

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Crater Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Grant Final Report

NOAA Grant: NA21NOS4190152

Grant Year 2021

Task 42

November 2022

Fiscal Year 2021 Technical Assistance Annual Report

November 2022

Prepared For:

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

629 East Main Street

Richmond, Virginia 23218

Prepared By:

Crater Planning District Commission

Monument Professional Building

1964 Wakefield Street

Post Office Box 1808

Petersburg, Virginia 23805

NOAA Grant No. NA21NOS4190152

Grant Year 2021

Task 42

Acknowledgements

The Following Persons provided invaluable assistance in Crater PDC's Technical Assistance Projects:

Crater PDC Staff – Alec Brebner, Dr. Lydia Patton, Jay Ruffa, and Judith Smith

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program – Laura McKay, Jeff Flood, Shep Moon, William Isenberg, Virginia Witmer, April Bahen, and Nick Meade

Cover: Photograph taken by John A. Rooney Jr. Used as part of the Department of Conservation and Recreation Scenic Rivers Program "Scenic Rivers 50th anniversary Gallery".

19.2 miles of the Appomattox River received Scenic River Designation by the General assembly originally in 1977 with the newest extension added in 2011. Paddlers are traveling downriver through a section that separates Petersburg Virginia on the right and Virginia State University, Chesterfield Virginia, on the left. The cement towers in the background are what remains of an old rail trestle. These pillars are in plans to use and construct a bike/pedestrian bridge to cross the Appomattox River as the southernmost portion of the Fall Line Trail connecting it to the Appomattox Regional Trail in Petersburg. The river provides spectacular views of the many water features, historic sites, and beautiful treelined riverside, highlighting the very things FOLAR seeks to preserve.



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Management Program at the 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.

Crater Planning District Commission Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Technical Assistance Grant FY 21, Task 42 Final Report

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Product #1: Environmental Impact Reviews.....	2
III.	Product #2: Report on Coastal Meetings	4
IV.	Product #3: CZM Trainings.....	5
V.	Product #4: Friends of the Lower Appomattox River	7
VI.	Product #5: Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants.....	9
VII.	Product #6: Regional Resiliency Coordination	10
VIII.	Product #7: Regional Resiliency Priorities	10
IX.	Product #8: CZM Resilience Database Support	12
X.	Product #9: State Resilience Planning Support	12
XI.	Appendix	13
	Appendix 1: Sample Review Letter.....	13
	Appendix 2: CZM Training Agendas	14
	Appendix 3: Appomattox River Trail Guide Pamphlet	20

Introduction

For Crater Planning District Commission, the CZM Technical Assistance program has continued to be a source of opportunities to enhance communication regarding resiliency issues across the region and to implement planning and projects to address Crater region localities' needs. One of the most important benefits of the CZM TA Grant has been the generation of discussion on the topic of resilience in rural communities in South Central Virginia. Whereas communities closer to the coast – especially those with more funding and resources – have challenges that involve wave energy, direct hurricane hits, erosion, and sea level rise and land subsidence, the Crater region has concerns around hazard mitigation, energy, communications, flooding that impacts transportation, funding mechanisms, and even determining what “resilience” means to diverse rural, low-income communities. These issues often coincide with special concerns of environmental justice communities near tidally-influenced waterways.

Although addressing coastal resilience in the region has always been a challenge due to many constraints, Crater PDC has sought to bolster its member communities against current and future climate threats through 9 CZM products:

Product #1: Environmental Impact Reviews

Product #2: Report on Coastal Meetings

Product #3: Coastal Trainings

Product #4: Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR)

Product #5: Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants

Product #6: Resilience Planning

This report aims to detail the challenges and accomplishments that the CZM TA Grant has helped with since October 2021.

Product #1: Environmental Impact Reviews

Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC) staff provided continuing support to eleven local governments (7 counties and 4 cities) located in the south central region of Virginia as well as Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) and Petersburg Area Regional Tourism (PART). Crater PDC staff provided assistance to its coastal communities with environmental impact reviews of local, state, and federal projects. The objective of these reviews is to ensure that the goals of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program are adequately and fully considered and that the Crater Region provides a coordinated response.

During the 2021 Virginia CZM Program Grant year several environmental impact reviews were formally undertaken. The projects were varied and included public access, multi-unit housing, road expansion, agricultural operations, and state and federal grant funding applications, studies, and rule amendments. In addition, environmental CZM and Chesapeake Bay funding programs were reviewed per the request of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

A sample listing of coastal and coastal-related environmental impact reviews that assisted localities and partner entities of local, state and federal projects follows:

1. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Federal Consistency Determination, Old Hundred Trace Apartments, Chesterfield County, DEQ #22-048F
2. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Consistency Certification, Title: Madison Crossing, Chesterfield County, DEQ #22-061F
3. Department of Wildlife Resources, Environmental Impact Review, Lawnes Creek Landing Reconstruction, Surry County, DEQ #22-066S
4. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Federal Consistency Determination,
5. West Hundred Road Apartments, Chesterfield County, DEQ #22-067F
6. Scoping, MBC Middle Mile Expansion Project, Interstate 85 to Stony Creek, Dinwiddie and Sussex Counties, June 1, 2022
7. Coastal Waters, Amendment 22 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries Management Plan, DEQ 22-085F
8. Department of Defense, Environmental Assessment/Federal Consistency Determination, Virginia Army National Guard (VANG) Proposed Aerial Spraying of Pesticides at Fort Pickett, Nottoway County, Dinwiddie County, DEQ #22-109F
9. Virginia State University, Environmental Impact Review, New Admissions Building, Chesterfield County, DEQ #22-123S
10. NEPA Scoping, MBC Middle Mile Expansion Project, Dinwiddie to Prince George, City of Petersburg and Dinwiddie and Prince George Counties, August, 10, 2022
11. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Virginia Electrification Project, Goochland, and Prince George Counties, DEQ #22-138F
12. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Consistency Certification, AdvanSix- Hopewell Maintenance Dredging Project, City of Hopewell, DEQ #22-140F

13. Federal Aviation Administration, Environmental Assessment, Land Release for Non-Aeronautical (Commercial) Development, Chesterfield County, DEQ #22-147F
14. U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Federal Consistency Determination, Twin River Apartments, Chesterfield County, DEQ22-128F
15. Virginia Coastal Waters, National Ocean Service Mapping and Surveying Activities Undertaken in the Virginia Coastal Zone, 2023-2027, DEQ 22-143F
16. State Water Control Board, Regulation for Nutrient Enriched Waters and Dischargers within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (9 VAC 25-40) Provides for the control of discharges of nutrients from point source discharges affecting waters that have been designated "nutrient enriched waters" in the Water Quality Standards (9 VAC 25-260-5 et seq.).
17. State Water Control Board, Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) General Permit Regulation for Vehicle Wash Facilities and Laundry Facilities (9 VAC 25 - 194) Establishes a general permit governing the discharge of wastewater from car wash facilities to surface waters.
18. State Water control board, Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) General Permit Regulation for Discharges Resulting from the Application of Pesticides to Surface Waters (9 VAC 25 - 800)

For a sample review letter, see Appendix 1.

Product #2: Report on Coastal Meetings

Crater PDC staff coordinated five meetings of the Environmental Resources Management Task Force. Crater PDC conducted meetings for the regional environmental managers and other stakeholders on:

- December 15, 2021 (joint);
- March 30, 2022;
- June 22, 2022;
- July 27, 2022; and
- September 20, 2022 (joint).

The December and September meetings were held jointly with George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC). In addition, stakeholders from the group met on December 8, 2021 to receive a training on the Virginia Outdoors Plan (See product #3 below).

In addition to local government and Crater PDC staff, representatives from the following entities attended at least once: The Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), Tri-Cities MPO, University of Mary Washington (UMW), University of Virginia (UVA), and Wetlands Watch to coordinate planning efforts and to provide training to local officials and staff. During each of these meetings, time was set aside for training sessions and a stakeholder roundtable to discuss local environmental planning issues.

Crater PDC staff have also participated in local meetings of groups tangential to regional resiliency, including the Middle James Roundtable annual meeting on 10/14/21 and the Lower James River Roundtable meetings on 11/10/21 and 9/1/22.

Crater PDC staff have not been approached to conduct any comprehensive plan updates, but have been providing data and GIS services to localities.

Product #3: CZM Trainings

Crater PDC hosted and attended four CZM training events:

1. **December 8, 2021** (14 participants): A training on the Virginia Outdoors Plan and the parks master plan for the Crater region; Bill Conkle (DCR)

Bill Conkle (DCR) gave a presentation on the [2021 Virginia Outdoors Plan survey](#) (3,871 respondents), which showed that the majority of respondents found access to outdoor recreation very important and that, overall, the Covid-19 pandemic only increased the amount of time people spend outdoors. The Crater Region 19 chapter of the Plan was discussed, as well as plans for trails in the region, including the East Coast Greenway and Fall Line Trails, as well as plans to renovate parks and a focus on land conservation in the region. A group discussion on the projects and survey results followed.

2. **December 15th, 2021** (32 participants): Environmental Justice and Dam Safety/Monitoring Training; Angela Davis and Mark Kilgore (DCR).

DCR staff Angela Davis gave a presentation on how DCR and other state agencies are approaching equity and environmental justice in resilience and conservation. This included an overview of what justice and equity mean, how flooding and other coastal hazards impact communities differently, recent environmental justice decisions based on new Virginia laws (such as the denial of the Mountain Valley Pipeline compressor station), and other regulations and policies. Mark Kilgore of DCR gave a presentation on dam safety, regulation, monitoring, classification, and potential remediation funds. This included an in-depth look into Emergency Action Plans, dam inundation zones, the statewide inventory of dams and DCR's efforts to categorize them, and relevant regulations to planning and dam monitoring.

