from the VCRMP staff team regarding scheduling of public outreach meetings being scheduled for July. Forwarded invites to relevant staff on July 19 for three public meetings to be held locally on July 28 and August 3.
- Participated in VDEM Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Equity workshop for Essex and Mathews Counties on June 28.
- Participated in VA Coastal Policy Center webinar, “Coastal Resilience Tools for Local Governments” on July 14.
- Develop VA Community Flood Preparedness grant proposals for first round of funding.
- Continued working to identify and prioritize projects for the first round of VA Community Flood Preparedness Fund applications.
- Develop map showing conserved properties in Essex County for the Essex County Conservation Alliance.
- Participate in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting on June 10 for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Participate in meetings with the GO Va water management economy VA Sea Grant team on July 1 & 8 regarding business competition activities on PAA properties.

August 2021

- Attended Integrated Shoreline Management Training/Webinar hosted by VIMS Center for Coastal Resources Management discussing: New tidal wetlands guidelines to new Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Regulations o Integrated Shoreline Management Guidance and Modeling A summary of the event and meeting material can be found here: <https://events.wm.edu/event/view/vims/124130>
- Partnered with DeltaPoint Solutions to develop 13 design applications for property owners to submit for Round One funding through DCR. This required discussing property-specific issues with each owner to tell their story in the grant narrative, collect pictures, develop maps to meet DCR’s programmatic requirements. Each application required a review by a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and we partnered with Draper Aden to provide this review. This effort required significant communication with property owners along with MPPDC staff to ensure they were kept informed about application development progress.

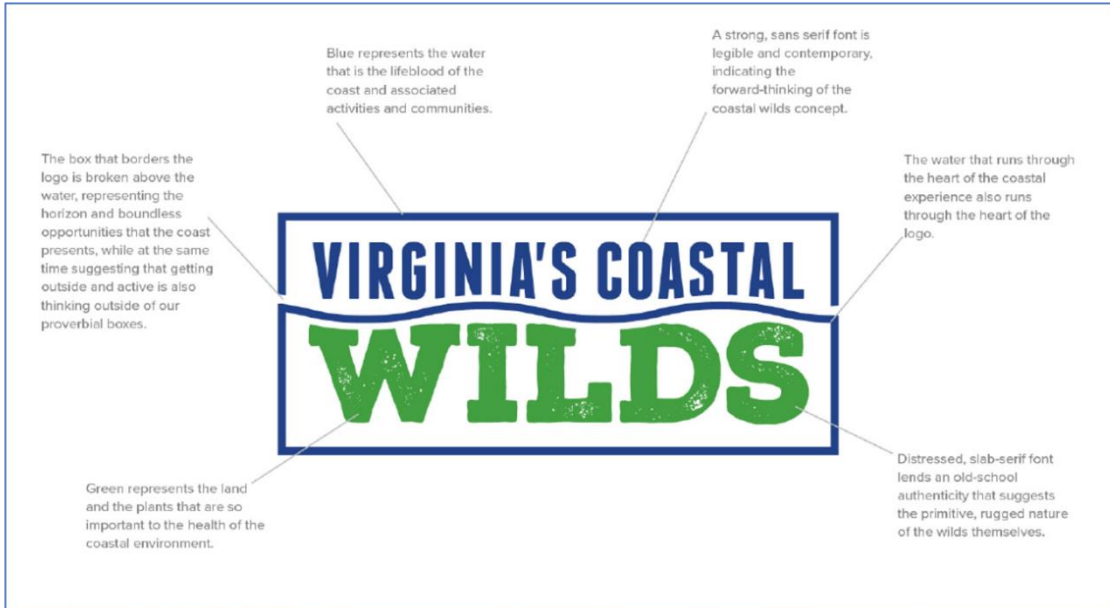
September 2021

- Served as a guest speaker for the Old Dominion University (ODU) Park Management for Professionals course (ODU – PRTS 730). Discussed the work of the MPCBPAA and its relationship to the VOP and overall blue-green marketing and tourism strategy utilized within the Middle Peninsula.
- Consulted with a private land donation partner requesting copies of the final recorded deed of gift. Advised the donor the deeds were forthcoming from the closing agent.
- Consulted with Sarah L. Stafford, Chair of the Department of Economics, Chancellor Professor of Economics, Public Policy, and Law College of William & Mary regarding low-income definition included within the DCR’s CFPF guidelines. Discussed multiple methodologies for qualifying areas as low-income.
- Consulted with multiple Gloucester County waterfront property owners requesting financial assistance to address flood mitigation and significant erosion along the shoreline.

