



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FINAL REPORT: RICHMOND REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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Executive Summary

Coordination and Training Meetings

On 12/2/21, PlanRVA staff hosted a regional coordination meeting with DCR staff focused on the next update of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Staff from localities and other stakeholder organizations discussed recreation and land conservation projects with DCR staff.

On 1/21/22, DCR Dam Safety staff provided training on updates to the Dam Safety Program and associated regulations. Locality staff gained a better understanding of changes to the program and regulations.

On 4/19/22 DCR staff provided training on state resilience programs including the Coastal Resilience Master Plan and the Flood Preparedness Plan. Locality staff gained a better understanding of how to use Plan related data, enter projects into the planning processes and respond to engagement requests to support the planning processes.

On 8/31/22 DEQ staff provided training on the state water supply planning program. Locality staff left the meeting with a better understanding of how the State anticipates water supply planning at the regional and state levels to proceed.

On 9/19/22 Virginia Energy staff presented an overview of solar planning resources in Virginia and the results of the Virginia Solar Survey. Following the presentation locality staff considered the option of regional pursuit of SolSmart designation through a group discussion. The discussion concluded with interest and general support for the designation.

At all Environmental TAC meetings there is a roundtable opportunity for attendees to share and discuss local program issues.

PlanRVA staff coordinate meetings for the Don't Trash Central Virginia campaign with local litter managers and campaign partners, see below for more information.

Regional Coordination and Local Technical Assistance

Local Technical Assistance

PlanRVA staff provided technical support to the Town of Ashland by completing several maps required for the Comprehensive Plan as part of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Program Audit.

During this grant year, PlanRVA staff processed 64 environmental reviews.

Don't Trash Central Virginia Campaign

PlanRVA staff continued their work with the *Don't Trash Central Virginia* campaign and promoted regional coordination through quarterly meetings where members and partners engaged in roundtable discussions about their ongoing efforts. Additionally, PlanRVA staff provided various tools for members and partners to utilize such as social media content. PlanRVA staff continues to share information regarding local clean up events on social media platforms, as well as provides support when possible.

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Support

PlanRVA staff maintained the LCWC SharePoint site and [webpages](#), as well as providing administrative support for Steering Committee and Workgroup meetings, intermeeting coordination with signatories and stakeholders, and related technical assistance in support of LCWC priorities.

Benefits Accrued

Throughout the year PlanRVA staff made notes about items to include in the final report. This grant term the Benefits Accrued report focuses on use of land conservation GIS data by a regional partner.

Resilience Planning

At the 1/21/22 Environmental TAC meeting, DCR Floodplain Management Program staff provided an overview of the program, grant funding opportunities, and resources available for flood related projects. At the 4/19/22 TAC meeting PlanRVA staff discussed the resilience program at PlanRVA including the introduction to the new PlanRVA Resilience Planner. At the August and September TAC meetings, PlanRVA staff discussed the regional resilience project list and the prioritization process. PlanRVA staff finalized the PlanRVA resilience priorities and began scoring projects on the list. Additionally, at the September TAC meeting, PlanRVA staff discussed how support for planning for solar, and its habitat and water quality impacts, could be incorporated into the PlanRVA work program. To support resilience program work, PlanRVA staff are seeking grants for critical infrastructure mapping (VDEM/FEMA) and urban heat island mapping (VDOF). If awarded, these data will support the regional resilience dashboard and other projects at PlanRVA.

Coordination & Training Meetings

Throughout the grant year, PlanRVA staff provide coordination and training opportunities for locality staff in the region.

PlanRVA Environmental Technical Advisory Committee

PlanRVA staff hosted multiple coordination events for staff of member localities during Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21). A formal venue and forum for coordination with local staff are the PlanRVA Environmental Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings. All meetings include at least one educational presentation or training session and time for roundtable organizational updates.

On **December 12, 2021**, PlanRVA staff hosted an Environmental TAC meeting with 29 attendees. Virginia DCR staff discussed the status of the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) and plans for an update of the document. Updates on projects included in the last VOP were solicited by DCR staff. DCR staff also asked attendees for new projects to be added to the VOP.

