

November 2022

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

CZM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



MIDDLE PENINSULA
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

This project, Task # 44 was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant # NA21NOS4190152 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, or any of its subagencies.

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction	3
Product #1: Coastal Management Analysis and Policy Support	3
Example of Coastal Management Support	3
Leveraged Accomplishment.....	3
Product #2: Local and State Planning Coordination	4
Product #3: MPCBPAA Work Plan & Support for Online Facility Reservation System	5
Product #4: Benefits Accrued from Ongoing and Prior CZM Grants	6
Product #5: Resiliency Planning.....	6
Appendix A: MPPDC Staff Activities.....	10
Appendix B: Accrued Benefits to the Virginia Middle Peninsula Community as a Result of Investment by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.....	25

Executive Summary

The Technical Assistance (TA) Program, funded through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), 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 balance 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 dredging and beneficial use of dredged material, nature-based flood mitigation solutions, and resiliency. For the Federal FY21 grant, there were five 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 of local governments, local planning staff, local planning commissions, and wetlands board staff.

Local and State Planning Coordination. MPPDC staff attended, convened, and participated in various monthly and quarterly meetings with local government 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 local and regional decisions. Also, MPPDC staff provided six (6) trainings throughout the year.

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 (3) meetings were held throughout the year.

Benefits Accrued from Ongoing and 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 and MPCBPAA's work and the benefits of CZM funding.

Resiliency Planning. MPPDC staff continued to enhance the Middle Peninsula Fight the Flood (FTF) program with upgrades to the database and website to ultimately encourage citizens to register for the program and connect them with contractors offering resiliency or mitigation solutions and financial incentives. During this project period, MPPDC staff submitted 53 resiliency grant applications requesting more than \$11 million to various funding agencies.

Introduction

With funding through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), MPPDC staff were able to provide coastal management support and coordination to local governments, their local planning staff, and elected officials. MPPDC staff were also able to collaborate and provide guidance to other planning district commissions on coastal issues, including resiliency planning and mitigating for flooding with nature-based solutions, dredging and beneficial use, and public land access. This report will touch on the five (5) products of this project.

Product #1: Coastal Management Analysis and Policy Support

MPPDC's Coastal Resources Technical Assistance (TA) 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 (9) local governments of the Middle Peninsula region relied upon MPPDC staff for ongoing analysis and policy support for emerging issues to assist and improve local and regional planning efforts. Technical policy assistance focused on a variety of topics including dredging and beneficial reuse; flood mitigation through nature-based solutions and resilience; monetizing natural resources; and septic. 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 four bills focusing on addressing key issues impacting rural coastal localities. Bills that passed during the 2022 General Assembly Session that MPPDC directly worked on included HB 769 (Onsite Sewage System Pump-out Oversight) and HB 1322 (Living Shorelines).

Additionally, MPPDC staff developed and presented information to Governor Youngkin's leadership team about rural coastal Virginia's response and solutions to water resiliency challenges and the development of the Middle Peninsula FTF Program to respond to such challenges. Finally, MPPDC staff attended a special meeting called by Delegate Keith Hodges and coordinated by Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) to advance solutions for harvesting and processing Blue Catfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The initiative will not only remove invasive blue catfish from the waters of the Middle Peninsula, but it will simultaneously create employment opportunities for rural coastal Virginia watermen.

Leveraged Accomplishment

The 2022 General Assembly passed HB 769 unanimously to require the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to manage and enforce septic tank pump out requirements under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA). According to VDH, this will transition oversight of an estimated 104,399 systems in the septic tank pump out program from local governments to VDH. The bill also requires VDH to develop a web-based reporting system for sewage haulers to submit information regarding system pump outs. VDH will have one year to develop the necessary infrastructure to begin the program on July 1, 2023. The introduced budget for the Houses and Senate provides \$1,038,611 in FY 2023 and \$1,013,720 ongoing starting in FY 2024 for seven positions and database development to establish and operate the Chesapeake Bay septic tank pump out programs in 12 localities in the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck, and Eastern Shore.

Secondly, the 2022 General Assembly passed HB 1322 unanimously to redefine “other structural and organic materials” used for the construction of living shorelines as materials or features that provide added protection or stability for the natural shoreline habitat, attenuate wave energy, and do not interfere with natural coastal processes or the natural continuity of the land-water interface. It requires that structural features be free from contaminants and be adequately secured to prevent dislodging or detachment due to wave action or other natural forces. This ultimately expands the options for shoreline resilience within the Middle Peninsula and beyond.

Product #2: Local and State Planning Coordination

MPPDC staff 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; the Middle Peninsula FTF Program; web-based tools (i.e. Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan (VCRMP) Mapping Tool and NOAA Sea-level Rise Projections and Visualization Tool), 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 convened fifteen meetings of the local government administrators on the following dates: 10/8/21; 11/12/21; 12/10/21; 1/7/22; 1/14/22; 1/21/22; 2/4/22; 2/11/22; 3/11/22; 4/8/22; 5/13/22; 6/10/22; 7/8/22; 8/12/22; and 9/9/22. Additionally, three meetings of the MPCBPAA were convened to discuss ongoing and new issues related to coastal zone management (Meeting Dates: 2/11/22; 4/8/22; and 6/10/22). Additionally, MPPDC staff hosted six (6) trainings throughout the grant year, including the following:

- 1. 12/15/21 – CRMP Mapping Tool Training.** At the December monthly Local Planners meeting Virginia Department of Conservation of Recreation (DCR) staff introduced and reviewed the Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer tool with the local planners, regional government staff and various state agency staff. This tool was developed to help stakeholders interact with products of the VCRMP, including coastal hazards, impacts, community context, and building coastal resilience. There were 10 people at this training.
- 2. 1/26/22 – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Training.** At the January monthly Local Planners meeting, MPPDC staff reviewed the funding opportunities made available through the passing of this federal act. The IIJA offers for transportation, core infrastructure, and flood mitigation projects. There were 12 people at this training.
- 3. 2/18/22 – FTF Training to the Mid-Atlantic APA Chapter.** As part of the Mid-Atlantic APA Chapter *Chesapeake Bay Webinar Series, Plan Integration for Resilience and Equity*, MPPDC staff presented information to the group about the Middle Peninsula FTF program and how it helps inform local decision making. There were 161 people at this training. Continuing education credits were offered.
- 4. 2/23/22 – NOAA Sea-Level Rise training.** At the February monthly Local Planner meeting, MPPDC staff provided training on updates to the web mapping tool. This mapping tool helps visualize

community-level impacts from coastal flooding or sea level rise. There were 6 people at this training.

5. **4/7/22 – FTF Training to Mathews Rotary Club.** MPPDC staff was invited to attend the April meeting of the Mathews Rotary Club to review the FTF Program. MPPDC staff shared how citizens could register for the program and begin receiving solutions and potential financial incentives to implement mitigation solutions on their property. There were 15 people at this training.
6. **9/7/22 – FTF Training to RAFT.** MPPDC staff presented information about the FTF Program to participants of the Middle Peninsula Resilience Education Workshop. The FTF is a resource that connects property owners affected by rising flood waters to grant opportunities, experts, and programs to help them combat the effect of rising floodwaters on their property. The full presentation can be found [here](#). There were 56 people at this training.

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

MPPDC 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 three meetings of the MPCBPAA throughout the project year. Meeting dates were February 11, 2021; April 8, 2022; and June 10, 2022. In conjunction with the meetings, MPPDC staff also worked to advance the work of the MCBPAA, including:

- **Land management and facilitation of land donations.** MPPDC staff helped to facilitate the donation of 125 acres from South Garden International, LLC which lies adjacent to Captain Sinclair Recreational Area.
- **Go Virginia Region 5/6 Rural Challenge.** This project leverages MPCBPAA properties to bring new businesses providing innovative coastal resiliency services to the Middle Peninsula and beyond. This is a unique opportunity to utilize publicly owned waterfront properties as field stations for research and development and collaborated work research to test new approaches and build businesses. VASG partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) program and conducted a \$1.5M Rural Coastal Community Resilience Challenge. Four winning proposals were selected and address septic systems, building rehabilitation, flood mitigation, and beneficial reuse of dredged material. Each proposal will receive \$200,000 to implement their solution using PAA owned property.
- **Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) Grant.** The MPCBPAA received a \$1M housing grant through the MPPDC to rehabilitate and construct at least 10 affordable public workforce housing units for low-income people that need to live and work near the water as well as create new revenue streams to serve as sustainable funding to support the work of the MPCBPAA. As part of this project, a preliminary architectural report was developed for the overall Captain Sinclair's property that proposes building 2 residential units in the southern wing of the main house, 3 residential units using ThermalSteel walls on the second story of the pool house, and individual 250-600 sq ft units on the 4 lots adjacent to the canal. The 3 different residential options being explored are modular, container, and stick build. Finally, MPPDC staff has developed a working relationship with a property owner adjacent to the Captain Sinclair's property. Retired veteran Lt. Col. Dan Knott purchased 130 acres for the purpose of developing an outreach program for veterans through his non-profit called Knott-Alone Hold Fast.