3. **June 22nd, 2022** (11 participants): Marine debris and stream litter and CZM section 309 and enforceable policies; Jeff Flood (DEQ).

Jeff Flood (DEQ) gave a short training on marine debris and stream litter in the region based off the focus of this year's CZM Section 309 program. The program must result in or support an enforceable policy. He gave an overview of the Marine Debris Reduction Plan. This bookended a group roundtable discussion on stream litter in the region, and grants, programs, and tools needed to address the problem, including mapping outfalls along trail sections to determine litter sources and help coordinate volunteer efforts.

4. **September 20th, 2022** (30 participants): Culvert Impacts on Wildlife and Design Conveyances, Regulations and Permitting Training; Lisa Moss and Jessica Pica (USFWS), Daniel Redgate (VDOT).

Lisa Moss and Jessica Pica (USFWS) shared information on restoring aquatic connectivity and protecting fish passages in Virginia by assessing and improving culvert design and conditions. This included a presentation on fish passage engineering and designing road-stream crossings to accommodate for fish and wildlife habitats, as well as numerous funding opportunities (e.g., National Fish Passage Program, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grants) to help with relevant projects. On the other hand, Daniel Redgate (VDOT) described the permitting process and requirements for culverts and similar projects.

Meeting agendas are provided in Appendix 2.

Product #4: Friends of the Lower Appomattox River

The Crater Planning District Commission continued to provide staff support to “Friends of the Lower Appomattox River” (FOLAR) organization throughout the 2021 grant year. FOLAR is a regional nonprofit volunteer organization formed in 2000 with a mission to work in partnership with communities to conserve and protect the Appomattox River for all to enjoy. FOLAR’s strategy to achieve their mission includes:

- **Developing, maintaining, and protecting the Appomattox River Regional Greenway/Blueway Corridor**, a 20+ mile waterway and trail system. Their priority focus is the build -out of the Appomattox River Trail (ART) as Guided by the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan.
- **Devoting resources to protecting water quality and to land conservation**; through organized regular regional river cleanups campaigns.
- **Promoting economic growth and healthy lifestyles** through tourism and recreation programs.
- **Supporting programs to expand regional education** and environmental stewardship and offering the FOLAR Environmental Stewardship Scholarship in partnership with the John Randolph Foundation.

To date, FOLAR has established several public trailheads, held more than 20 river clean-ups, and participated with other organizations that promote environmental awareness. Crater PDC has provided technical assistance to FOLAR for several years and continued providing assistance through full time staff to include such items as participating in meeting facilitation, website maintenance (<https://folar-va.org>), participation in river clean-ups and other relevant events, map production, and assistance with establishing trails, trailheads, and trail signage. Crater also now hosts FOLAR adjacent to their offices in Petersburg.

Crater PDC has included FOLAR in regional discussions such as WIP development, the Virginia Outdoors Plan, and transportation planning for the region. Staff is working alongside FOLAR in a regional effort for Trail connections. CPDC also provides letters of support to private foundations and state funders as needed for grant applications so that FOLAR can continue work to secure funding for these efforts.

Crater is also actively working to aid FOLAR in their marine debris mapping efforts. At the 7/27/2022 Environmental Resources Management Task Force meeting, FOLAR presented a GIS mapping tool that can be utilized to identify riparian buffers and provide localities with data for long-term planning along proposed river trails. Crater PDC staff are assisting them in adding outfalls and sources of litter close to the trail to help coordinate planning and volunteer cleanup efforts.

FOLAR coordinated with the James River Advisory Council to conduct stream cleanups on 4/30/22, 6/4/22, and 9/10/2022. On 9/24/2022, FOLAR held the 14th Annual Paddle-or-Battle fundraiser event on the Appomattox River.



Above: Photograph by Daniel Jones Foto of the 14th Annual Paddle-or-Battle event held by FOLAR.

Crater PDC staff serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the FOLAR Board and are in attendance at all FOLAR board bi-monthly meetings. Crater PDC provides support to FOLAR through the use of office and storage space and general office equipment and supplies such as printers and mail service.

Crater PDC staff provided technical and GIS mapping support for updates to master plan maps, used to reflect progress in trail development. Crater staff provided help and support for the two-year update to the Appomattox River Trail Guide. Crater PDC also supplied funding to support the river trail map and [digital pamphlet](#).

The Appomattox River Trail Guide pamphlet is reproduced in Appendix 3.

Product #5: Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants

The Crater PDC Region has benefitted greatly from the Coastal Zone Management TA Grant funds it receives. In addition to the more concrete benefits detailed below, simply having a forum to discuss what resilience and water issues concern low-income, low-capacity rural communities has been important to CPDC's member localities.

Through the CZM program, Crater PDC was able to assist and help grow the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) from a fledgling nonprofit to an organization with their own offices, multiple annual events and stream litter cleanups, a strategic Master Plan for the Appomattox River Trail, and an already-impressive portfolio of completed trailheads and trail segments along the river. The Lower Appomattox Trail Master Plan continues to provide FOLAR and the localities it serves with a structure for trail improvements, which are being constructed at a rapid pace. Previous stream cleanups have provided an on-the-ground assessment of how to better tackle marine debris. Furthermore, Crater PDC's growing repertoire of mapping tools and data has given it the ability to better respond to localities' needs, and the PDC is actively creating new tools to meet those needs as well as new CZM goals.