On **January 21, 2021**, PlanRVA staff hosted an Environmental TAC meeting with 30 attendees. The agenda included the following discussions or presentations supported by this grant:

- Dam Safety Program Update and Initiatives
- Floodplain Management Program Updates
- Resilience Planning at PlanRVA
- Partner Program Update Roundtable

At the conclusion of the meeting, Locality staff gained a better understanding of changes to the Dam Safety program and regulations and the Floodplain Management program. Locality staff also understood how PlanRVA staff planned to proceed with environmental and resilience planning projects during 2022. Finally, there was an opportunity for attendees to coordinate and share program successes and challenges they have experienced during the Partner Update Roundtable.

On **April 19, 2022**, PlanRVA staff hosted an Environmental TAC meeting with 21 attendees. The agenda included the following discussions or presentations supported by this grant:

- Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, Web Explorer, and Flood Resilience Planning
- Resilience Program at PlanRVA Update
- Partner Program Update Roundtable

At the conclusion of the meeting locality staff gained a better understanding of how to use Plan related data, enter projects into the planning processes, and respond to engagement requests. Locality staff and other partners also received and provided input on resilience planning work at PlanRVA, including edits to the regional resilience priorities. There was an opportunity for attendees to coordinate and share program successes and challenges they have experienced during the Partner Update Roundtable.

On **August 31, 2022**, PlanRVA staff hosted an Environmental TAC meeting with 25 attendees. The agenda included the following discussions or presentations supported by this grant:

- Water Supply Planning Program and Regulations Update
- PlanRVA Resilience Project Prioritization Update
- Partner Program Update Roundtable

At the conclusion of the meeting locality staff left the meeting with a better understanding of how the State anticipates the water supply planning process at the regional and state levels to proceed. Locality staff and partners were also able to provide input on the resilience project prioritization process. Finally, there was an opportunity for attendees to coordinate and share program successes and challenges they have experienced during the Partner Update Roundtable.

On **September 19, 2022**, PlanRVA staff hosted an Environmental TAC meeting with 30 attendees. The agenda included the following discussions or presentations supported by this grant:

- Virginia Solar Survey Overview
- Regional Solar Discussion
- PlanRVA Resilience Planning Update
- Partner Program Update Roundtable

At the conclusion of the meeting locality staff had a better understanding of the issues related to solar development and the opportunities for PlanRVA to support them in the future. Locality staff considered the option of regional pursuit of SolSmart designation through a group discussion. The discussion concluded with interest and general support for the designation. Finally, there was an opportunity for attendees to coordinate and share program successes and challenges they have experienced during the Partner Update Roundtable.

Regional Coordination and Local Technical Assistance

PlanRVA staff provide various forms of local technical assistance and regional coordination support.

Local Technical Assistance

Ashland Comprehensive Plan Maps

PlanRVA staff provided technical support to the Town of Ashland by completing several maps required for the Comprehensive Plan as part of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Program Audit. Maps included impaired waters, registered aboveground and underground storage tanks, Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, petroleum release sites, solid waste permits, and Virginia Water Protection Program general and non-permit sites. These maps are included as Appendix A.

Environmental Reviews

PlanRVA staff receive requests for environmental reviews of projects and permits from state agencies and other partners. PlanRVA staff circulate these reviews to member locality staff for comments and questions to inform the PlanRVA response to DEQ or another requesting agency. The types of reviews typically include, but are not limited to:

- **Environmental Assessments and Impact Reports** - Virginia code requires state agencies to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for each major state project.
- **Coastal Consistency Determinations and Certifications** - Due to receipt of Federal funds or permits, proposed projects must prove consistency with the enforceable policies of Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program.
- **Groundwater Withdrawal Permits** - PlanRVA staff receives notice of Groundwater Withdrawal Permits in the Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area (GWMA). The eastern portion of PlanRVA is located in the Eastern Virginia GWMA. All jurisdictions in the Eastern Virginia

GWMA are notified of pending permits as part of this process, therefore PlanRVA receives review requests for projects outside of the Richmond region. For more information about the Eastern Virginia GWMA see <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/water/water-quantity/advisory-committees/eastern-virginia-groundwater-management-advisory-committee> .