- **Marketing and Branding.** Consociate Media was contracted to continue work on the marketing and branding of the MPCBPAA. The new website makes the work of the PAA more approachable while increasing community engagement. The highlights of the new website include activities in the region, opportunities available on MPCBPAA owned properties, and continued improvements on the Virginia Interactive reservation system.
- **Middle Peninsula Municipal Dredging Program.** Within the Middle Peninsula region there is a vast need to dredge and maintain our navigable waterways. With 120 navigable creeks with 90 needing some level of dredging MPPDC staff sought funding to address dredging issues. The Virginia Port Authority's (VPA) newly created fund for Local Dredging Projects established funding of \$5M in the first year of the general fund to VPA to distribute for local shovel-ready shallow-draft dredging projects in areas including Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex Counties. Therefore, the MPCBPAA and MPPDC staff are anticipating \$3 million to purchase dredge equipment and dredge channels in the identified counties of the Middle Peninsula.

Product #4: Benefits Accrued from Ongoing and 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 the CZM Program, the MPPDC sets 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 CZMA's direct and indirect investment and its value to rural coastal communities.

Middle Peninsula Municipal Dredging Program. MPPDC staff contracted with Consociate Media to 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 CZMA funding.

Appendix C provides the full report of benefits accrued 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.

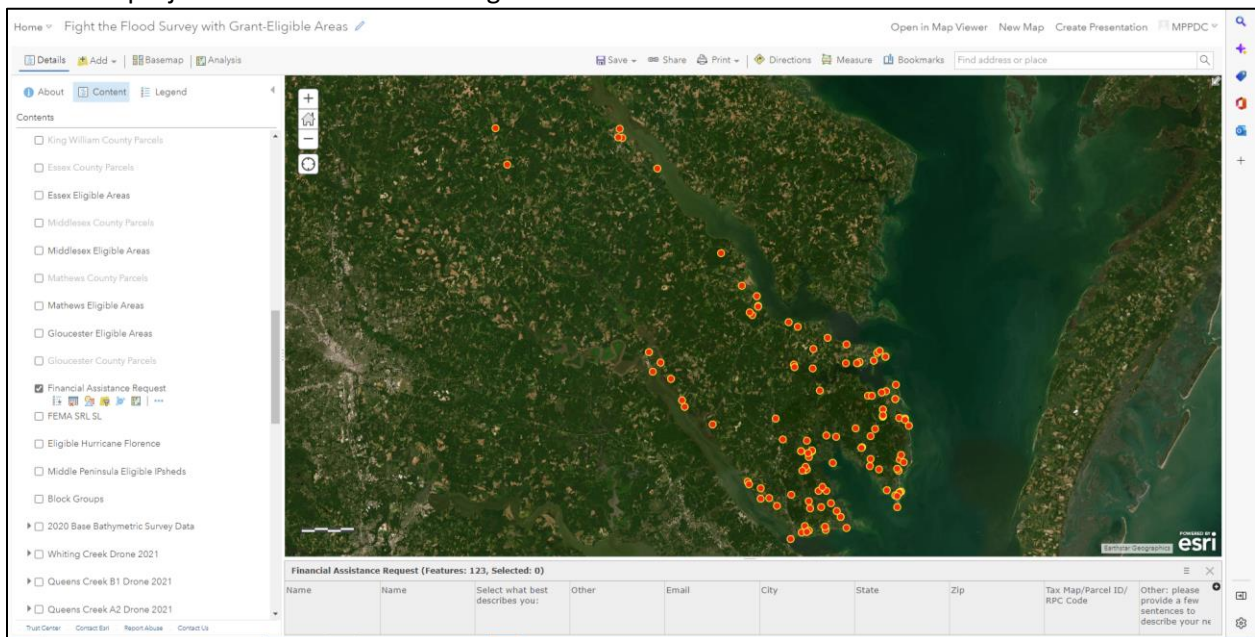
Product #5: Resiliency Planning

The MPPDC FTF 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. To date there are 25 businesses and 123 property owners that have registered with the FTF Program.

As the MPPDC staff works to refine the Middle Peninsula FTF Program, MPPDC staff has added data layers to the FTF database to enhance how projects are selected by MPPDC staff for funding opportunities. Currently the FTF database has a wealth of information that can be easily sorted. Figure 1 shows a screen shot of the FTF database. After a citizen or other stakeholder enters their information into the FTF intake form, a red dot is automatically generated on the map to show the location of the project. Attached to this dot is the information that was inserted on the intake form, including the problem and the desired need. Therefore, all this data begins to generate an ongoing and current list of resiliency project for the Middle Peninsula region.

Figure 1: Snapshot of database showing the location of 123 resiliency projects within the Middle Peninsula. This also shows that there is a table at the bottom of the page that provides specific information about the project location and what mitigation actions are needed.



As MPPDC staff gathered information and worked directly with citizens and regional stakeholders to find funding opportunities that might fund their mitigation or resiliency need, MPPDC staff spent a substantial amount of time writing and submitting resiliency and mitigation proposals to a variety of entities (Table 1). Throughout this project MPPDC staff submitted 41 proposals to Round 2 of DCR's Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) and four were awarded. For Round 3, a total of 42 proposals were submitted, including five new FTF proposals and 37 resubmittals from Rounds 1 and 2. Beyond the CFPF, MPPDC staff also submitted proposals to other various agencies (i.e. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and NOAA). In all MPPDC staff requested a total of \$11,045,543 for coastal-related and resilience projects and were awarded a total of \$9,692,389 during this Virginia CZM grant period.

Table 1:

Opportunities Identified to Implement Commission Priorities
Proposals Status for Grant Applications Submitted During FY2023

Service Center	Project Title and Description	Date Applied	Funding Requested	Status
Environmental	RAFT Dupont Mini grant - Septic Pumpouts for LMI Citizens	Sep. 2022	\$25,000	Submitted
Environmental	RAFT Dupont Micro grant - Fight the Flood video tutorials	Sep. 2022	\$5,000	Submitted
Environmental	FEMA BRIC Fight the Flood Analysis & Project Identification	Sep. 2022	\$250,000	Submitted
Haz. Mitigation	FEMA FMA Powers House Elevation	Sep. 2022	\$200,000	Submitted
Environmental	NOAA Mobjack Bay Habitat Restoration Projects Study	Aug. 2022	\$10,000	Submitted
MPCBPAA	DHCD Industrial Revitalization Fund Capt. Sinclairs Improvements	Aug. 2022	\$946,000	Submitted
Environmental	NOAA CBNERRS Fight the Flood Videos & Technical Assistance	Aug. 2022	\$50,000	Submitted
Transportation	Smart Scale Round 5 – Rt. 17 Woods Cross Roads Intersection Improvements	Jul. 2022	\$3,231,000	Submitted
Transportation	Smart Scale Round 5 – Rt. 17 Glens Intersection Improvements	Jul. 2022	\$5,240,929	Submitted
MPCBPAA	NOAA IJJA West Point Airport Acquisition Letter of Intent	Jul. 2022	\$579,000	Not Awarded
MPCBPAA	NOAA IJJA Hog Island Letter of Intent	Jul. 2022	\$905,000	Not Awarded
MPCBPAA	NOAA IJJA Captain Sinclairs Addition Design Letter of Intent	Jul. 2022	\$213,000	Not Awarded
MPCBPAA	NOAA IJJA Tappahannock Acquisition Letter of Intent	Jul. 2022	\$520,100	Not Awarded
FY 2023 Awarded Total (July – September 2022)			\$0	
FY 2023 Requested Total (July – September 2022)			\$12,175,029	
FY23 Funding Request Award Potential Total			\$9,957,929	
Cumulative Funding Request Award Potential (FY22 + FY23)			\$18,566,372	
<i>Status of Pending Applications Submitted during FY2022</i>				
Environmental	NFWF Coastal Resilience – Hog Island Shoreline Protection	Jun. 2022	\$814,400	Submitted
Community Development	EDA Economic Development Technical Assistance	Apr. 2022	\$140,000	Submitted
Environmental	NFWF SWG Captain Sinclairs Veterans Resilience Workforce Program Development	Apr. 2022	\$75,000	Submitted
Environmental	NFWF SWG Ware River Shoreline Protection Phase 2	Apr. 2022	\$500,000	Submitted
Environmental	NFWF SWG Hog Island Shoreline Protection	Apr. 2022	\$500,000	Submitted
Environmental	DCR CFPF Round 3 – Resubmittal of 35 Round 2 Proposals	Apr. 2022	Sum \$1,660,570	Submitted
Environmental	DCR CFPF Round 3 – Mathews Davis Creek Dredging	Apr. 2022	\$2,132,102	Submitted
Environmental	DCR CFPF Round 3 – Mathews East River Boat Yard Resilience Improvements	Apr. 2022	\$966,987	Submitted
Environmental	DCR CFPF Round 3 – Mathews Whites Creek Landing Resilience Improvements	Apr. 2022	\$213,740	Submitted
Environmental	DCR CFPF Round 3 – Middlesex Whiting Creek Resilience Improvements	Apr. 2022	\$174,312	Submitted
Environmental	DCR CFPF Round 3 – Gloucester Point Beach Park Improvements	Apr. 2022	\$1,276,332	Submitted
Transportation	USDOT RAISE Tappahannock/Essex Multimodal Master Plan	Apr. 2022	\$1,500,000	Awarded
Environmental	VCZMP Coastal Technical Assistance FY23	Feb. 2022	\$129,000	Submitted
Environmental	VCZMP Next Generation Shoreline Yr. 2	Feb. 2022	\$100,000	Awarded
Community Development	VCZMP ANPDC Ecotourism Year 6	Feb. 2022	\$26,000	Submitted