In FY20, partially funded through the CZM grant, CPDC developed a Resilience Plan for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund administered by DCR, with the intent to let member localities adopt it in order to apply for project funds. However, the Plan was ultimately never submitted to DCR, in part because it was found that a PDC-wide plan could not be directly adopted by localities and because the most dedicated localities had already developed their own resilience plans. However, discussions through the Environmental Resources Management Task Force were instrumental in educating localities in program details, and Petersburg has been awarded around \$5.4 million in CFPF funds to fix stormwater issues in its most vulnerable communities.

CPDC's growing repertoire of mapping tools and data partially funded by CZM Program grants has conferred the ability to better respond to localities' needs and to create new tools to meet those needs in relation to CZM goals, as well as to provide information on and pursue grant opportunities on localities' behalf.

Product #6: Resilience Planning

Regional Resiliency Coordination

Crater PDC held successful coordination meetings for resilience stakeholders through the Environmental Resources Management Task Force to discuss resiliency needs and define what resilience means in the region. Crater PDC continues to seek out new stakeholders to attend these meetings to develop new partnerships and synergies.

Resilience topics pervade each of the Environmental Resources Management Task Force meetings. On 12/15/21, the group was introduced to equity and environmental justice topics in water management, and on 3/30/22 Celeste Greene helped the group explore deeper avenues for connecting with these communities in a meaningful way. Issues that arose included EJ communities in non-conforming housing (residences in zoning meant for businesses or industrial uses), rezoning based on exposure to environmental toxins, neighborhoods which could be cut off from transportation during floods, urban heat islands, where trees could be planted for water and air quality benefits, fires at solar facilities that threaten economically vulnerable farmers' land and potentially water sources, as well as the idea of creating a comment section or chat room on the Crater PDC website for localities to discuss and implement these ideas. At the 6/22/22 meeting, ideas concerning stream litter and air quality – two lesser-discussed CZM goals – were discussed, as well as potential partnerships with transportation planners and the regional MPO.

Which resilience topics the group or individual localities eventually decide to focus on will likely be a matter of funding. Crater PDC continues to inform the localities of grant opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Community Flood preparedness Fund (CFPF), and BRIC, NFWF, and other hazard mitigation grants that can help with dams and transportation and infrastructure flooding.

Regional Resiliency Priorities

CPDC continues to work with stakeholders to identify regional resiliency needs, such as data gaps, local capacity, etc. and establish regional resilience priorities. The needs and priorities were shared and discussed at regional meetings.

In FY20, Crater PDC staff with locality and stakeholder input derived a unique definition of resilience for the region based off of the Commonwealth's definition:

“In Crater PDC, resilience is the capability to rebound from multi-hazard threats with minimum negative impact on the community.

Rebounding includes: anticipating, preparing, responding, adjusting, and/or recovering from change.

Multi-hazard threats include: chronic or acute, natural or man-made hazards, including more frequent and intense storms and droughts and increased water levels in our tidal areas.

Community includes: the social well-being and health of people and the economy within the built and natural environment."

This definition was presented in order to workshop novel or underrepresented resilience issues in the region and generate new foci for future planning efforts. Specific concerns from FY20 included ignored elements of rural stormwater systems such as drainage ditches, the impact of road construction on flooding, problems with existing roads and bridges, severe storms, sedimentation (especially behind dams), the impact of climate refugees, and ALICE populations.

Crater PDC and member locality staff explored several new resiliency topics this year, including how to address environmental justice concerns, urban heat islands, air quality (especially connected with roadway intersections and how to abate this with trees), endangered species protection, and climate concerns.

The priorities for localities continue to be an ongoing and evolving discussion. Some localities have immediate and obvious needs, such as stormwater management issues in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Emporia. Others understand some of their issues and even know where they are but need further help and resources for identifying the totality and causes of problems, such as blocked ditches and culverts or erosion along streams and roadways. Dams are a serious issue in some communities, with silt and debris buildup causing concern. There are also more nebulous concerns, such as whether climate change will lead to greater emigration to the central Virginia region inland from coasts and north from hotter climates, and how the region's roads, public facilities, and other resources will accommodate them. Employment opportunities in a changing world – which may include more jobs related to climate adaptation and mitigation and green technologies – and how to capitalize on them are also a major concern. Data needs and new tools are continuously being researched through cooperation with Crater PDCs member localities. Some data tools have already been put to use to aid in planning efforts, especially GIS mapping software.