- Consulted with Anthony Creech(VDH) regarding septic and private well legislative issues for the next General Assembly session.
- Consulted with a Rockbridge County Board of Supervisor member regarding solar host agreement and usage in rural settings.
- Consulted with John Sergeant and Roderick Scott, Principle for RES, Home Raising Academy. Discussed potential home elevation needs across rural coastal Virginia.
- Convened the July Local Government Administrators (LGA) meeting. Discussed COVID-19 surge; VDOT Residency matters; Bay Act regulations and State Master Plan development for flooding.
- Received a call from Gloucester County constituent regarding dock boards missing from Perrin Wharf. Directed maintenance to attend to replacing of the missing boards.
- Consulted with Frank Sanders, Town of Tappahannock regarding DCR flood map and ordinance revisions. Directed Mr. Sanders to the DCR four copies of model ordinance requirements.
- Consulted with a Town of West Point property owner struggling with ditch drainage issues. Requested clarification from VDOT regarding their interest in the drainage pipe and ditch.
- Initiated grant application for submission to VRA requesting \$3,000,000 to capitalize the Middle Peninsula Fight-the-Flood/Living Shoreline program and MPPDC Septic program at an appropriate level.
- Reviewed Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) grant awards. Provided copies to each client (Town of Tappahannock and South Garden LLC) for review and approval for signing to start the grant funding.
- Updated locality staff on resilience initiatives at monthly planners' meeting.
- Continued developing the structure for the Fight the Flood Access database that will contain and relate non-spatial data and connect to the geodatabase showing local flood hazard risks and needs.
- Responded to requests for advice from the VCRMP staff team regarding scheduling of public outreach meetings being scheduled for July. Forwarded invites to relevant staff on July 19 for three public meetings to be held locally on July 28 and August 3.
- Participated in VA Coastal Policy Center webinar, "Coastal Resilience Tools for Local Governments" on July 14.
- Develop VA Community Flood Preparedness grant proposals for first round of funding.
- Continued working to identify and prioritize projects for the first round of VA Community Flood Preparedness Fund applications.
- Develop map showing conserved properties in Essex County for the Essex County Conservation Alliance.
- Participate in the Virginia Bay Enhancement Working Group meeting on June 10 for beneficial use of dredge material to identify prospective locations for beneficial reuse of material from the York Spit Channel in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Participate in meetings with the GO! VA water management economy VA Sea Grant team on July 1 & 8 regarding business competition activities on PAA properties.

Appendix B: Virginia's Coastal Wilds: Logo Designs and Concepts

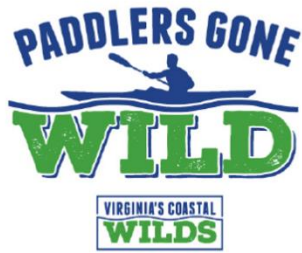




Logo Applications



Apparel Concepts



Appendix C: Accrued Benefits to the Virginia Middle Peninsula Community as a Result of Investment by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Accrued Benefits of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
FY20 Narrative, November 2021
Prepared by Consociate Media

Accrued Benefits to the Virginia Middle Peninsula Community as a Result of Investment by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program – Annual Update

The challenges faced by residents and businesses on the Middle Peninsula, in the heart of rural coastal Virginia, are complex and diverse. These challenges also compounded over a long time period.

Years of regulatory overlap, combined with a strong need to maintain clean waters and a resilient shoreline, created an environment that made it difficult for businesses to grow, homeowners to protect their property and the economy to thrive. Reductions in federal spending in regional waterways further made maintaining some of them difficult and created a need to find unique solutions.

With the support of CZM, the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) set out seven years ago to help address the challenges the rural coastal Virginia region faces along its shorelines.

Like the challenges that built up over time the benefits of having an ongoing focused effort on finding and implementing solutions – smart solutions – in this complex environment have steadily accrued and been realized over time.

This narrative paints the picture of those accrued benefits, and how and where the investment by the CZMA showcases results today.