- **Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permits** - DEQ issues VWP Permits for activities related to the quality of surface waters in the Commonwealth including the filling, dredging, draining or excavation of wetlands, streams, or other state waters. Surface water withdrawals are also permitted through VWP permits.
- **Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permits** – DEQ issues VPDES permits to any person who discharges any pollutant into surface waters of the Commonwealth from a point source.
- **State Agency grant applications for Federal funding**, including:
 - CERCLA grant funds from US EPA (Superfund programming and site remediation)
 - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) State Clean Diesel funds from US EPA
 - Capitalization funds for the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for wastewater treatment facility improvements from US EPA
- **FHWA Section 5310 funding** for projects involving transit and mobility enhancements for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

During the grant year, PlanRVA staff completed 64 environmental reviews of the following types.

- 19 Coastal Consistency Determinations and Certifications
- 13 Environmental Assessments and Impact Reports
- 13 Groundwater Withdrawal Permits
- 1 Other – Tribal Nation Environmental Project Grant Review
- 8 State agency grant applications for federal funding
- 2 Superfund grant applications
- 4 Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits
- 4 Virginia Water Protection Permits

Regional Coordination

PlanRVA staff participate in and follow local, regional, state, and national planning efforts related to Coastal issues. Information about these efforts is shared with local staff at coordination meetings.

PlanRVA staff regularly attend Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Coastal Policy Team Meetings and Coastal Planning District Commission meetings. The training and coordination opportunities provided to the Coastal PDC staff are greatly valued and shared with locality staff in the Richmond region.

PlanRVA staff participated on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for RVA H2O, the City of Richmond’s integrated permit planning process. The TAC exists to allow the City and DEQ staff the opportunity to vet program elements with technical experts and stakeholders and coordinate with partners on current and future projects. Meetings were held quarterly. More information can be found on the [RVA H2O website](#).

PlanRVA staff are members of the James River Advisory Council (JRAC) attending regular quarterly meetings throughout the year. Information gathered at these meetings is always shared with local staffs. For more information see the [JRAC website](#).

PlanRVA staff sit on the Virginia Department of Energy's [Geologic Mapping](#) Committee. Meetings are held twice a year to prioritize geologic mapping projects across Virginia. PlanRVA staff provide a local and regional land and coastal resource planning perspective on the committee. Information gained from the meetings is shared with member localities of PlanRVA.

PlanRVA staff are working with VCZM Program staff and other regional partners to maintain the [Plant RVA Natives](#) campaign. The campaign encourages people to learn more about the importance and value of native plants and use them in their landscaping

Don't Trash Central Virginia

Don't Trash Central Virginia is an anti-litter campaign for the central Virginia region that approximately coincides with the [Central Virginia Waste Management Authority service area](#). The campaign was first brought to PlanRVA by Litter Managers of several localities in the region. While interested in cooperating on an anti-litter message campaign, they lacked the resources and organization to run a regional campaign. Since this initial outreach, PlanRVA has supported the *Don't Trash* campaign seeking funding and a broader community support for the message. The [campaign](#) has a series of pages on the PlanRVA website. PlanRVA staff produce content for campaign members and partners to utilize online, in print, and on social media. PlanRVA staff host campaign meetings, typically on a quarterly basis, for collaboration, information sharing, and networking among campaign [members](#) and [partners](#). Campaign members include representatives from governments in the region, including nine localities as well as the Chickahominy Indian Tribe. There are currently nine campaign partners, which include local businesses and organizations. PlanRVA staff create customized logos for each member and partner to use on their materials related to litter. Each logo includes *Don't Trash* for consistency. An example of a *Don't Trash* partner logo is included below.



Figure 1 Don't Trash Central Virginia campaign logo



Figure 2 Don't Trash campaign sample partner logo for GRTC

Campaign Strategic Framework

PlanRVA staff revised a Strategic Framework for the [Don't Trash Central Virginia](#) Campaign. The finalized campaign Strategic Framework includes some administrative details about how the campaign is managed, states a vision and goals for the campaign, and translates the principles of community based social marketing into campaign tools and possible future actions. The revision also includes the addition of a *Member and Partner Guide to Success*, detailing members, partners, and PlanRVA staff can work together to advance the campaign. The *Guide to Success* can be provided to new members or partners to explain how the campaign functions. A copy of the Strategic Framework is included in Appendix B.