Crater PDC is currently in its second year of its 3-year CZM Section 306 Resilience Focal Area to identify resilience needs and potential projects in the region. Crater PDC and PlanRVA are currently in discussions regarding the RAFT pre-planning process. Preliminary discussions with localities at standing meetings have revealed a number of different priorities, from clogged dams and culverts to capacity concerns and understanding the challenges of increasing effects from climate change. That said, few projects to date have been input into the CRMP database, with the majority of the items in the region submitted by PlanRVA (some on Crater PDC's behalf). Once the CRMP database has been streamlined and a more formal project prioritization process through RAFT and other means is accomplished, Crater PDC will input projects into the database as needed.

The Coastal Resilience Master Plan has been published at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/plan>, and the Web Explorer with dropdowns to access the projects that Crater PDC and PlanRVA submitted can be accessed at:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9e32e928ed304fa98518b71905e43085/page/Projects-and-Initiatives/>

CZM Resilience Database Support

Through standing meetings Crater PDC staff have engaged localities in discussions on their ongoing projects and resiliency needs, and plan to develop and submit a list of projects to the Coastal Resilience Master Plan team or other DEQ CZM or statewide resilience database in the coming years. Through collaboration between the other Coastal PDCs and CZM staff, it was determined that the CZM database would be discontinued and that the Coastal Resilience Master Plan database would be used for project input. Currently, it is assumed that the CRMP database is undergoing some streamlining to make it easier for users to input projects.

State Resilience Planning Support

Crater PDC participated in Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings to discuss the ongoing Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan as well as other state- and region-wide CZM-related meetings:

- **11/17/21:** Virtual CZM Coastal Partners Workshop
- **11/19/21:** Coastal Policy TAC
- **12/7/21:** VCRMP Release Party
- **1/26/22:** Crater PDC hosted the Coastal PDC Quarterly Meeting virtually
- **1/26/22:** Coastal Policy Team Meeting
- **3/15/22:** Coastal Virginia Shoreline Stakeholders Group
- **5/31/22:** Coastal PDC Quarterly Meeting hosted by GWRC (with a tour of Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve)
- **9/14/22:** Coastal Policy Team Meeting
- **9/16/22:** Coastal Policy TAC to discuss the VCRMP Phase II
- **9/21/22:** Coastal PDC Meeting hosted by HRPDC with a tour of the Swift wastewater treatment facility

Crater PDC staff have also attended numerous webinars and other presentations with opportunities to participate, such as Wetlands Watch CRS workshops, in order to stay abreast of grant opportunities and information regarding environmental policy and regulation updates.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Sample Review Letter

9/30/2020

Craterpdc.org Mail - Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG IV)



Dennis Morris <dmorris@craterpdc.org>

Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG IV)

1 message

Dennis Morris <dmorris@craterpdc.org>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 9:24 AM

To: "Prior, Michelle" <michelle.prior@deq.virginia.gov>

Dear Michelle,

The Crater Planning District Commission has reviewed the information regarding the VADEQ Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant Application (CBIG-IV).

The Crater Commission has determined that the proposed application is in full compliance with regional environmental policies and plans.

Thank you for allowing the Crater Commission to comment on this proposed Application.

Denny Morris
Crater Planning District Commission
(804) 861-1666

Appendix 2: CZM Training Agendas

December 8th, 2021 (Virginia Outdoors Plan):

VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN

2021 Fall Regional Input Meeting Agenda

Crater Planning District Commission Conference Room
Wednesday December 8th 2-4pm

GoToWebinar:

<https://global.gotowebinar.com/join/7486888452969787916/115278857>

Welcome

DCR Power Point Presentation

- The 2018 VOP at a glance
- ConserveVirginia – brief overview
- Scenic Resources
- Trails Program
- 2021 Regional Public Recreation Survey Results and Map
- DCR Grants
- Chapter 13 Regional Recommendations 19-Crater Review
- 2022 VOP Draft Featured Projects -Region !9 Crater PDC review and comment
- VOP Mapper update

PDC Comments and Feedback on featured projects in the region:

- What is the status of your region's featured projects?
- What are the unmet needs in your region for outdoor recreation and conservation?
- What recreation trends are happening in the region?

Wrap Up, and where do we go from here?

Thank you!

December 15th, 2021 (held jointly with the George Washington Regional Commission):

CPDC / GWRC Joint Environmental Meeting Agenda

December 15, 2021, 1-3pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84928030039?pwd=WW5Vb0ZqSzRXQjlrQXVzc1lrUGN2dz09>

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 849 2803 0039

Passcode: 327047

Chesapeake Bay WIP and CZM TA meeting #6

Welcome and Introductions – Jay Ruffa and Kate Gibson

1. DCR Floodplain Management Resources – Angela Davis, DCR
 - a. Virginia Flood Risk Communication Plan
 - i. Outreach & Engagement Planning,
 - ii. Flood Awareness Week,
 - iii. Community Flood Preparedness Fund,
 - iv. Risk Rating 2.0, and
 - v. Other resources
2. Dam Safety – Mark Killgore, DCR
 - a. How DCR is improving dams and dam safety in the localities
 - i. Dam Classification Program,
 - ii. Collaboration with Planning Officials,
 - iii. Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund state grants,
 - iv. FEMA's Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant program and other New Federal Initiatives if Signed into Law.
 - b. DCR's partnership with local emergency management officials
 - i. Tabletop Exercises and Emergency Drills,
 - ii. Real-time Response during Local and Regional Emergencies.
 - c. Public Outreach and Training
3. Community Flood Preparedness Fund