Of note, this narrative updates the accrued benefits report delivered for FY19. While some of the information listed in the report may seem similar to those in the FY19 narrative, that is by design. The very nature of accrued benefits, and adding in those realized in FY20, requires describing how the work, focused efforts and benefits continue to stack on top of each other. To understand this year, readers must also understand previous years.

With continued investment by CZM, the benefits of prior years will continue to grow stronger and future years will see even more forward movement for this rural coastal community of Virginia.

WHERE WE STARTED

To best understand how the Middle Peninsula in rural coastal Virginia got to the place it is today, one must understand where it started, its journey, and the relationship to ongoing CZMA investment to provide capacity at the local level.

In rural coastal Virginia, water drives life. It's woven into the very fabric of its identity. It's apparent in all areas of its culture, from its food to its recreation, to its workforce, academic institutions and even roads.

Read through any comprehensive plan of nearly any locality in this rural coastal Virginia region and you'll note within the opening lines that chief among the priorities for the future is to maintain the rural, water-loving character of its people and land.

In many ways, it's because it's all the Middle Peninsula residents in this rural coastal Virginia region have ever known.

However, years of regulations to help protect the Chesapeake Bay waters have stymied rural coastal Virginia localities' ability to cultivate job growth and manage coastal development proactively (vs reacting to complex regulatory overlap not understood at the local level). As a result, communities rely on CZM technical guidance from MPPDC staff to help shape public policy and understand the unintended consequences of regulations.

While the state and Chesapeake Bay watershed region continue to protect the blue-green infrastructure of the area, the strict environmental regulatory framework has forced rural coastal Virginia to grow into large pure-land, clean-water areas that are more reminiscent of a state park than a community because those very regulations disproportionately handcuff any type of active development, with the exception of residential.

Managing and positioning localities to understand choices related to coastal management in this complex framework requires extremely long-term thinking and strategic positioning. That time generally exceeds any one 12-month grant cycle.

Foundationally, that's why the benefits of the ongoing CZM funding have accrued over time.

THE APPROACH

Through the funding from CZM, the MPPDC has spent years working in a complicated public policy space to make substantive changes at a state legislative level to help address the challenges noted above.

Making these changes at a state level is critical to the solutions and the accrued benefit largely because Virginia is a Dillon rule state, where localities must get their direction and guidance from a higher level of government. To fix a problem, after identifying and understanding its nature, local and regional government staff have to either have conversations with agencies at a regulatory level or get the Virginia General Assembly to direct the change.

That is where a majority of the focused attention has gone to realize the benefits of the CZM funding – supporting the region, connecting the localities issues to statewide policy and directing change.

The cumulative body of legislative work supported by CZM investment is reshaping how the citizens interface with coastal resources. One such example is that of stormwater. Finding the correct regulatory pathway to manage stormwater serves as an illustrative model of CZM cumulative accrued added benefit given the sheer fact that it took more than five years to navigate and position, ultimately

resulting in a new set of water quality regulations specifically designed to match the needs and desires of a rural coastal region. The stormwater challenge was created in 2016 when different statutes were consolidated resulting in unanticipated or unknown negative impacts to rural coastal Virginia.

The Acts of Assembly (Virginia House Bill 1250 and Senate Bill 673) combined the existing Virginia Stormwater Management Act (VSMA) and Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law (VESCL) to create the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act (VESMA) and directs the State Water Control Board (the Board) to permit, regulate, and control both erosion and stormwater runoff. In order for this legislation to become effective, the Board was required to initiate a regulatory action to consolidate and clarify program requirements, eliminate redundancies, and correct inconsistencies between the erosion and sediment control and stormwater management program regulations.

Recognizing the interconnectivity and complexity of merging numerous statutes and regulations was facilitated by a typical Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) which required a collaborative approach, and an approach that in the beginning did not have a local voice from rural coastal communities.

Working with DEQ and with Virginia General Assembly involvement, the voice of rural coastal communities was added to and through the stakeholder process.

Between 2016 and 2018, because of CZM Technical Assistance investment, the MPPDC coastal technical expertise voice became the bridge between local land use control and state level regulatory development.