FY 2022 Awarded Total (July 2021 through June 2022)	\$9,692,389 <i>(An additional \$8,608,443 has been requested with award notices still pending)</i>
--	--

MPPDC staff also utilized standing meetings of the Local Planners, the Local Government Administrators, and the Commission to continue dialog and discussion about regional resiliency and mitigation and associated topics. In part, MPPDC staff participated in State resiliency planning, including offering feedback to the VCRMP, attended stakeholder meetings, and attended the Coastal Resilience Master Plan Data Explorer Training (1/13/22). Finally, MPPDC staff participated in a resiliency themed session at the Governor’s Housing Conference in November of 2021. The presentation focused on how the Middle Peninsula FTF Program addresses all elements of climate and resilience impacts to coastal communities.

Lately, MPPDC staff made progress on the pilot septic program, funded through the General Assembly and a GO VA grant. Triangle Environmental was selected as the Go VA-RISE Septic winner and will help to design and construct a pilot elevated engineered septic system for areas that recurrently flood. MPPDC staff are currently under contract with Triangle Environmental to begin the work. Triangle Environmental anticipates one test site to be an actively occupied residential home and the other a commercial building.

MPPDC staff continues to make headway in the community resilience and mitigation space and remains a leader on the topic.

Appendix A: MPPDC Staff Activities

OCTOBER 2021

- Developed 19 construction applications for property owners to submit for Round 1 DCR Flood Fund. This required discussing property-specific issues with each owner to tell their story in the grant narrative, collect pictures, and develop maps to meet DCR's programmatic requirements. Each application required a review by a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and the MPPDC partnered with Draper Aden to provide this review. This effort required significant communication with property owners to ensure they were kept informed about application development progress.
- Met with DCR leadership and the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Resilience to discuss Round 1 Flood Fund proposals.
- Participated in the Middle Peninsula Habitat Restoration Workshop hosted by CBNERR.
- Contacted FTF participants to gather information for Round 2 applications to DCR's CFPF. Applications are due November 5th.
- Consulted with John Morris of Beal and Etherington and Morris, (retired) regarding history of public access at the landing site of Route 649, end of Marius Road in Gloucester County. Coordinated for Mr. Morris to assist Gloucester County with road ending research assistance.
- Consulted with the Town of Tappahannock and Town's legal counsel from Sands Anderson regarding creating an Intensely Developed Area (IDA) designation under the CBPA to enable the Town to develop the landing area where the Captain Thomas once docked more responsibly and comprehensively.
- Consulted with an Essex County resident regarding submitting a US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to rebuild the Tappahannock Steamboat Wharf.
- Presented to the Middle Peninsula Virginia Naturalist Chapter on the use of MPCBPAA lands and the ability for the Middle Peninsula chapter to do projects.
- Consulted with Jason Building of CGC Services regarding bush hogging at the Captain Sinclair's Recreational Area.
- Consulted with Stacie Martin, Virginia Tourism Corporation regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support tourism through regional Destinations Marketing Organizations (DMO).
- Consulted with numerous citizens interested in applying for DCR Flood Fund Assistance to help manage against flooding and sea level rise along the Middle Peninsula waterfront.
- Consulted with Fleet Dillard, Tappahannock Town Councilmember regarding various flood mitigation grant programs and conservation easement programs and the ability for citizens to apply for assistance.
- Consulted with Mathews County resident working to manage flooding challenges impacting the renovation of the Rosenwald School located in Susan, Virginia.
- Consulted with the Town of Tappahannock staff regarding floodplain ordinance requirements by FEMA.
- Consulted with Lance Gregory, Director, Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services, Environmental Engineering, and Marina programs at Virginia Department of Health regarding

ARPA funding specific for septic infrastructure improvements.

- Received calls from numerous Middle Peninsula citizens inquiring as to the status of DCR Round 1 DCR Flood Fund applications. Advised citizens that DCR is still reviewing all applications.
- Provided updates to numerous Middle Peninsula citizens who have made application under the DCR Round 1 Flood Fund as to the anticipated award notice and timeline process going forward.
- Coordinated for a meeting with Ann Phillips, Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection and Darryl Glover, Deputy Director of Dam Safety, Floodplain Management, Soil and Water Conservation, at DCR regarding Round 1 Middle Peninsula applications. DCR has placed 19 private applications on hold and has requested modifications and would respond accordingly. DCR staff also advised they would provide MPPDC with a list of issues related to Round 1 submittal. DCR noted the following which MPPDC staff objected to at the meeting: arbitrarily removing applicants with no guidance from the state because applicants live within a low income area; the use of zip codes to define low income areas even though DCR staff directed the use of zip codes; MPPDC to override VMRC permitting authority related adjoining parcels impacts when VMRC, as a matter of permit issuing authority, must consider impacts prior to issuing any permit and other issues.
- Convened the weekly meeting of the LGA to discuss DCR's decision to hold on the review of 19 Middle Peninsula applications for reasons that appear to be inconsistent with the statute, state code and program guidance. It was the unanimous decision of all participating counties to continue forward with Round 2 applications as MPPDC staff has a duty to respond to the citizens' requests and needs.
- Continued to convene weekly meetings in October of the Local Government Administrators (LGA) to receive weekly updates from Dr. Richard Williams, Director of the Three Rivers Health District. Dr. Williams has advised the Covid Delta variant numbers have improved to the point where we can return to monthly LGA meetings. Additional items discussed regarded nationwide opioid settlement and the process for all Virginia local governments to access settlement funding.
- Assisted Jimmy Brann, Essex County Emergency Manager regarding Regional MOU for Mutual Aid between all Middle Peninsula localities.
- Consulted with Gloucester County Engineer, Anne Paine regarding estimated dredging project costs for Aberdeen, Timberneck and Cedar Bush Creeks and provided copies of reports for each project. Also discussed FEMA Mitigation Reconstruction and Elevation projects which Gloucester County is currently working on.
- Attended the General Assembly Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding. Consulted with Senator Lynwood Lewis regarding the legislative intent in creating the CFPF and spending fund resources on all types of flooding projects irrespective of property ownership type. Senator Lewis advised all types of project and properties are to be eligible.
- Received around a dozen phone calls from Middle Peninsula shoreline residents after the nor'easter from the previous weekend inquiring about financial assistance to help combat shoreline erosion and flooding problems. Advised applicants to review the Governor's release on Round 1 awards and to inquire with those listed on the release as to the status of their application.
- Assisted Gloucester County realtor with a client looking to access conservation easement tax credits. Provided information on how the program works.
- Participated in the Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding meeting in Richmond on October 4th.

- Reviewed and provided comments to the VCRMP.
- CZM Reporting - FY21 Semiannual Report: Prepared the FY21 Semiannual Report for submission by MPPDC staff on October 15, 2021.

NOVEMBER 2021

- Worked with FTF participants to support the development of Round 2 applications to DCR's CFPF. Applications were due November 5th.
- Consulted with Jason Bulgin, owner of CJC Services regarding bush-hogging and removal of a small pile of debris at the Captain Sinclair's Recreational Area. Commissioned to cutting of the yard and field.
- Consulted with numerous citizens from Gloucester, Mathews, Middlesex, King and Queen, and Essex Counties and the Town of Tappahannock regarding submitting applications to DCR's CFPF under Round 2 of application requests. The table below is a representation of current applications submitted under Round 1 and 2 for design and construction.