General Discussion & Questions

March 30th, 2022:

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monument Professional Building • 1964 Wakefield Street • Post Office Box 1808 • Petersburg, VA 23805
Phone: (804) 861-1666 • Fax: (804) 732-8972 • info@craterpdc.org • craterpdc.org

Environmental Resource Management Group / WIP III / CZM

**Crater PDC Conference Room
1964 Wakefield Street
Petersburg, VA 23805**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022
1:00 PM -3:00 PM**

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87231074976?pwd=Z0E4ZVhwd3FaZzJPN0hoZkRjc24xUT09>

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: **87231074976**

Passcode: **519346**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Brief Overview of Programs
 - Coastal Zone Management Technical Assistance (CZM TA)
 - Advancing Ecosystem and Community Resilience (CZM R)
 - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program (WIP)
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan update planning
3. Coastal Zone Management Technical Assistance (CZM TA)
 - Appomattox River Trail, State of the Trail and Invasive species Management – **Heather Barrar, FOLAR**
4. Advancing Ecosystem and Community Resilience (CZM R)
5. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program (WIP)
 - Training on EPA Environmental Justice Screen Tool: identifying and determining underserved and EJ communities. – **Celeste Green Berkley Group**

June 22nd, 2022:

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monument Professional Building • 1964 Wakefield Street • Post Office Box 1808 • Petersburg, VA 23805
Phone: (804) 861-1666 • Fax: (804) 732-8972 • info@craterpdc.org • craterpdc.org

CPDC Environmental Working Group Agenda June 22, 2022, 11 AM - Noon

Google Meeting: <https://meet.google.com/rwp-cowi-fph?hs=122&authuser=0>
| Pin: 263 703995# | Dial: +1 413 728 4680 |

Agenda

1. Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program (WIP)

- Progress update – Jay Ruffa
- VDH Sewer and Well Assistance Program – Luke Peters (Berkley Group) and Toinette Waldon (VDH)
 - Grant dates, eligibility, and requirements for the \$2.7MM allocated to the Central Health Region
- Discussion: Septic Pumpout Data and Tracking in the Crater Region – Best Practices, Planning Needs, and Regional Cooperation

2. Coastal Zone Management Technical Assistance (CZM TA)

- Progress update – Jay Ruffa
- Stream litter – Jay FOLAR input
- Stream litter program – Jay and Jeff Flood if present

3. Locality and Stakeholder Roundtable

- Any information to be shared with the group?

Next Meeting: Wednesday July 27, 2022

July 27th, 2022:

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monument Professional Building • 1964 Wakefield Street • Post Office Box 1808 • Petersburg, VA 23805
Phone: (804) 861-1666 • Fax: (804) 732-8972 • info@craterpdc.org • craterpdc.org

CPDC Environmental Working Group Agenda

July 27, 2022, 1pm-3pm

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program (WIP)

- Progress update – Jay Ruffa
- Demonstration of Mapping Tool Used for Determining Riparian Buffers – FOLAR

Coastal Zone Management Technical Assistance (CZM TA)

- Progress update – Jay Ruffa
- How Air Quality is Determined and Potential Reduction Measures – Ron Svejkovsky
- Designing Culverts and Conveyances to Protect Endangered Fish Species – *Tentative*

Locality and Stakeholder Roundtable

Next Meeting: September 20th, 1-3pm (joint meeting with GWRC)

September 20th, 2022 (held jointly with the George Washington Regional Commission):



**Crater PDC / GWRC
Joint Environmental Managers Technical Committee**

FY21 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant
FY22 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) Program Grant

September 20th, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84240459356?pwd=ME9vRkk5YWdGN3hkVElzOG0xcExLQT09>

+1 301 715 8592 (Washington DC) +1 929 205 6099 (New York)

Meeting ID: 842 4045 9356

Passcode: 741374

AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome and Introductions** – Jay Ruffa & Kate Gibson
- Quick housekeeping and general updates on grants & regional/statewide meetings
- 1:20 Endangered Fish Migration and Culvert Design** – Lisa Moss, Fish Biologist & Jessica Pica, Hydraulic Engineer, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Followed by Q&A
- 1:55 Endangered Fish Migration, Transportation Perspective** – Daniel Redgate, Water Resources Program Manager, VDOT
- Followed by Q&A
- 2:30 Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion**
- CZM FY21 Roundup

Adjourn

Appendix 3: Appomattox River Trail Guide Pamphlet



EXPLORE the Appomattox River

A VIRGINIA STATE SCENIC RIVER

Over 20 miles of river from the dam at Lake Chesdin to the confluence with the James River in Hopewell

Appomattox River Trail • Points of Interest Boat Access • Parks

Boating & Fishing

The Appomattox River from the dam at Lake Chesdin to the confluence with the James River in Hopewell is a designated Virginia Scenic River that provides a unique and beautiful setting for both whitewater and flatwater paddlers, as well as for powerboaters and fishermen. Virginia Scenic River designation is one step toward scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics. You can still see the culture and history of the river with the visible remains of dams, locks and canals.