Specifically, the CZM investment provided the funding needed over a lengthy period of time to address an incredibly complex, extremely technical challenge faced by rural coastal Virginia. Without that voice, rural coastal Virginia development could have been stymied for decades to come and rural coastal local governments would have incurred uncalculatable costs to assume responsibility and oversight and thanks to the process a solution was reached on a public policy stormwater management policy problem that was said to be unsolvable and a waste of time and resources.

The solution recognized that rural coastal Virginia has so much blue-green infrastructure that they need a different regulatory framework.

Special stormwater regulatory relief (House Bill 1307 and House Bill 1308) can be found in regulations: §§ 62.1-44.15:24 and 62.1-44.15:27; and § 62.1-44.15:24. These regulations make the storm water law work for rural coastal Virginia.

Affected regulations included 9VAC25-830 – Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations, 9VAC25-840 – Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations, 9VAC25-850 – Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Certification Regulations, 9VAC25-870 – Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulation, 9VAV25-880 – General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities, and 9VAC25-890 – General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. In FY19 multiple rural coastal localities have implemented and are using the benefits provided from the special enabled stormwater regulatory relief. Across the Middle Peninsula, Gloucester and King and Queen County are leveraging this new relief.

Additional progress was made during 2021 on a related matter, flood management within the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Resource Protection Area (RPA) authorizing the use of supplemental soil to manage flooding within the RPA (9VAC25-830-130 and 9VAC25-830-140), further accruing benefit within the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations:

C. Local governments may allow adaptation measures within the Resource Protection Area subject to the following criteria and requirements which shall apply in addition to those found in 9 VAC 25-830-130 and 9 VAC 25-830-140, including the requirement for a Water Quality Impact Assessment pursuant to 9 VAC 25-830-140(6). The adaptation measures shall:

1. Be a nature-based solution adaptation measure that uses environmental processes, natural systems, or natural features, is appropriate for site conditions, and is:

a. An Best Management Practice approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership;

b. An approved Virginia Stormwater Best Management Practice listed in the Virginia Stormwater Best Management Practice Clearinghouse;

c. An approved Shoreline Protection Strategy in accordance with the Tidal Wetlands Guidelines as determined by the Virginia Marine Resource Commission; or

d. A project that is an eligible activity for funding by the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund as determined by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Another topic area where CZM's investment has reshaped how citizens interface with coastal resources is solar.

The 2020 General Assembly session had major implications for Virginia localities permitting solar energy. As the Virginia Clean Economy Act set a target for over 16,000 megawatts of new solar generation in the Commonwealth, counties (many in rural coastal Virginia) sought assurance that a greater share of the financial benefits would accrue to the localities.

One key piece of legislation that helped provide that assurance was HB 1675, now found within the Code of Virginia under [15.2-2316.6](#) through [15.2-2316.9](#), which related to host siting agreements.

[15.2-2316.6](#) through [15.2-2316.9](#), authorizes the development of 'host siting agreements' between localities and solar facilities. A host agreement is a negotiated agreement between the owner or developer and the locality where a project will be located that governs the operation, location, or development of the project in that county or locality. A locality has flexibility in the agreement and can request mitigation of solar facility impacts of such solar facility; financial compensation to address capital needs set out in the either its adopted capital improvement plan or the locality's current fiscal budget; or the locality can ask for assistance in the deployment of broadband (Virginia Code § 15.2-2316.6).

This legislation, with two other key pieces of legislation, represented a new set of tools in the hands of Virginia counties as they strive to maximize tax revenue from new solar projects.

Rural coastal Virginia, as noted above in this narrative, has suffered due to regulatory restrictions. Extraction of natural resources many times leave rural localities with limited or no financial advantages. Under NOAA Task 51 NA17NOS4190152, MPPDC staff developed a report titled "*Research on Economic Consequences of Natural Resource Extractive Industries within the Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority*" which focused on the singular and cumulative economic impact of extractive

industries. Out of this report and with support from the Coastal TA grant, HB 1675 was drafted and enacted.

With this legislation, since it went into law on July 1, 2020, has provided, among other benefits, direct financial benefit to any locality entering into a host agreement allowed under 15.2-2316.6 through 15.2-2316.9.