Campaign Content

PlanRVA staff continue to create content for the *Don't Trash* campaign on a weekly basis; it is posted to the [PlanRVA Facebook page](#) and shared with campaign members and partners via a SharePoint site. Most of the social media content produced for the campaign is found in the seasonal media toolkits. The idea of a toolkit for each season was developed to help to keep all media content in one place as well as promote different 'pushes' that motivate members and partners to stay involved. In each toolkit there are social media posts (including both general litter awareness posts and seasonally themed posts), *Don't Trash* flyers, an inventory of upcoming local clean up events, and a link to the *Don't Trash* anti-litter pledge. In addition to these items, PlanRVA staff are working with members and partners in quarterly meetings to develop a seasonal campaign 'push' to get the community more involved with the campaign. These pushes will likely be through promotion on social media channels and will encourage community members to get in their community to help clean up. The hope with the media toolkits is that members and partners will utilize the resources to help further the efforts of the campaign. Content shared on PlanRVA social media includes both images and videos. Examples of *Don't Trash* social media content are included in Appendix C.

PlanRVA staff support the *Don't Trash* campaign by attending public events around the region and handing out awareness items including stickers, car litter bags, and trash grabbers. PlanRVA staff attended the following events and distributed *Don't Trash* items during the grant term. At all events PlanRVA staff spoke to attendees about the goals of the *Don't Trash* campaign and provided general education about the impacts of litter.

- **Black Girls Do Bike** – April 4, 2022
- **Henrico Native Plant Festival** – April 30, 2022 –Attendees also had the option to participate in a trivia game for prizes such as *Don't Trash* car litter bags and trash grabbers. Questions in the trivia game related to the impacts of litter, marine debris, and watershed health.
- **Que Pasa Festival** – May 7, 2022
- **Richmond Flying Squirrels Tri-Cities Night** – August 16, 2022
- **Richmond Kickers Community Night** – September 7, 2022
- **Richmond Fling Squirrels RVA Night** – September 14, 2022

These efforts helped to spread the word about the campaign as well as strengthened relationships with members/partners.

Campaign Coordination Meetings

On December 8, 2021 PlanRVA staff hosted a coordination meeting for *Don't Trash* campaign members and partners. PlanRVA staff organized two speakers for the group. The first speaker was Katie Register with Virginia Clean Waterways who spoke about the Marine Debris Reduction Plan. The second speaker was Tracey Levery with Keep Virginia Beautiful who spoke about Virginia is For Lovers, Not litter. Following the speakers and their Q&A sessions, PlanRVA staff provided campaign updates which focused on providing a preview of the SharePoint site and available content for members and partners to use. Additionally, PlanRVA staff reviewed highlights from the member and partner survey that was distributed prior to the meeting.

On March 4, 2022 PlanRVA staff hosted a coordination meeting for *Don't Trash* campaign members and partners. This meeting first focused on a full review of the findings from the member and partner survey. Following the review, PlanRVA staff introduced the first media toolkit, which included social media posts, the anti-litter pledge survey, and clean up event inventory. The meeting ended with a brief discussion on the idea of a critical mass clean up with group to help members and partners understand if it is an activity that they could host in their locality.

On June 15, 2022 PlanRVA staff hosted a coordination meeting for *Don't Trash* campaign members and partners. PlanRVA staff guided discussions on campaign updates included an introduction to new partners and an update on the anti-litter pledge. PlanRVA staff gave an overview of the new summer toolkit for members and partners to use. At the end of the meeting PlanRVA staff opened a discussion for all members and partners to provide their updates.

Marine Debris

The *Don't Trash* campaign suite of web pages developed by PlanRVA staff includes [content](#) to educate the public about marine debris. It is important that residents of the Richmond region understand how their actions contribute to the issue of marine debris. The web content makes clear that litter on land is only one rainstorm away from becoming marine debris in nearby waterways and beyond. The web

content also explains the harms of marine debris for water quality and local ecosystems. Links to existing resources developed by the Virginia CZM Program and others in the state working on marine debris are also included.

On September 27-28, 2022, PlanRVA staff attended the Virginia Marine Debris Summit. At the Summit, PlanRVA staff was able to network with other litter prevention professionals and related organizations in the state which enabled us to better support the campaign. The presenters helped PlanRVA staff generate new ideas to incorporate into the campaign. For example, the presentation on behavior change provided PlanRVA staff with new resources to explore how to better impact behavior change in Central Virginia.