Boating & Fishing

The western/upper portion of the Appomattox River from Broadfield Dam at Lake Chesdin down to Campbell's Bridge in Petersburg can be powerful and remote. High water levels and cold conditions increase this danger. At the natural fall line through the City of Petersburg, the eastern/lower portion of the river becomes tidal and tide charts should be consulted when planning a trip on this portion of the river.

The Appomattox River contains a wide range of species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, redear sunfish, bluegill, river carp, pike, and herring goby minnow, like hellfish and chubs. Striped bass, walleye and saugeys, which originate at Lake Chesdin, provide a seasonal fishery in the Appomattox.

A fishing license is required for anyone fishing over the age of 16 and can be purchased from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Fishing licenses can be purchased online.

River Information

Plan your trip on the Appomattox River by first checking river and weather conditions.

FLATWATER SECTION:
The Appomattox River is tidal below Appomattox Park in Colonial Heights. So when to check the tide charts when planning a trip.

WHITEWATER SECTION:
Check the National Weather Service website for the river gauge at Metoca (Google "NWS Appomattox River Metoca"). Check the American Whitewater website for information on rapids and current conditions (www.AmericanWhitewater.org).

Water Safety

The river is not patrolled and rescue is difficult. Please let others know of your river plans, study river maps and know how to get off the river.

TO PREVENT PROBLEMS:
- Wear a life jacket. If paddling whitewater, wear a helmet.
- Recognize and avoid hazards: fallen trees, debris piles and dams.
- Wear a wet suit in spring, fall and winter.
- Carry three ropes and at least six kits.
- Never paddle alone.
- Know and prepare for the weather.
- Don't paddle after dark.
- Use supplemental boat flotation.
- Alcohol and paddling do not mix.

IF YOU GET INTO TROUBLE:
- Face on your back with feet up, pointed downstream.
- Do not try to stand up in swift water.
- Stay upstream of your capsize boat.
- Do to where as soon as possible.
- Call 911.

River Level at Metoca Gauge	Whitewater Paddler Skill Level
2.5 ft. to 3.0 ft. (+405-1207 cfs)	Easy to Moderate
3.0 ft. to 3.5 ft. (+1200-2820 cfs)	Moderate to Difficult
3.5 ft. to 7 ft. (+2800-4800 cfs)	Difficult to Extremely Difficult
Over 7 ft. (+ above 4600 cfs)	Very Hazardous-Expert only!

Whitewater Paddler Skill Level Classification	
Class I Easy	Waves small, clear passages. All obvious obstructions, no serious obstacles.
Class II Medium	Rapids of low difficulty with passages clear. Occasional maneuvering may be required.
Class III Moderate	Waves numerous and high, irregular, can swamp open canoes; rapids with passages clear though narrow; and fast, requiring experience in maneuvering. Scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties.
Class IV Difficult	Long rapids; waves powerful, irregular, dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; powerful and precise maneuvering required.
Class V Extremely Difficult	Long and violent rapids, following each other almost without interruption; riverbed extremely obstructed; big drops; violent currents; very steep gradient. Paddlers should have prior Class IV or better whitewater experience with experienced guides who know the river.

Do's & Don'ts OF BOATING AND HIKING

Boating Etiquette:
- Respect it more privately.
- Don't litter, pace out all trash.
- Paddlers should pass fishermen quietly and give lots of room.
- Don't block ramps and access points - they are for launching and retrieving boats only.

Trail and Park Etiquette:
You can also enjoy the beauty of the scenic Appomattox River from the land, whether you enjoy hiking, biking, fishing or picnicking, remember some of these tips from the American Hiking Society.

Stay on trails. Do not enter private property.
- Hike quietly. Speak in low voices.
- Turn your cell phone down, if not off.
- If taking a break, move off the trail to allow others to pass by.
- Don't toss your trash-out waste biodegradable items.
- When bringing a pet, be sure to keep it on a leash and don't forget to pack out all waste.
- Don't feed the wildlife.
- Leave what you find.
- Help preserve the trail by staying on the trail (walk through puddles, not around).
- If hiking in a group, don't take up the whole width of the trail, allow others to pass.
- No motorized equipment except for official and emergency vehicles and motor used wheelchairs.

Produced by Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (folar-va.org) and Crater Planning District Commission (craterpdc.org)

FOLAR
FRIENDS OF THE LOWER APPOMATTOX RIVER

CPDC
CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

APPOMATTOX RIVER

Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This guide was created in cooperation with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through grant #AW00020420157 at the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

Other Services DINING, SHOPPING & LODGING

There are plenty of great places to eat or sleep after a day spent outdoors at the Appomattox River. For more information on where to dine, visit or stay in the region, please visit the Petersburg Area Regional Tourism website.