Since the inception of the Solar Host Siting Agreement, 9 Agreements have been put to record, totaling over \$115,000,000 in direct cash payments to rural local governments. It is important to note that this total amount does not include payments stemming from agreements for construction of battery storage facilities. The value of payments associated with battery storage facilities is not well quantified, but it is safe to say that the actual total payments is substantially greater than \$115,000,000 since July 2020 alone.

The accrued benefit of CZM investment is real and impactful to these rural localities that previously received no appreciable financial benefit from solar.

With CZM funding, the MPPDC staff has also found ways to help property owners – residential and commercial – implement the Commonwealth’s stated goal of having living shorelines be the preferred shoreline treatment.

Through legislative successes, the PDC has worked to help create revolving loan programs, eliminate unfair taxing of living shorelines, introduce new insurance options, all while protecting water quality and enhancing resiliency.

The CZM funding in that regard has supported the construction of shorelines that are more robust – bigger, wider, taller – and will protect rural coasts not only for today, but also for tomorrow.

This rural coastal management approach has also created ways – through the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund (also created through multi-rural coastal MPPDC’s partnering on legislations) – to give localities more access to state funding and options to use dredged materials for resiliency efforts.

Thanks to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund, the MPPDC has also funded a project to study ways to harness and focus the most challenging coastal zone management issue facing the world: coastal flooding/Sea Level Rise. Perhaps most innovatively, the MPPDC is leveraging intellectual capital from the internationally recognized Virginia Institute of Marine Science/Virginia Sea Grant Program to commercialize resiliency research and partnerships with engineering firms to build a rural coastal water-based economy for the future. In 2021, partners launched a \$1.5 Million rural coastal resiliency business challenge directing resources specifically towards rural challenges: <https://riseresilience.org/rural-resilience-challenge/>



In 2020, after many years of ongoing financial support from a variety of Federal and State partners including DCR’s Flood Plain Management Program; VRA; DEQ; CZM through NOAA Coastal Technical Assistance investment, MPPDC launched Fight the Flood (www.fightthefloodva.com), an online marketplace and implementation program connecting property owners facing rising flood waters with tools and funding to contract with specialized businesses who can help evaluate, design, and build solutions to build more resilient shorelines and protect properties. The MPPDC Fight the Flood program is the only online Flood resilient program in existence in the U.S.

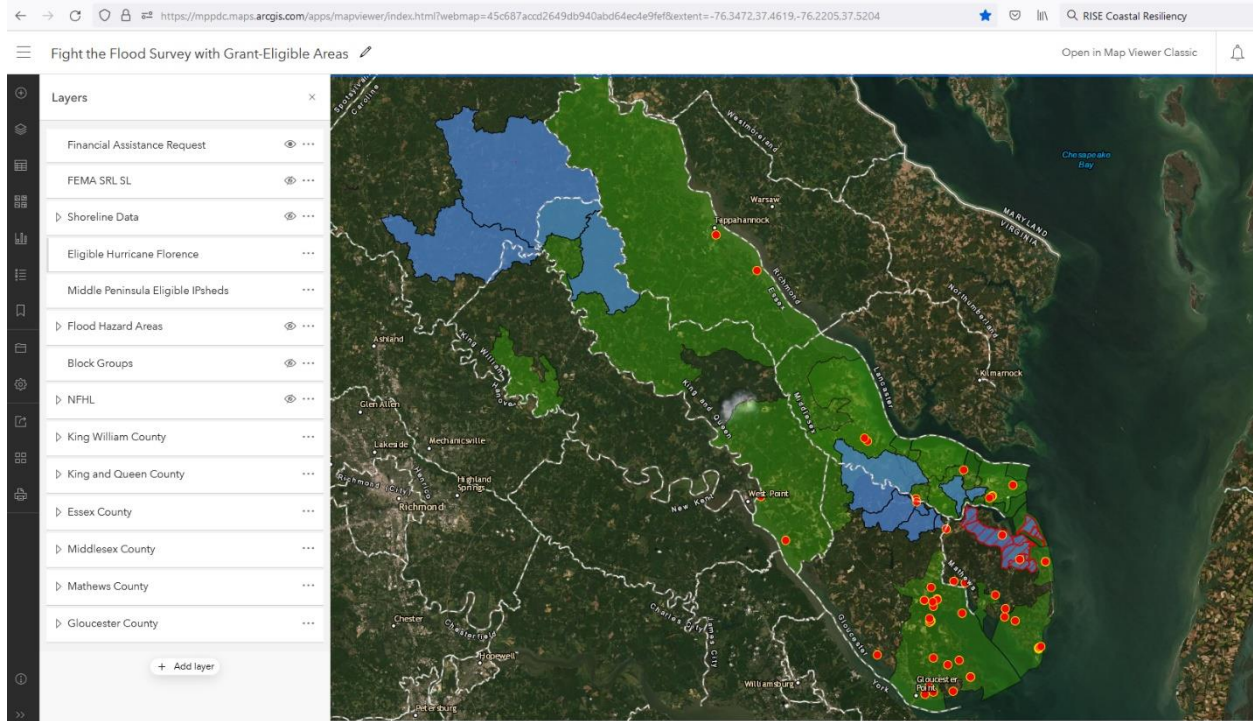
In 2021, the MPPDC continued to enhance the Fight the Flood program through the following:

- Refining the financial assistance application to collect detailed property information from residents,
- Developing more sophisticated mapping software that showcases those financial assistance applications in a visual way, helping MPPDC staff members see more clearly what financial tools may be more readily available to support property owners while also seeing where property owners are located in the hopes of developing joint applications, and
- Submitting two rounds of grant applications on behalf of property owners to the Virginia Flood Fund.

Flood Proposals Submitted to DCR under Round 1 and 2 of the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund

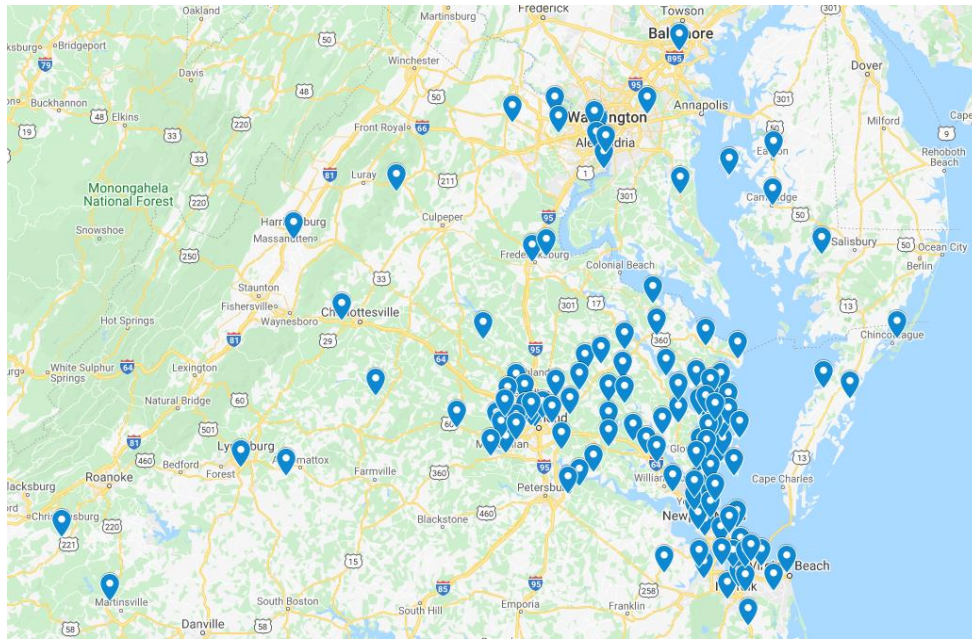
	Resubmittals from Round 1	New Proposals	Grand Total
# of proposals	16	21	37
Total Project Costs	\$696,805	\$1,693,962	\$2,390,767
Total Grant \$ Requested	\$487,785	\$1,286,811	\$1,774,596

Fight the Flood Arc GIS program working interface



During the height of the global pandemic in early to mid-2020, the MPPDC also worked alongside the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority to apply for rapid funding from the Virginia Growth and Opportunity fund to build an online marketplace to connect watermen and aquaculture farmers directly to consumers. Called Bay Direct, the mobile application and web portal was needed because COVID-19 and government ordered closures forced many restaurants that watermen and aquaculture farmers sell or to shut down. A reduction in need resulted in a reduction of oysters, for example, harvested. By creating a portal for watermen and aquaculture farmers to sustainably sell direct to consumers, this project aims to help diversify this industry's ability to survive other downturns, a critical component to Chesapeake Bay water quality.