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Support

In late 2016 PlanRVA received a 309 grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to undertake a multi-year project focused on the lower Chickahominy River watershed. The goal of the project was to work with stakeholders to develop and adopt policies that would accomplish both natural resource conservation and sustainable economic development. Three counties constitute the watershed: Charles City, James City, and New Kent. Three recently federally recognized Tribes were included in the study area footprint: Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe.

Ultimately, the project prioritized the relationship of the Tribes and counties in pursuit of the creation of a regional organization focused on the watershed to support eco-tourism, natural resource conservation, and sustainable economic development. That shift led to the creation of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the committee structure of the LCWC to carry actions forward. The LCWC MOU was signed by the three counties, three Tribes, and two planning district commissions with a full or partial footprint in the project area. Other partners wishing to support the LCWC can sign a formal Supporting Cooperative Partner Statement and/or participate on any of the LCWC Workgroups: Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship, Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing, and Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions.

Steering Committee

The LCWC Steering Committee meets biannually. The Steering Committee is composed of staff of the LCWC MOU signatories. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to oversee and provide guidance to the Workgroups about how activities should move forward. PlanRVA staff, schedule, host, and facilitate Steering Committee meetings. During this grant term, PlanRVA used grant funds to support one Steering Committee meeting on September 20, 2022. The meeting began with a discussion to reach consensus on some administrative and logistical details of the operation of the Committee. PlanRVA staff then facilitated an overview of highlights about the planned actions and tasks for each Workgroup. Key questions about possible points of crossover on actions between Workgroups were discussed by the committee. For example, the Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing Workgroup has identified an action related to the creation of an app for the public to access information about public access to the river and ecotourism resources in the watershed region. The Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions Workgroup has identified an action related to creation and promotion of tourist packages focused on the watershed. Both actions relate to branding of the

watershed and could ultimately be tied to one another depending on project design. PlanRVA staff worked with the Steering Committee to determine any concerns about broad branding of the watershed region and advice or considerations for Workgroup members as they proceed. Steering Committee members held no reservations about the possibility of coordinating these actions and offered advice for Workgroup members to consider.

Workgroups and Key Strategies

The LCWC Workgroups meet quarterly. Workgroups are composed of staff of the LCWC MOU signatories as well as staff of partner agencies relevant to each workgroup topic area. Examples of these partner agencies include state agencies, land conservancies, academia, and other organizations. Each workgroup has a set of key strategies that aim to advance the goal of economic development and natural resource conservation in the watershed. The following are the three workgroups and their corresponding key strategies:

Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship:

Key Strategy 1: Develop watershed-wide policies/ programs for improving data on contiguous forest blocks. Increase geospatial mapping and access to data.

Key Strategy 2: Enhance public education efforts for Family Legacy and Forest Conservation. Conduct Generation Next landowner education programs emphasizing underserved communities.

Key Strategy 3: Collaborate to support land acquisition for land conservation, including for Tribal acquisition.

Key Strategy 4: Establish policies to better support “living shorelines” for river restoration projects.

Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing:

Key Strategy 1: Develop watershed-wide policies/ programs to expand on the Virginia Capital Trail by creating spur trails from the existing trail.

Key Strategy 2: Make recommendations regarding infrastructure improvements that will support and encourage growth of the ecotourism industry in the LCW counties.

Key Strategy 3: Develop an app that provides all appropriate ecotourism opportunities and historic landmarks/other educational features.

Key Strategy 4: Develop programs to better educate recreationists about water safety and to enforce existing safety and boating regulations and establish a buoy system for safety.

Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions:

Key Strategy 1: Develop watershed-wide policies and programs that support using the river as a "soft" economic driver for activities such as ecotourism, ecological tours, fishing, and fish farming.

Key Strategy 2: Combine different types of tourism experiences to create larger tourist packages.

Key Strategy 3: Develop watershed-wide programs to educate residents and visitors about sustainable economic development and its impact on ecological integrity and natural resources. Integrate into each county's comprehensive plan.

Key Strategy 4: Develop watershed-wide policies and programs to systematically integrate Tribal and other history into public access points including family-owned fishing industries.

Key Strategy 5: Engage stakeholders in how local and Tribal history can be integrated into the three county Comprehensive Plans for both ecological significance and sustainable business opportunities.