	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

- Participated in the Rappahannock River Basin Committee meeting to discuss septic failure issues within the Rappahannock watershed.
- Consulted with a reporter from WHRO regarding failing septic systems in the Middle Peninsula.
- Agreed to participate in a resiliency themed session at the Governor's Housing Conference. Will present on how the Middle Peninsula FTF addresses all elements of climate and resilience impacts to coastal communities.
- Participated in a joint meeting with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) regarding closing on the MPPDC \$3M water quality line of credit extended to the MPPDC to finance living shorelines and septic repairs.
- Attended Middlesex County Board of Supervisors Meeting on November 3rd to discuss recent DCR CFPF award.
- CZM Reporting - FY21 Final Report: Preparing the final report and final report summary to be submitted by MPPDC staff on November 15, 2021.
- Reviewed and provided comments to the draft VCRMP.
- Participated in the November 18, 2021, Rappahannock River Basin Technical Committee meeting; the meeting including a presentation on the City of Norfolk's coastal resilience efforts.
- Drafted letter to DCR regarding the Middlesex County Mill Creek boat landing CFPF award.
- CZM Reporting - FY21 Final Report: Prepared the final report and final report summary and submitted to Virginia CZM Program staff by the November 15, 2021, deadline.
- Attended the 3-day (11/16/21-11/18/21) Virginia CZM Coastal Partners Workshop. Facilitated a session on MPCBPAA. Staff also facilitated a general session on conservation lands and public access needs in general.

- Participated in the General Assembly Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding meeting on November 22 and received updates regarding the DCR CFPF and prospective flood-related legislative ideas.

DECEMBER 2021

- Participated in the General Assembly Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding meeting on December 10. Received updates regarding the DCR Flood Fund and prospective flood-related legislative ideas.
- Attended the VCRMP Stakeholders Phase 2 planning meeting. Received an update on the status of the plan and future efforts anticipated to happen under the next administration.
- Attended the General Assembly Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding meeting. Received updates regarding the DCR CFPF and prospective flood-related legislative ideas.
- Consulted with an absentee landowner in Middlesex County regarding severe erosion and flooding issues and the need to access revolving loan funds for a potential repair.
- Convened the November meeting of the local government administrators meeting. Dr. Rich Williams, Three Rivers Health District Directors gave an update on the pandemic. General discussion revolved around opioid settlement deadlines and the need for local govt to submit the required documentation.
- At the request of Dr. Rich Williams, Director for the Three Rivers Health District provided an update to the VDH leadership team on the status of the Middle Peninsula and its interactions with the VDH during the pandemic. Provided additional background on how MPPDC and Three Rivers Health District collaborate on climate change public health matters, such as flooded septic systems.
- Discussed potential draft legislation with staff from the Virginia Resource Authority regarding creating a line of credit for Planning District Commission which need short term cash flow associated with grant reimbursement requirements from a state or federal grant.
- Consulted with David Nunnally, Caroline County Environmental Planner regarding Common Plan of Development and stormwater regulations.
- Coordinate with NOAA staff regarding joint permit application for living shoreline design construction at the PAA Hog Island property.
- Coordinate with Chesapeake Bay Program staff regarding a future presentation of the FTF program to the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the American Planning Association.
- Provided input to a NERRS Science Collaborative Project Related to Carbon Sequestration proposal which, if funded, would develop a new methodology for modeling carbon sequestration and inundation vulnerability of tidal wetlands in the Middle Peninsula.
- Submitted intergovernmental reviews in support for infrastructure projects in Urbanna and Tappahannock at the request of each town's staff.
- Received questions regarding the use of the Brown Tract for hunting from an Essex County resident.
- Received an inquiry from the US Maritime Marine Highway program coordinator regarding the recent US DOT Working Waterfront award to the MPPDC.
- Attended the December 8, 2021, Rappahannock River Basin Commission meeting in Doswell, Virginia. Agenda items included presentations on accelerating the scale and rate of living shoreline implementation in rural coastal Virginia, the work of the Wastewater Infrastructure Policy Working Group, efforts to remove the Rapidan Mill dam, and updates from the Rappahannock River Roundtable. Had participated in the November 18, 2021, Rappahannock

River Basin Technical Committee meeting which included a presentation on the City of Norfolk's coastal resilience efforts.

- Participated in the DCR Grant Workshop on December 11.
- Convened the December 15, 2021, Monthly Planners Meeting, including a presentation on the recently released VCRMP - Phase One Report.

JANUARY 2022

- Consulted with a reporter from the Washington Post doing a story on rural coastal septic issues across the East Coast, from Maine to Florida.
- Consulted with numerous FTF Round 1 and Round 2 applicants requesting updates on the status of submitted applications.
- Consulted with Robert Crockett of Advantus Strategies regarding various General Assembly bills proposed for the FY 2022 session.
- Convened the monthly/weekly local government administrators meeting. Received an update from VDH, and the Three Rivers Health District regarding the pandemic.
- Consulted with VRA staff regarding establishing a revolving loan fund to assist PDC's with short term cash flow needs for grants that require reimbursement.
- Consulted with Crystal Bright, External Affairs for Dominion Energy regarding pending winter storms.
- Consulted with Lance Gregory, VDH Onsite Division regarding HB 769 Onsite Sewage System Pump-out Oversight; certain localities. Requires the VDH, effective July 1, 2023, to manage and enforce onsite sewage system pump-out compliance for Accomack, Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties and the incorporated towns within those counties. The bill requires licensed operators conducting onsite sewage system pump-outs that are managed by VDH in these localities, to provide a report on the results of the site visit using a web-based reporting system developed by VDH.
- Convened the weekly meeting of the local government administrators and received a pandemic update from VDH and the Three Rivers Health District.
- Advised the RAFT leadership team regarding the planning for the upcoming community workshop on January 28 where specific action items will be identified by participants.
- Participated in the January 13 BEWG meeting where the VA Secretary of Natural Resources office and the Maryland Port Authority are seeking possible sites for beneficial reuse placement of dredged material from the York Spit Channel from the middle of the lower part of the Chesapeake Bay. MPA is no longer allowed to use overboard discharge of the ~1 M cubic yards of material dredged every 3-5 years at the Wolf Trap disposal area. Options in the Middle Peninsula considered in the process are state-owned bottomland areas near the Bay-facing areas near Mathews and Gloucester.
- Participated in the January 13 Coastal Resilience Master Plan Data Explorer training.
- Drafted letter to DCR regarding the Middlesex County Mill Creek boat landing Flood Fund award.
- Consulted with an absentee landowner in Middlesex County regarding severe erosion and flooding issues and the need to access revolving loan funds for a potential repair.
- Participated in and gave FTF presentation to participants of the regional RAFT workshop on January 28.

FEBRUARY 2022

- Convened weekly meetings of the local government administrators to discuss pandemic updates given by Dr. Rich Williams Director of Three Rivers Health District. LGA weekly agenda items included discussions related to personal property tax issues associated with the pandemic, cybersecurity concerns, and cost-of-living raises included in local government budgets.
- Consulted with multiple Middlesex County Board of Supervisors members regarding funding available to address and study the potential dam failure issue in Middlesex County.
- Consulted with Delegate Keith Hodges legislative aide regarding needs for various talking points for bills to be presented by Delegate Hodges impacting the Middle Peninsula and beyond.
- Provided thoughts to Governor Youngkin's staff related to House Bill 847 for the formation of a Resiliency Authority. Coastal Planning District Commission are central HB847
- Consulted with Bob Kerr, Director for the Hampton Roads Division of Wetland Studies and Solutions (WSSI) regarding living shoreline definition. WSSI has practical and applied experience in the permitting field and can offer invaluable assistance to protecting water quality and blending resiliency needs in the draft bill language.
- Provided US Census Bureau data to a Middlesex County resident looking for 2020 census summary data.
- Consulted with numerous Middle Peninsula marine contractors regarding living shoreline definitions and the inability to move shoreline projects forward.
- Consulted with Lance Gregory, Onsite Division Director with the VDH regarding Build Back Better Infrastructure funding related to septic system repair and municipal sewer hookup. Funding is forthcoming for both sewer hookup and onsite. Middle Peninsula localities should review areas where they desire municipal hookup.
- Consulted with numerous FTF Round 1 and Round 2 applicants requesting updates on the status of their submitted applications.
- Participated in the virtual quarterly Coastal PDC meeting on January 26. Discussed new NOAA grant required metrics for grant reporting as well as various advancing General Assembly bills.
- Conducted and participated in the monthly Planners Roundtable Meeting on January 26. Topics discussed relative to the project included a presentation on the federal *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and potential funding opportunities, an update on the CFPF grant and loan program and FTF, and an update on dredging and shoreline restoration projects and potential projects.
- Began development of a draft scope for a project tentatively titled *A Study to Determine Potential Co- Benefits Associated with Dredging and Shoreline Nourishment Activities* for potential submission for CFPF grant or reprogrammed CZM funds request.
- To ensure consistency with internal project databases, completed online Fight-the-Flood intake forms for 5 potential public projects in Gloucester, King and Queen, and Middlesex counties.
- Investigated the potential eligibility of MPPDC localities for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP).
- Participated in the virtual Coastal Policy Team meeting on January 26 to discuss and finalize CZM program priorities.
- Coordinated with scientists from NOAA regarding the remote collection of bathymetric data using available satellites. NOAA will be piloting the methodology using MPPDC bathymetric data from recent dredging projects as a baseline to see if the approach is useful in collecting frequent and free bathymetric data which could provide insight regarding changes to navigability throughout the region. More information will be available during Summer 2022.