Bay Direct launched in 2021, garnered statewide press coverage, including a full page in Virginia Living Magazine, and then was included as part of a training and marketing grant through Virginia Sea Grant to reach even more aquaculture farmers to utilize it as a sales tool. To-date the app has been downloaded approximately 500 times and has about 50 product listings from 20 vendors. Here's a map of the location of the downloads as provided by about 88% of users.



Additionally, the MPPDC and Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority, successfully leveraged \$1,000,000 in funding from the Virginia Housing Development Authority to address a major resilience-related need identified in prior CZM planning efforts, which is affordable housing for workers and activities which are primarily centered in areas accessing the waterfront. Under this grant, up to 10 public workforce housing units will be constructed to assist low-moderate income citizens who have a need to live and work on or near the water. Several of these properties will involve mixed-use components which will provide unique business opportunities for eco-related services. A central theme of this project will involve the creation of resilient housing which is safe and secure over the immediate and short-term, but long-range designs rooted in managed retreat principles will be utilized which will allow for the relocation of these structures once the property can no longer provide safe and consistent residential or commercial uses.

COMMUNICATING THE IMPACT

With the successes and accrued benefits stacking up, and a firm grasp on how to communicate with the community, the MPPDC continues to build out its communications and public relations campaign to educate local elected officials, residents, business owners and legislators about the challenges facing rural coastal Virginia. It is only following the understanding and dissecting of these complex challenges that the MPPDC has been able to articulate the challenges to the community in a way that they can understand.

Examples of these communications include the following:

- media coverage of the stormwater solution highlighted above during the 2019 Rural Coastal Virginia Summit (funded through a multi coastal MPPDC CZM grant). At that Summit, presentations of the work being done utilizing CZMA funding was recorded for future use.
- press outreach and op-ed crafting of Fight the Flood content.
- media coverage of the award of the Bay Direct application noted above.

- media coverage of septic related grant programs.
- media coverage of legislation passed during the 2020 and 2021 General Assembly sessions.
- media coverage of the Fight the Flood program and work to get rural coastal Virginia property owners included in grant awards.
- media coverage of the Bay Direct app and its use across the Middle Peninsula.
- press outreach related to All Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- press outreach related to MPPDC leadership.
- press outreach, business outreach, planning/executing, and media coverage of resiliency training for small businesses located in the region (training applicable to how to make a more resilient business in the wake of flooding).

Communications tools are being utilized to promote the living shorelines programming and the fight the flood campaign noted above. Please see **Attachment 1** for Middle Peninsula social media reports.

THE LEGISLATIVE RESULTS, AN OVERVIEW

The Middle Peninsula region has entered year seven of a strategic plan to promote and use rural coastal Virginia's blue/green infrastructure to reframe the social economics of the region. Implementing this initiative would not happen without the ongoing and focused CZM investment.

The following outlines some of the state-level work completed as part of these efforts. Detailed descriptions of legislation listed in **bold** below are those included since the last accrued benefits report was filed as part of the FY2019 TA grant final report.

Each of the below bills have become law, with the exception of two that have been used to drive policy conversations forward to address coastal issues, such as mitigating tidal flooding within the Resource Protection Area of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Because of HB 1094 Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; regulations; local permit to raise land and HB 2506 Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; filling low-lying areas substantive policy discussion with state agencies staff is finally happening related to tools needed to help manage recurrent flooding in rural coastal areas that will protect land and water quality.

HB 2055

Establishes the Rural Coastal Virginia Community Enhancement Authority, consisting of the 12 counties within the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Accomack, Northampton planning districts, if approved by the respective governing bodies.

HB 1734

Loans for creation of living shorelines.

HB 526

Living shorelines; tax exemption.

HB 1774

Stormwater and erosion control; work group; stormwater laws.

HB 2009

Stormwater and erosion management; administration of program by certified third party.

HB 2454

Onsite treatment works; effluent quality standards and maintenance requirements.

HB 2463

Commissioner of Highways; commercial establishment entrances.

HB 508

Local regulation of solar facilities.

HB 509

Comprehensive plan; solar facilities.

HB 1036

Eastern Virginia groundwater management; trading work group.