Workgroup Meetings

PlanRVA staff schedule, host, and facilitate all Workgroup meetings. PlanRVA staff also maintain a strategy and activity progress chart on the LCWC SharePoint site. This chart allows all those with access to see what is in progress and the next steps planned for each strategy. PlanRVA staff utilize the chart to plan Workgroup meetings and coordinate with Workgroup members in between meetings. Workgroup meetings hosted by PlanRVA during this grant term include:

Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship

July 25, 2022 Meeting:

- The meeting agenda included a review of existing documents (i.e., Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan and Annotated Directory), a review of proposed actions and next steps, and an open discussion.
- The goal of the meeting was to talk through every key strategy and their corresponding proposed actions. PlanRVA staff led the discussion to focus on immediate next steps to move key strategies forward.
- At the conclusion of the meeting the following next steps were determined for the group: 1) Eli Podyma with Virginia Department of Forestry was tasked with the coordination of a [Generation NEXT](#) workshop at the New Kent Forestry Center on November 2nd, 2) PlanRVA staff was tasked with creating a spreadsheet with potential organizations and contacts, as well as funding streams to help support land conservation (including Tribal acquisition) in the watershed, and 3) PlanRVA staff was tasked with determining the next steps for starting heat island mapping in the watershed.

Recreational and Infrastructure Marketing

July 29, 2022 Meeting:

- The meeting agenda included a review of existing documents (i.e., Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan and Annotated Directory), a review of proposed actions and next steps, and an open discussion.
- The goal of the meeting was to talk through every key strategy and their corresponding proposed actions. PlanRVA staff led the discussion to focus on immediate next steps to move key strategies forward.
- At the conclusion of the meeting the following next steps were determined for the group: 1) research existing apps and resources available that provide information on the offerings of the watershed to determine what type of app would be beneficial to better branding the watershed, 2) compile a list of potential spurs of the Virginia Capital Trail, and 3) determine best ways to promote general water safety offerings in the watershed (i.e., adult swimming lessons)

Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions

July 22, 2022 Meeting:

- The meeting agenda included a review of existing documents (i.e., Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan and Annotated Directory), a review of proposed actions and next steps, and an open discussion.
- The goal of the meeting was to talk through every key strategy and their corresponding proposed actions. PlanRVA staff led the discussion to focus on immediate next steps to move key strategies forward.
- At the conclusion of the meeting the following next steps were determined for the group: 1) Jeff Flood with CZM to continue conversations with Virginia Tech, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the three Tribes about the potential of fish farming, aquaponics, and shoreline habitat restoration on Tribal lands, 2) both Shaleigh Howell with the Pamunkey Indian Tribe and Jeff Flood with CZM were tasked with taking the first steps to gather information about existing signage at the Captain John Smith trail to explore potential for new signage that integrated Tribal history, and 3) the group is interested in bringing in county planners to a future workgroup meeting to discuss how to best integrate Tribal history into Comprehensive Plans.

Online Content and Resources

PlanRVA staff maintains a Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative SharePoint site for all members of the collaborative to use as a resource. The SharePoint site includes a member directory, a copy of the MOU, notes from workgroup and steering committee meetings, and watershed related resources. In addition to the LCWC SharePoint site, PlanRVA staff maintains multiple webpages dedicated to the Lower Chickahominy watershed and an overview of the project and Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative. The webpage structure and their corresponding links are as follows:

- [The Watershed](#)
 - [Environment](#)
 - [History & Culture](#)
 - [Land & Water Use](#)
- [The Project](#)
 - [Economic Study](#)
 - [Recreation and Ecotourism](#)
 - [Outreach](#)
- [The Collaborative](#)
 - [Partners](#)

Technical Assistance

In addition to the contributions of assistance by Workgroup members, PlanRVA staff provide technical assistance to the LCWC to advance actions of key strategies. Below are technical assistance activities PlanRVA staff undertook during the grant term.

Drafting of an ecotourism operators inventory —PlanRVA staff developed a list of ecotourism operators in the Lower Chickahominy watershed to provide to all members of the Collaborative. This included the name of the operator, its location, its owner, and a link to resources. The file was made available on the LCWC SharePoint site.