- Reviewed and provided feedback to VA Sea Grant regarding three coastal resilience-related research proposals.
- Provided guidance to the YRSCBR State of the York report during an interview on February 2nd.
- Coordinated the ordering of asphalt millings for use on the Captain Sinclair's road, owned by Gloucester County. The US Postal Service has stopped delivering mail to the two residential homes on the dirt road leading to and through the Captain Sinclair's Recreational Area. Coordinated with Gloucester County for use of millings as Gloucester owns the road.
- Prepared presentation on FTF for a virtual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapters of the American Planning Association. The presentation is scheduled for February 17th.
- Identified local government projects submitted to FTF that should be eligible and competitive for Round 4 DCR Community Flood Preparedness Funds. Will coordinate with local government staff to attempt to submit applications prior to the early April application deadline.
- Began development of FY23 Coastal TA proposal due in early March. Scope will be very similar to the FY22 scope.
- Updated FTF onboarding package for orienting registered businesses entering the program.
- Prepared draft Resolution of Commendation for the February Middle Peninsula PAA meeting.
- Developed letter of support for Rappahannock Community College's proposal for cybersecurity workforce development to the US Economic Development Administration.
- Coordinated with King and Queen County staff regarding Floodplain Management program requirements associated with fixed structures along shorelines and other activities in Resource Protection Areas.

MARCH 2022

- Drafted and submitted the scope of work for the FY23 Coastal TA project to the CZM Program.
- Responded to assist from Rappahannock Tribe staff regarding development and printing of GIS maps.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County resident regarding submission of an application to DCR under the Flood Fund program to address a flooding problem on Wilson Creek.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County resident with a question on property owned by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. The property is on Heron Point Road in Guinea. The citizen was interested in cleaning up the beach from storm debris.
- Convened the monthly meeting of the local government administrators. Agenda items included pandemic update, discussion of local budgets and actions of the General Assembly.
- Consulted with staff from the Town of Tappahannock and Essex County regarding development of a potential U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application.
- Received numerous inquiries from citizens across the Middle Peninsula with a pending application submitted to DCR's CFPF program. Advised the status of applications is still unknown.
- Reviewed DCR's CFPF contracts for projects awarded under Round 2.
- Consulted with a Mathews County resident interested in undertaking an adopt a trail program for PAA properties in Mathews County.
- Consulted with a Mathews County resident who owns a commercial business in need of septic repair. Discussed various new funding sources under the Build Back Better Federal infrastructure bill.
- Consulted with Carol Considine, Old Dominion University regarding the Joint Permit Application

process as well as the CBPA permitting requirements.

- Convened a meeting between University of Richmond professors with expertise in Tribal governance and King William and King & Queen County staff to discuss the interrelationship between a sovereign government and local government.
- Received an inquiry from a Gloucester County marina owner struggling with flooding issues. The marina owner was interested in available grant or loan funds.
- Received an inquiry from a Mathews County resident regarding the actions of the General Assembly and clarification on several bills.
- Consulted with Jeff Flood, Coastal Planner with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program regarding various sources of match to be used in the development of the next generation shoreline plans. Submitted proposal for Year 2 of the proposal which will design next generation shoreline design methodology for mid-energy shorelines and pilot the process at a mid-energy shoreline site to be determined once the grant has begun.
- Consulted with students from the William & Mary Virginia Coastal Policy Center and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science regarding the development and implementation of the Middle Peninsula Septic Repair Revolving Loan Program.
- Received an inquiry from Friends of the Dragon Run interested in accessing the Clay tract nature viewing platform.
- Assisted a Mathews County elected official with a constituent issue related to a septic system failure.
- Consulted with a Mathews County citizen regarding questions of funding to repair the walking platform at New Point Comfort located on the TNC/DCR holding. Provided the citizen with various grant programs available to provide funding.
- Coordinated with Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex County staff on public FTF projects for submission under CFPF Round 3; began development of applications.
- Participated in and presented on FTF as part of the Chesapeake Bay Webinar Series, *Plan Integration for Resilience and Equity*, held on February 17, 2022.
- Participated in numerous RAFT meetings for participating localities. Presented on FTF and advised local implementation teams of opportunities to incorporate into their one-year action plans.
- Coordinated with CZM staff regarding a possible CZM grant to improve and restore the observation deck at the New Point Comfort Natural Area Preserve in Mathews.
- Participated in the kickoff meeting for the Shoreline Stakeholder Group organized by CZM on March 15.
- Coordinated with VIMS and CBNERRS staff regarding potential shoreline BMP maintenance training.
- Participated in February 24 meeting of the Bay Enhancement Working Group (BEWG) where the group continued to evaluate potential beneficial reuse alternative sites for the 1 million cubic yards of material to be dredged from the York Spit Channel in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay.

APRIL 2022

- Prepared grant proposals for five (5) projects in Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex County for submission under CFPF Round 3.
- Assisted the RAFT leadership with program guidance to streamline the approach and outcomes

for participating local governments.

- Participated in March 24 meeting of the VA BEWG where the group continued to evaluate potential beneficial reuse alternative sites for the 1 million cubic yards of material to be dredged from the York Spit Channel in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Prepared and submitted revised budget to April Bahen of CZM shifting salary/fringe to contractual for Berkley Group's work on this project.
- Consulted with various community leaders from Mathews County regarding funding assistance to rebuild the nature pier at New Point. Initiated coordination with CZM staff on the need for federal funding.
- Consulted with Rachael Peabody, VMRC Director of Coastal Policy, Restoration and Resilience for Virginia Marine Resources Commission regarding how the FTF program works.
- Attended a Mathews Rotary Club meeting and presented on how the FTF works and how to input flood mitigation needs into the system. The meeting was attended by 15 citizens. Also spoke on other MPPDC programs and services available to MPPDC citizens, including septic repair.
- Consulted with Shawn Crumlish, Executive Director of the Virginia Resource Authority regarding loan closing steps for MPPDC \$3 Million dollar line of credit for living shoreline and septic repair.
- Coordinated with VRA staff and DEQ staff regarding DEQ need and offer to modernize MPPDC Advance Draw notes, Promissory Notes, and Easement documents related to funding of projects using VRA funds. DEQ Clean Water Program has offered to cover the legal cost to update the closing instruments.
- Consulted with Middlesex County planning staff and Virginia Coastal Policy Center staff regarding VDOT stormwater BMPs being proffered and being located inside VDOT right of way and who has perpetual maintenance responsibility.
- Consulted with HRSD staff regarding cost to run public sewer service and pump station to Gwynns Island from Hudgins, approximately 2 miles. \$4 million dollars is a working number.
- Consulted with US Census related to DOJ census data requirements. Provided answers to local planners.
- Convened the April meeting of the MPCBPAA. Agenda items included updates on PAA lands and donations, uses of PAA lands, public fishing pier and RISE Go VA business competition.
- Attended the Environment Virginia conference. Presented on the FTF program.
- Updated project budget and end date in GMS.
- Attended the March 23 Rappahannock River Basin Commission meeting and the March 30 Rappahannock River Basin Commission Technical Committee meeting.
- Met with DCR Coastal Resilience Master Plan staff on March 23 regarding FY23 CZM work elements regarding long-term community-wide resilience strategy development.
- Provided letter of support to Randolph-Macon College regarding a proposal for NFWF Small Watershed Grant funding regarding beach habitat and shoreline management.
- Provided letter of support to the Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Cooperative for their proposal for NERRS Science Collaborative Grant for carbon sequestration model development for the Middle Peninsula.
- Submitted the CZM Semi-Annual Report to DEQ on April 15, 2022.

MAY 2022

- Reviewed and updated the MPCBPAA reservation website.
- Consulted with Craig Lindell from Aqua Point regarding rural coastal Virginia septic flooding challenges and solutions his company may have.
- Convened a call with the DEQ Water Quality Division Senior staff to discuss septic technologies presented during the RISE business innovation competition and a possible valuation of nutrient remediation credits.
- Consulted with a Middlesex County resident suffering from flooding and eroding shoreline. The homeowner is looking for financial assistance.
- Consulted with Go Virginia Region 6 staff regarding investment in the Middle Peninsula rural resiliency industry cluster. Discussed manufacturing needs of FTF businesses.
- Consulted with Lauren Linville, CWFAP Program Coordinator, Clean Water Financing Assistance Program (DEQ) regarding Middle Peninsula Septic Repair Program Design and why the Middle Peninsula program works.
- Consulted with the Town of Tappahannock, Middlesex County and the Town of West Point regarding DCR Flood Fund proposals and the status of executing the contract for each.
- Developed two applications to NFWF's Small Watershed Grant Program to (1) restore a section of Hog Island in Gloucester County and (2) to implement phase II of the Ware River Project. In both cases, implementation of living shorelines will help reduce erosion and impacts from storms and ultimately improve resilience.
- Developed an application to NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund to restore Hog Island in Gloucester County. This project proposes to restore all of Hog Island.
- Developed a draft scope of work to CZM for a study focused on Confirmed Aquatic Disposal (CAD) and beneficial use study.
- Developed draft memo content regarding the status of the VDOT/VIMS Sea-Level Rise Transportation Study.
- Reviewed final BEWG report which summarizes work completed to date regarding identifying potential locations for beneficial reuse of dredged material from the York Spit Channel.
- Participate in NOAA remote sensing meeting to test methods to utilize publicly available satellite data to monitor shoaling of creeks, inland flooding during storm events, and shoreline change.
- Participate in meeting at New Point Comfort Observation Deck to kickoff effort to rehabilitate the aging structure. MPPDC will be awarded funding from NOAA/CZM to rehabilitate part or all of the structure during FY2023.
- Advised CZM staff of resilience topics for NOAA Mid-Atlantic Resilience Exchange Workshop.
- Developed a summary of 2022 County Health Rankings report and presented the summary to MPPDC Board.
- Provided letter of support to Randolph-Macon College for a NFWF Small Watershed Grant proposal to study tiger beetle habitats.