HB 1035

Virginia Water Supply Revolving Fund; preference in Eastern Virginia for projects not involving withdrawal of groundwater from certain aquifers.

HB 1091

Virginia Resources Authority; dredging projects.

HB 1092

Tax increment financing; dredging projects.

HB 1093

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority; purpose.

HB 1094

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; regulations; local permit to raise land.

HB 1095

Chesapeake Bay public water access authorities; regional dredging.

HB 1096

Dredged material siting; fast-track permitting program.

HB 1307

Stormwater management; rural Tidewater; tiered approach to water quantity technical criteria; impervious cover percentage.

HB 1308

Stormwater; local plan review; acceptance of signed plan in lieu of review.

SB 693

Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund; Grant Program.

HB 2313

Comprehensive highway access management standards.

HB 2315

Department of Transportation; at-risk infrastructure; report.

HB 2322

Department of Health; plan for oversight and enforcement; requirements governing onsite sewage treatment systems.

HB 2482

Land preservation tax credits; operation of facility on donated land; agreements between the Commonwealth and a third party related to donated land.

HB 2506

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; filling low-lying areas.

HB 2783

Living shorelines; loans to businesses.

HB 1675

Passed during the 2020 General Assembly session, it authorizes the development of 'host siting agreements' between localities and solar facilities. A host agreement is a negotiated agreement between the owner or developer and the locality where project will be located that governs the operation, location, or development of the project in that county or locality. A locality has flexibility in the agreement and can request mitigation of solar facility impacts of such solar facility; financial compensation to address capital needs set out in the either its adopted capital improvement plan or the locality's current fiscal budget; or the locality can ask for assistance in the deployment of broadband. It can be found in the Virginia Code § 15.2-2316.6.

HB 1375

Living shorelines; resiliency. Includes a shoreline practice that may enhance coastal resilience and attenuation of wave energy and storm surge in the definition of "living shoreline" for purposes of establishing and implementing a general permit regulation that authorizes and encourages the use of living shorelines as the preferred alternative for stabilizing tidal shorelines.

HB 1266

Septic system inspectors; requirements to perform a septic system inspection. Authorizes any individual who holds a valid onsite sewage system operator, onsite sewage system installer, or onsite soil evaluator license pursuant to Chapter 23 (Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators) of Title 54.1 to perform a septic system inspection in connection with any real estate transaction, including refinancing.

HB 1313

Chief Resilience Officer. Directs the Governor to designate a Chief Resilience Officer to serve as the primary coordinator of resilience and adaptation initiatives in Virginia and as the primary point of contact regarding issues related to resilience and recurrent flooding. The bill directs the Chief Resilience Officer, in consultation with the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, to identify and monitor areas at the greatest risk from recurrent flooding; review and comment on plans for the construction or substantial reinforcement of a substantial flood defense or catchment area, at the request of the locality containing such defense or area; and initiate and assist with the pursuit of funding for resilience initiatives. The bill also expands the list of programs with which localities and the Commonwealth are required to coordinate as part of their flood control efforts.

HB 1267

Land bank entities; planning district commissions. Permits localities to designate a planning district commission to carry out the functions of a land bank entity. Currently, localities may create an authority or designate certain existing nonprofit organizations to carry out the functions of a land bank entity.

HJ 102

Study; continuing the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding; report. Continues the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding for two additional years, through the 2021 interim.

HB 2187

The 2021 General Assembly passed HB2187 - Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency; development of Flood Resiliency Clearinghouse Program. Directs the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency (the Center) to evaluate the development of a Flood Resiliency Clearinghouse Program and to work with DCR to evaluate solutions that manage both water quality and flooding and emphasize nature-based solutions. The bill requires the Center to report its findings by November 1, 2021.

HB2188

The 2021 General Assembly passed HB 2188 for a Pilot program for elevated septic systems. The bill requires the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Quality, in partnership with the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, to initiate a three-year pilot program designed to study the use of engineered septic systems that house and treat sewage effluent in an elevated, self-contained unit suitable for areas with high water tables and susceptible to flooding in Coastal Virginia.

HB 2217

The 2021 General Assembly passed HB2217 - Liability of public access authorities. Grants public access authorities, including the land holdings and facilities of such authorities, certain liability protections that are currently given to localities in relation to parks, recreational facilities, and playgrounds.