Collect information about comprehensive plan updates from localities – PlanRVA staff coordinated with planners from the three counties in the watershed to understand where they are in the process of updating their Comprehensive Plans. This information was then posted to SharePoint and presented to members of the Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions workgroup as it was one of the tasks under the 'Integrate Tribal History into Local Comprehensive Plans' key strategy.

Compile land acquisition contact and funding stream information—To support a key strategy of the Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship Workgroup, PlanRVA staff began compiling organizations with access to land acquisition funding or a role to play in the process. General information about funding streams was also gathered. This information was collected into a spreadsheet and shared on the project SharePoint site.

Collect PFAS information – At its September meeting, the LCWC Steering Committee briefly discussed the issue of PFAS contamination of a portion of the upper Chickahominy and potential impacts downstream. PlanRVA staff compiled information about PFAS contamination in the Chickahominy River into a folder on SharePoint and shared it with Steering Committee members.

Benefits Accrued – Capital Region Land Conservancy Map

In federal fiscal year 2016 under the auspices of the CZM-funded Technical Assistance grant, PlanRVA staff worked with locality staff and other partners to map conserved land in the Richmond region. In 2017, [Capital Region Land Conservancy](#), a land conservancy with the same footprint as PlanRVA and a partner in many environmental projects, used the conserved lands data to create a vision map. The vision map identified areas in the region in which CRLC would prioritize its work.

In late 2021, CRLC staff reached out to PlanRVA staff about obtaining the conserved land GIS data originally mapped. CRLC had increased capacity to include staff with GIS capabilities. PlanRVA staff provided the data to CRLC.

In 2022 CRLC released an [interactive mapping section](#) to its website utilizing the PlanRVA-created data. The new page and associated resources educate the public about the importance of land conservation and conservation easements and connects them to examples of conserved land projects.

Resilience Planning

PlanRVA staff advanced regional resilience planning the Richmond region working with locality staff and other partners. In April 2022, PlanRVA staff welcomed a Resilience Planner to help support work associated with this grant as well as other programs across the agency.

Regional Resiliency Coordination and Assistance

PlanRVA has identified the Environmental TAC as the primary engagement body for resilience planning. Resilience informational items and coordination discussions are included on Environmental TAC agendas throughout the year. During this grant term, resilience agenda items on Environmental TAC agendas included:

- January 21, 2022 Environmental TAC meeting
 - DCR Floodplain Management Program staff presented on the Program, both current operations and coming updates.
 - PlanRVA staff reviewed Resilience Planning accomplishments of the prior year and provided an overview of plans for calendar year 2022.
- April 19, 2022 Environmental TAC meeting
 - PlanRVA staff introduced Nicole Keller, the new Resilience Planner at PlanRVA.
 - PlanRVA staff provided an update on revisions to the Regional Resilience Priorities. These revisions were necessary to allow for translation of the priorities into the priority evaluation process for the regional project list.
- August 31, 2022 Environmental TAC meeting
 - PlanRVA staff presented on the proposed project prioritization process.
- September 19, 2022 Environmental TAC meeting
 - PlanRVA staff presented an update on the project prioritization process.
 - PlanRVA staff led a discussion foreshadowing work to come in federal fiscal year 2022, including a focus on how to best support localities in the region to plan for solar energy and its impacts. Consensus at the meeting was that PlanRVA should consider regional SolSmart designation. PlanRVA staff is currently working with leadership to plan next steps in pursuing designation. SolSmart is a program for local governments and regions through which technical assistance and other forms of support can be leveraged to better plan for solar installation, harnessing positive aspects and mitigating negative impacts.

Throughout the grant term PlanRVA staff discussed resilience data and knowledge gaps internally, with local staff and other partners at Environmental TAC meetings, and in between meetings via calls and emails. Improving regional data and knowledge is being integrated into the PlanRVA work plan. The creation of regional flood risk resources is an example of how this integration occurs. During the FFY20 grant, several members of Environmental TAC expressed concern about poor public perception and understanding of flood risk. Over the past two years, PlanRVA staff sought, were awarded, and undertook a separate project funded by a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Dam Safety and Floodplain Management grant to produce [regional resources and a campaign about flood risk](#). The project idea and the capacity to write the grant application came from discussions funded by the CZM program through the regional Technical Assistance and Resilience grant, however the funding to accomplish the project was found elsewhere.