JUNE 2022

- Continued to consult with Go Virginia Region 6 staff regarding investment in the Middle Peninsula rural resiliency industry cluster. Discussed manufacturing needs of FTF businesses.
- Provided comments regarding the Bay Enhancement Work Group (BEWG) report which summarizes work completed to date regarding identifying potential locations for beneficial reuse of dredged material from the York Spit Channel.

- Consulted with Town of West Point staff regarding RAFT resiliency recommendations as well as the Town's DCR Flood Grant award for an H&H study of the bridge leading to the commercial site adjacent to the regional airport. Agreed to encumber the award, but not to spend resources unless additional funding can be located to cover match share.
- Consulted with Stan Allen community lead for the rebuilding of the nature viewing dock at New Point. Discussed match availability to leverage NOAA Coastal Program funding to be provided.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County landowner interested in donating land in Guinea for recreation use.
- Consulted with new Go VA Region 6 staff concerning their interest in supporting MPPDC economic development resiliency program.
- Continued discussions with C&F Bank regarding lines of credit to assist with resiliency projects and other grant-funded projects.
- Held a pre-project kickoff meeting with VDEM staff for the MPPDC FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) award.
- Consulted with leadership from the Mathews Community Foundation regarding donations for support of failed septic systems in low-income households.
- Convened the bi-monthly meeting of the MPCBPAA. Approved the annual budget, the largest in the history of the PAA. Received a presentation from Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Dan Knott regarding a veteran's therapy program and the use of PAA lands and buildings. Approved an MOU between VASG and PAA related to the Go Va Resiliency award.
- Provided letter of support to Knott Alone – Hold Fast grant application to US Department of Veterans Affairs for veteran's therapy program utilizing PAA lands and buildings.
- Met with the leadership team for the preservation of the Woodville Rosenwald School in Gloucester. Discussed grant funding needs.
- Developed template for FTF annual report and initiated FY2022 report draft to summarize program participation, successes, and progress.
- Presented to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) on FTF and regulatory changes related to managing flood waters in coastal areas subject to recurrent flooding.
- Participated in a meeting with DEQ and the Town of Tappahannock regarding establishing an IDA within the Town.
- Met with College Architecture Students and provided overview of PAA initiatives and properties to launch a collaboration where students will develop conceptual renderings and long-term designs for landscape and PAA properties.
- Consulted with the RAFT leadership team regarding ongoing locality Implementation Team meetings and activities.
- Consulted with NOAA modeling experts regarding a pilot project to explore utility of publicly available satellite data for monitoring shoaling of navigable channels.
- Conducted research, interviews and began drafting narrative of impact of CZM grant funds to the growth of programming through the MPPDC. Narrative will be utilized to educate the community about the cumulative effects of grant funding, state funding and programs implemented in the region over the last decade.
- Attended and participated in the May 31, 2022, Coastal PDC Quarterly meeting. Discussions focused on CZM programs in general and initiatives to develop a resilience-based economy, and the meeting concluded with a tour of the Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve with specific attention to areas of erosion and initiatives related to coastal resilience, conservation, native

plants and ecology.

JULY 2022

- Consulted with a King and Queen County property owner regarding flood protection and septic repair needs.
- Met with staff from First Earth and Wetlands Watch regarding the prospects for monetizing natural resources on PAA properties for carbon credits. First Earth agreed to conduct inventory of PAA properties and provide a report of the potential for utilizing the properties as carbon credit generators.
- Coordinated with the VA Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) regarding a request for giving a presentation to the VA Delegation of the CBC on the Eastern Shore in August.
- Completed FY2022 FTF annual report to summarize program participation, successes, and progress.
- Reviewed the proposed Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area priorities statement and continued to monitor for release of draft legislation.
- Consulted with a Mathews County resident affiliated with a non-profit organization and is interested in providing funding to MPPDC to assist with the work of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission in repairing failing septic systems.
- Consulted with MPPDC legal counsel, Sands Anderson regarding CBPA IDA designation and requirements under which a Town may exercise this designation. Coordinated with DEQ CBPA leadership to discuss IDA process.
- Consulted with the DredgeSox leadership team, a FTF program business, regarding the permitting changes enabled by the General Assembly and enacted on July 1, 2022. This change provides for the use of this company's product as part of a living shoreline.
- Consulted with Sarah Dunnigan, Deputy Director of GO Virginia and Economic Development Department of Housing and Community Development regarding repurposing dredge material as a raw material and the use of this material in the manufacturing process of living shoreline technology. Discussed the significance of accessing Go Virginia funds to assist with the manufacturing process.
- Coordinated the loan closing of the combined living shoreline and septic repair \$3 million line of credit from VRA/DEQ.
- Consulted with numerous homeowners and waterfront businesses interested in learning more about DredgeSox and their ability to both dredge a creek and build a living shoreline utilizing dredge socks filled with reused dredge material.
- Consulted with VDH regarding the Federal Infrastructure funding becoming available for septic repair assistance under the upcoming SWAP program.
- Received numerous phone calls from citizens awaiting news of the grant award under DCR's CFPF.
- Consulted with Robert Crockett, Advantus Strategies regarding funding from the General Assembly to establish a Middle Peninsula Dredging Authority and the need to meet with the Virginia Port Authority to discuss approaches for accessing this funding.
- Consulted with a Gloucester County citizen on completing a FEMA grant application to elevate a repetitive loss structure on the Ware River. The home is within the ongoing NFWF FEMA target area for a living shoreline restoration project. MPPDC will explore submitting the application on their behalf.
- Convened the July meeting of the local government administrators. Discussed the availability of

Federal Infrastructure funding, septic system repair funding, and several coastal resiliency issues.

- Attended the VIMS Tidal Wetlands workshop. Received updates on the latest science and permitting associated with wetland regulations.
- Produced map showing conserved properties in Essex County for the Essex County Conservation Alliance.
- Developed communications plan to announce the start and completion of the new public fishing pier at Capt. Sinclair's, MPCBPAA property.
- Implemented a cash donation tool on the Virginia's Coastal Wilds website.
<https://vacoastalwilds.com/support-the-coastal-wilds/>
- Updated the directory with new participating businesses in the FTF program.
<https://fightthefloodva.com/directory>
- Began coordination with High and Dry for potential sponsorship of Virginia's Coastal Wilds and specifically the new public fishing pier.
- Began coordination with Dan Knott to photograph and document his coastal organization on the Middle Peninsula. This content marketing effort is meant to help showcase how organizations are creatively using access to the Middle Peninsula's coast.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2022

- Presented to the VA Delegation of the Chesapeake Bay Commission regarding MPPDC FTF and resilience and water quality implementation on the Eastern Shore on August 11.
- Convened the August meeting of the local government administrators. Discussed central sewer development needs and several coastal resiliency issues.
- Met with a representative of Ellicott Dredges regarding prospective dredges for purchase as part of the Middle Peninsula Dredging Program.
- Participated in NOAA's Section 312 Programmatic Evaluation of the Virginia CZM and provided testimony to the benefits of NOAA/CZM funding to the Middle Peninsula.
- Coordinated with VIMS Coastal Geologist professor regarding study needs along the dynamic coastal areas fronting the Chesapeake Bay. Developed a draft scope of work for field studies in preparation for future grant opportunities.
- Participated in numerous implementation team meetings for member jurisdictions participating in the ongoing RAFT community resilience project.
- Updated the directory with new participating businesses in the FTF program.
<https://fightthefloodva.com/directory>
- Updated the financial tools and total funds awarded to date on the FTF program.
- Interviewed and drafted blog post highlighting new VMRC Commissioner from Gloucester as part of content marketing efforts to highlight thought leadership coming from the Middle Peninsula in the water space.
- Provided FTF training to the RAFT resilience project's leadership team to better equip leadership to advise community participants with how to utilize the program and how to advise regarding available financing tools for implementation of resilience and water quality projects.
- Developed and coordinated full presentation for MPPDC leadership to present rural coastal Virginia's response and solutions to water resiliency challenges to Governor Youngkin's leadership team.
- Met at the request of Hampton Roads PDC staff to provide information on the Middle Peninsula FTF financial tools and programs including loan and grant funds.

- Coordinated with partners and submitted letter of support for a large-scale oyster restoration and coastal resiliency proposal for NOAA grant funds.
- Refined communications plan to announce the start and completion of the new public fishing pier at Capt. Sinclair's, MPCBPAA property.
- Provided guidance to several Middlesex citizens interested in dredging and financing dredging at the community scale. Discussed the use of Tax Incremental Financing as a tool.
- Submitted an application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Industrial Revitalization Fund requesting ~1,000,000 in funding to assist with commercial and retail upgrades to Captain Sinclair's recreational area. Multiple eco-related businesses have expressed interest in locating at Captain Sinclair's
- Attended a meeting at the Virginia Port Authority to discuss formation of a municipal dredging program to serve the areas identified in state budget language which allocated \$5,000,000 to support dredging needs in rural coastal VA.
- Received dozens of calls from Middle Peninsula citizens who made application to DCR's CFPF requesting financial assistance to combat flooding.
- Consulted with Essex County Board of Supervisors member and Essex County Planning Commission on various approaches for updated the Counties Comprehensive Plan.
- Consulted with policy makers at the FDIC regarding Community Reinvestment Act Credits for rural coastal resiliency projects and relations to local banks
- Received notification of Tappahannock and Essex County award of the USDOT RAISE grant award to develop a transportation and pedestrian master plan for the Town. The plan will look to manage commercial traffic and the public's need to access the waterfront for recreation.
- Discussed with Go Virginia Region 6 Staff, the need for site development work at the Town's Commercial development land adjacent to the King and Queen Regional Airport. The improvements are needed for companies expanding into Coastal resiliency solutions.
- Attended a special meeting called by Delegate Keith Hodges and coordinated by VASG to advance forward solutions for harvesting and processing Blue Catfish. The initiative will create employment opportunities for rural coastal Virginia watermen.
- Convened a meeting with Mathews County citizens and administrative staff to discuss funding for the replacement of the New Point nature viewing platform.
- Convened a special Municipal Sewer Local Govt Administrators meeting to discuss various new funding streams for public sewer expansions. Speakers included Sam McAdoo, HRSD Chief of Small Communities Division and Karen Duran, DEQ's Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program Manager.
- Responded to inquiry from Upper Mattaponi Tribe staff regarding MPPDC programs and offerings.
- Participated in a joint meeting with the NNPDC staff and VDH SWAP staff regarding Federal Infrastructure funds for well replacement and septic replacement. MPPDC will be administering well and septic infrastructure funds being distributed by VDH.
- Reviewed and provided comments to the YRSCBR regarding a draft of the YRSCB Wetlands Plan.
- Coordinated with Virginia Department of Energy staff regarding the draft Virginia Energy Plan public comment opportunity and advised MPPDC local government planners accordingly.
- Consulted with a citizen from Essex County regarding a shoreline protection need submitted via the FTF website and advised of financing options for the project.
- Researched the Virginia Resilience Loan Fund legislation enacted during the 2022 General Assembly in advance of anticipated program guidelines to be published by DCR.

- Drafted and submitted a pre-application to the FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program to elevate a home in Gloucester County, Virginia.
- Drafted and submitted a pre-application to the FEMA BRIC program to conduct a repetitive loss area analysis to improve grant application preparation for properties at the highest risk of flooding.
- Published and distributed blog post feature story on new VMRC Commissioner.
- Created a hard-copy database of all homeowner and business applications from the FTF ArcGIS Survey123 to enhance overall program management. Analyzed and updated all users' information to better understand their needs to assure that all participants' requests are being tended to.
- Created a proposal for the development of guidelines for harvesting saltwater wetland vegetation. Proposal will be utilized when grant funding opportunities arise and when funded, will allow for saltwater vegetation to be harvested on public lands in a consistent, safe manner.
- Developed and submitted a RAFT mini-Grant proposal for a Septic Pumpout Program for low-to-moderate income homeowners.
- Developed and submitted a RAFT micro-Grant proposal for funding to shoot five educational videos for the FTF program website.
- Researched the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 for potential energy efficiency funding for residential utilities.
- Researched MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Grant programs to identify prospects for local dredging and port development opportunities.
- Inputted Alt text to the FY22 FTF Annual report for all 508 Accessibility errors.
- Participated in the USACE, Norfolk District Community Assistance Programs Webinar and identified opportunities for future proposals for dredging and beneficial reuse projects.
- Met with Mathews County staff to discuss a forthcoming project to rehabilitate the New Point Comfort public observation deck.
- Presented to the Essex County Economic Development Authority on September 1 regarding funding opportunities and forthcoming projects related to water access and pedestrian facilities.
- Researched Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) outcomes from Auction #57 held in September.
- Participated in the NOAA Mid-Atlantic Resilience Exchange on September 13 to share information regarding the MPPDC resilience programs and efforts.
- Participated in the CPT meeting on September 14 to discuss priority NOAA/CZM and other coastal policy matters.
- Participated in the quarterly Coastal PDCs meeting in Hampton Roads on September 21 where strategies for CZM funding and other resilience matters were addressed.
- Participated in the VCRMP TAC meeting on September 16.
- Participated in the first meeting of the CZM Shoreline Stakeholder Group Workgroup #1: Shoreline Definitions meeting on September 20.
- Met with VA Port Authority staff regarding the \$5M allocation from the General Assembly which is to be used for the launch of a Middle Peninsula municipal dredging program and dredging projects in the Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore. Began to develop draft proposal for \$4.5M-\$5M for purchase of dredging equipment and dredging operations.

Appendix B: 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
FY21 Narrative, October 2022
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

Eight years ago, with the support of an investment from CZM, MPPDC made a strategic and focused decision to view water management in the rural coastal communities it serves as an asset. Following the award of \$1.5 million to Tappahannock and Essex County to study the water-based recreational assets in the community and then measure them against a transportation network that needs enhancements to allow for people to get to the water, in the summer of 2022, the MPPDC could effectively say that since FY2020, it had helped bring in over \$21 million in additional grants to the region – all of which could be tied back to the initial and ongoing investments by CZM.

The MPPDC received more multi-million-dollar grants and grants approaching one million dollars in FY21 than it had in the last 50 years of the agency. Included in those grant awards in FY21, among others, were the following:

- Virginia Housing Development Housing Grant (*award to build homes designed to be relocated or have a lifecycle that is shorter than traditional stick built structure to adjust to rising water challenges*)
- Funding to dredge Aberdeen Creek
- Funding to for the Hole in the Wall dredging project
- USDOT Working Waterfront RAISE Grant
- U.S. DOT Tappahannock and Essex Water Recreational Access Transportation Master Plan
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Revolving Loan Funds for Living Shorelines and Septic

The following pages outline how the MPPDC, thanks to the CZM investment, has gotten to a point where millions of dollars in grant funding is flowing into the community to address water challenges. Because the story is complex and the benefits accrued over time, building one on top of the other, this document presents the narrative in chronological order. That is, it starts at the beginning of the CZM investment eight years ago and circles back to the most current fiscal year (FY2021). With water viewed as an asset, and thanks to the continued investment by the CZM into the Middle Peninsula, the residents and businesses of this region have made great strides in shifting the narrative of how water is utilized.

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.

That shift, though, has added up to real dollars – tens of millions of dollars – and real accrued value and benefits to the residents of the region.

Of note, this narrative updates the accrued benefits report delivered for FY21. While some of the information listed in the report may seem similar to those who were familiar with the FY20 final report narrative, that is by design. The very nature of accrued benefits, and adding in those realized in FY21, 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, you have to understand where it started, its journey, and the relationship to ongoing CZM 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 do a great job protecting 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 hand-cuff any type of active development, with the exception of residential.

Managing and positioning localities to understand choices as they relate 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 has accrued over time.

THE APPROACH – LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

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, you either have to 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.

Case in point: 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's TA 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 (9 VAC25-830-130 and 9VAC25-830-140), further accruing benefit within the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations.

Another case in point: 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. In the first year along of the inception of the Solar Host Agreement, nine Solar Host Agreements were put to record, totaling over \$115 million in direct cash payments to rural local governments. 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, MPPDC 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.

THE LEGISLATIVE RESULTS, AN OVERVIEW

The Middle Peninsula region has entered year eight 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.

These series of bills are all related to managing water in rural coastal Virginia and help connect together the theme of accrued benefits. It’s only through these legislative actions that the MPPDC has been able to accrue the benefits because of the strategic interconnectivity of these critical pieces of legislation. It is also only because of the ongoing CZM investment over time that the MPPDC has been able to make them happen given that some bills take multiple General Assembly sessions to get passed.