During this grant term, PlanRVA staff developed and submitted two grant applications for projects to support and expand the Resilience program at PlanRVA. The ideas for these projects have developed over time with Environmental TAC and other project committees. The funding provided by this grant created the capacity to craft the grant applications. One grant application focuses on heat island mapping and includes both a land cover analysis and the identification of opportunities to mitigate heat island through a cooling capacity analysis. Another grant application involves the development of a regionally common definition for critical infrastructure and the development of a methodology to map and update features considered critical infrastructure over time. Critical infrastructure is generally defined as assets, systems, networks and functions so vital to society that their destruction would have a debilitating impact. PlanRVA would like to reach consensus on a regional definition of critical infrastructure and its components in the Richmond region so that analysis about its resilience can be performed and plans can be made to support it.

During the grant term, PlanRVA staff held internal discussions about resilience related data and how to best utilize it across programs and projects including the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Scenario Planning. Also PlanRVA staff are planning the design and development of a regional resilience dashboard that unites data and elements of all these projects and more to characterize resilience in the Richmond region. If awarded, the two grants will support this work.

Regional Resilience Priority Ranking

During the previous grant term, PlanRVA staff worked with locality staff and other partners in Environmental TAC to craft a [regional vision and definition](#) of resilience in the Richmond region. Underpinning the vision and definition are regional resilience priorities. Resilience priorities are natural, social, and economic conditions that challenge or support regional resilience. Each priority has localized and/or regional resilience impacts. In early Spring 2022, PlanRVA staff began to translate the regional priorities into a prioritization process for evaluating resilience projects in the region. A variety of resilience projects have been submitted by locality staff and collected by PlanRVA staff through plan and document review for inclusion on the regional resilience project list.

In March and April 2022 PlanRVA staff reviewed the regional priorities and made edits as translation to a project prioritization process was considered in greater detail. These edits were presented to the Environmental TAC at the April 19 meeting and were supported by the committee.

Throughout Spring and Summer 2022, PlanRVA staff worked to define the process of evaluating each project based on the regional resilience priorities. In August 2022, PlanRVA staff presented the proposed process to Environmental TAC. For each of the 10 regional resilience priorities, PlanRVA staff determined two to four questions to be answered for each project. Responses to the questions were classified as high, medium, low, or negative value. A high, medium, or low response indicates the respective positive impact on regional resilience. A negative response indicates a detrimental impact to regional resilience for the priority area. Not all priorities are relevant for every project, in such cases NA, or not applicable, responses are a possibility. Each high, medium, low, and negative response corresponds to numerical point values. These numerical point values enable PlanRVA staff to evaluate, or rank, each project for the various priorities as well as general resilience in the region.

A copy of the updated Resilience Priorities and the questions for consideration in the prioritization evaluation process are included in Appendix D. A template project evaluation sheet is included in Appendix E. The project evaluation sheet is an Excel file with formulas embedded for auto-calculation of results.

As of the conclusion of this grant term, PlanRVA staff have completed evaluation of several projects. While the process outlined above has promise, PlanRVA staff concluded that more discussion, both internally and with Environmental TAC, and likely refinement of the process would benefit project evaluation given its many possible uses. Accordingly, PlanRVA staff have paused evaluation of all projects on the regional project list until after these discussions can occur.

CZM Database Support

PlanRVA staff made locality staff and other partners aware of the CZM project database during discussions about the project evaluation process with Environmental TAC. PlanRVA staff also shared a link to the publicly accessible portion on [AdaptVA](#). Indeed, PlanRVA staff developed the aforementioned project evaluation process to feed results into the database.

State Resilience Planning Support

PlanRVA staff maintained communication during the grant term with resilience related project and program staff at DCR and other state agencies. Updates and information were readily passed on to locality staff and other regional partners through Environmental TAC meetings and emails.

PlanRVA staff served on the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan TAC throughout the end of calendar year 2021. The Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan was released in January of 2022. PlanRVA staff shared the document and associated online resources with locality staff, other partners, and the public at the time of release and continue to do so.

In August of 2022, PlanRVA staff agreed to participate on the Virginia Coastal Resilience TAC. The first meeting of the TAC was held September 16, 2022.