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 CBPA.

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

Recurrent Flooding Resiliency, Commonwealth Center for, study topics to manage water quality, etc.

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

Public access authorities; granted certain liability protections

HB 769

Requires the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to manage and enforce septic tank pump out requirements under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA). According to VDH, this will transition oversight of an estimated 104,399 systems in the septic tank pump out program from local governments to VDH. The bill also requires VDH to develop a web-based reporting system for sewage haulers to submit information regarding system pump outs. VDH will have one year to develop the necessary infrastructure to begin the program on July 1, 2023. The introduced budget for the Houses and Senate provides \$1,038,611 in FY 2023 and \$1,013,720 ongoing starting in FY 2024 for seven positions and database development to establish and operate the Chesapeake Bay septic tank pump out programs in 12 localities in the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck, and Eastern Shore.

HB 1322

Redefines “other structural and organic materials” used for the construction of living shorelines as materials or features that provide added protection or stability for the natural shoreline habitat, attenuate wave energy, and do not interfere with natural coastal processes or the natural continuity of the land-water interface. It requires that structural features be free from contaminants and be adequately secured to prevent dislodging or detachment due to wave action or other natural forces. This ultimately expands the options for shoreline resilience within the Middle Peninsula and beyond.

THE APPROACH – FUNDING SUCCESS

Fight the Flood

In 2020, after many years of ongoing financial support from a variety of federal and state partners including the Department of Conservation and Recreation Flood Plain Management Program; Virginia Resource Authority; Department of Environmental Quality; CZM through NOAA Coastal TA grant investment, the MPPDC launched Fight the Flood (FTF) (www.fightthefloodva.com), an online marketplace 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. Two years later, the MPPDC FTF program remains the only online flood resilient marketplace in existence in the U.S.

In 2021, the MPPDC continued to enhance the FTF program by 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.

By 2022, the FTF Program investment in the Middle Peninsula’s flood protection had topped over \$18 million in direct loans and grants. In 2022 alone 92 applications were submitted requesting over \$28 million in flood protection funding.

RISE and the Rural Coastal Challenge

Thanks to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund (GO Virginia), the MPPDC has also helped fund a project to study ways to harness and focus the most challenging coastal zone management issue facing

the world: coastal flooding and sea level rise. The MPPDC continues to leverage intellectual capital from the internationally recognized Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) / VASG Program to commercialize resiliency research and partnerships with engineering firms to build a rural coastal water-based economy for the future.

In 2021, the MPPDC, RISE, VIMS, VASG, and GO Virginia, launched a \$1.5 million Rural and Urban Coastal Community Resilience Challenges, designed to identify, validate and scale novel solutions to sea level rise and flooding. At its core, the whole competition is centered around people living in close proximity to water and finding a way to help them live there longer at a time when rising waters are creating more complex challenges from septic tanks to a need for next generation housing to flooding under the foundation of structures.

Some people believe that because of the water management issues people living on the coast should leave their homes. However, until the federal and state governments come to terms with how to make that happen and leave people whole when moving them out of these water management zones, the community needs to find a way to help people adapt.

That's the competition – bringing companies an incentive to develop and showcase solutions for people living in these areas. Where the MPPDC is furthering this effort is by then taking some of these companies and rolling them into the FTF program and helping property owners access their services and the potential grant and loan funds to finance it.

In 2022, eight winning small businesses – four from each challenge – were selected from more than 70 submissions. Each business received up to \$300,000 in funds and services to test and advance their next-generation products in the living lab of coastal Virginia. Winners will also receive technical, government, and business mentoring, investor matchmaking, customized accelerator curriculum and ongoing support to help them advance.

The Rural Coastal Community Resilience Challenge marked the first time RISE has extended its successful model to source innovative solutions to problems distinct from those encountered by coastal cities. In partnership with the MPPDC and VASG, and with the funding from GO Virginia, four of the winning businesses will receive up to \$200,000 in grants and services to develop next-generation solutions surrounding topics such as septic system redesign and repurposing dredge materials. Those rural challenge winners will also receive project support from regional community colleges and universities, and the unique opportunity to test and develop their products on dedicated Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority public properties and buildings.

Bay Direct

During the height of the global pandemic in early to mid-2020, the MPPDC also worked alongside the MPCBPAA 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 VASG to reach even more aquaculture farmers to utilize it as a sales tool.

Housing

Thanks to a \$1 million grant from Virginia Housing, the MPPDC is building homes that are designed to be relocated or that have a lifecycle shorter than traditional stick built construction. The reason for this is because the MPPDC recognizes that in 100 years, most of the properties where these homes are getting constructed now are likely to be underwater. This effort allows the MPPDC to create a program that takes that into account as a way to reimagine next generation housing.

Furthermore, the housing getting constructed as part of this grant will be used as workforce housing for people who plan to work on the water and provide labor in the maritime industry, contributing to the need to attract a workforce to waterfront companies.

Dredging

When Congress defunded the shallow water dredging program through the USACE, the MPPDC saw devolution occur with the problem – maintaining navigable channels – pushed to a lower level of government. The MPPDC and localities in the region watched over time as creeks began to fill in with sediment, losing tax value by the day. For every foot of depth lost there was also a loss of 14% in taxable value.

The MPPDC first worked to help create the Virginia Waterways Maintenance Fund (noted above in legislation). The fund created a way for money to go to the Virginia Port Authority that localities could apply to for money to dredge creeks.

However, there was never sufficient or sustained funding. The MPPDC realized there would never be a way to dredge all the waterways needed through this method. With a plan to create a new model for municipalities to create their own dredging companies, the Virginia General Assembly funded the Virginia Port Authority \$5 million to support the creation of a municipal dredging program for the participating counties – Gloucester, Mathews, Essex, Accomack and Northampton.

THE MIDDLE PENINSULA CHESAPEAKE BAY PUBLIC ACCESS AUTHORITY

The majority of our success in helping bring state and federal funding to the region can be tracked back to the MPPDC's promise to not let the region's people drown on their watch. As a rural, coastal region, local government revenues have dropped dramatically as a result of properties losing value.

When the real estate bubble popped in 2008, while also losing property value as a result of recurrent flooding, rural coastal regions and local governments were struggling to generate the necessary revenue to fund essential governmental programs. It forced the MPPDC to think differently on how to fund the work of the Commission and the leadership moved into operating with an entrepreneurial mindset knowing they couldn't rely internally on local funding to do its work.

At the same time, the MPCBPAA was getting off the ground. With a mission to set aside high priority coastal nature sites for all people to access for recreational activities, the MPCBPAA began expanding its portfolio of publicly accessible waterfront properties. That alone really changed the face of the public's ability to recreate on waterfront lands. Up until then, there were no other waterfront, public access sites on the Middle Peninsula other than public boat ramps.

Dozens and dozens and dozens of sites came into the MPCBPAA's portfolio largely because property owners were frustrated by rising flood insurance rates, a series of storms that impacted properties with flooding, and an inability to sell because the real estate bubble had popped. They used donating their property as an exit strategy. The MPPDC, ultimately being fueled by CZM funding, used the MPCBPAA's portfolio – valued today at over \$5 million – as their entrance to accessing more state and federal funding programs. Those properties also become one of the biggest opportunities for the region. Where before properties with flood challenges were views as a threat, these properties were becoming an asset.

In the RISE Rural Challenge noted above, the winners are utilizing the properties to test out their work, which could eventually be funneled into resiliency work throughout the region and other coastal communities. The mindset has shifted from reacting to water challenges to proactively developing the Middle Peninsula into the safest and most resilient region to live and work on the East Coast. The MPCBPAA properties are not only getting utilized for recreational and tourism purposes – promoted under the Virginia's Coastal Wilds banner – but also are used as a living laboratory connected with top academic institutions to design and develop specific programs to create jobs, solutions and funding streams using water as the foundation.

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 CZMA grant). At that Summit, presentations of the work being done utilizing CZMA funding was recorded for future use.
- Continued and ongoing press outreach and op-ed crafting of FTF content.
- Continued and ongoing media coverage of septic related grant programs.
- Continued and ongoing media coverage of legislation passed during the latest General Assembly sessions.
- Continued and ongoing media coverage of the FTF program and work to get rural coastal Virginia property owners included in grant awards.
- Continued and ongoing media coverage of the Bay Direct app and its use across the Middle Peninsula.
- Continued and ongoing press outreach related to MPPDC leadership and programs.

- 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).
- Press outreach highlighting state representative in the House of Delegate's appointments to water-related committees.
- Continued and ongoing Virginia's Coastal Wilds, the public access properties open for recreation in the region (in 2022 that resulted in magazine feature article that was shared region-wide).
- Press outreach promoting the RISE Resiliency Challenge winners, in particular those part of the rural challenge.
- Custom design and crafted presentations to be delivered a local, state and federal levels communicating these complex programs.

Communications tools are being utilized to promote the living shorelines programming and the FTF campaign noted above.