Petersburg Area Regional Tourism
www.petersburgarea.org

- Lake Chesdin Boat Ramp**
Chesdin Lake Boat, Dinwiddie County
Lake Chesdin is a 3100 acre water supply reservoir on the Chesapeake-Dinwiddie County line administered by the Appomattox River Water Authority. Chesdin is a very productive loop which exceeds lengthwise bass fishing, good crappie fishing-both black and white, in spring and fall, and a great channel catfish fishery. The public boat ramp and handicap-accessible fishing pier are open 24 hours a day. Porta johns are available.
- John J. Radcliffe Conservation Area & Appomattox River Canoe/Kayak Launch**
21507 Chesdin Road, Chesapeake County
This 36-acre pier provides trail and canoe/kayak access along the full zone of the Appomattox River. Hikers can explore a 2.5 mile section of the Appomattox River Trail. Canoeists and kayakers can float down one mile to the abutment dam (initially full water) or they can float three miles to Appomattox Riverside/Ferndale Park (Class II-III whitewater) or seven miles to Petersburg (Class III whitewater). Amenities: picnic tables, canoe/kayak launch and hiking trails.
- Appomattox Riverside/Ferndale Park**
24809 Fernside Road, Dinwiddie County
The Appomattox Riverside Park, was known as Ferndale Park, is a popular destination for birdwatching, canoeing, fishing, and whitewater rafting. Amenities: 1.5 mile canal trail, a section of the Appomattox River Trail, playground, water and trail access, canoe/kayak launch/picnic, picnic shelters, and a fishing pier and natural shoreline.
- Batteries**
1285 Upper Appomattox Street, Petersburg
Built in 1718 on the banks of the Appomattox River for Col. John Banister, Revolutionary War Patriot, former of the Articles of Confederation and Petersburg's first mayor, Batteries is an important neo-Palladian style urban site. Special features include the Chinese Chippendale staircase, the historic greenhouse and its very old trees. Open for tours by appointment.
- Appomattox River Trail - Erick/VSU Trailhead**
5207 Main Street, Chesapeake
This 14-acre forest park has a 1/2 mile paved trail that follows the Appomattox River and ends at the US27 railroad trestle, and a rustic explorer trail that provides access to the river and viewing of the old canal that bypassed the falls of the river.

- Petersburg Patton Park**
University Boulevard at Campbell's Bridge, Petersburg
A passive recreation area along the Appomattox River near historic Old Towne Petersburg and across the river from Virginia State University. Amenities: trailhead to 15 miles of the Appomattox River Trail, hiking trails, fishing access, picnic shelter and barbecue pits.
- Petersburg Visitor Center**
10 West Bank Street, Petersburg
The Visitor Center is housed in the historic ca. 1839 Exchange Building. Exhibits here present Petersburg's long and storied history from its earliest days as a trading post until today.
- Appomattox Park**
151 Ashlar Avenue, Colonial Heights
This 14-acre park offers open space, river bank fishing and a natural kayak/canoe launch.
- Pocahontas Island**
Rolo Shoar, Petersburg
Pocahontas Island, actually a peninsula, is where the first enslaved Africans were brought to work in the 17th century. Pocahontas became a Freedom Colony, the first predominantly free Black settlement in Virginia and by 1850, one of the largest in the nation. The Pocahontas Island Black History Museum is an amazing collection of artifacts collected by John Steiner, who was born on Pocahontas Island in 1945 and known as the Mayor of Pocahontas. On the National Register of Historic Places. Museum/25 West St. Open by appointment. There is a public park with picnic shelter, 0.5 miles of the Appomattox River Trail and a natural canoe/kayak launch.
- Roslyn Landing Park**
263 Charles Dimmock Parkway, Colonial Heights
This park has a ramp for launching small boats and a pier for fishing and is the trailhead for the 1.5-mile paved trail of the Colonial Heights section of the Appomattox River Trail. Picnic shelters and porta-johns are available.
- Appomattox Boat Harbor**
1004 First Street, Prince George County
A privately owned marina but publicly accessible. Slips and ramp available for a variety of boats including canoe/kayak. Amenities: floating docks, wet slips, boat launch ramp, gas pump, restrooms & showers, pump-out station, marine repair shop, boat storage on land, snacks bar, bait shop, pool, summer concert series, fishing tournaments, kayaks, canoes and clubhouse available to rent.

- Swift Creek Conservation Area**
Chesapeake
Located where Swift Creek meets the Appomattox River 0.7 miles from the confluence with the James River, this 543-acre conservation area is currently open by appointment only but offers primitive hiking trails, and canoeists and kayakers can paddle along numerous creeks through the heart of the river bottomland habitat. Water trail can be accessed from White Rock Park boat launch in Colonial Heights, but land access is by appointment only.
- White Bank Park**
400 White Bank Road, Colonial Heights
The park consists of 22 acres which overlook Swift Creek, and is located across from Tassing Elementary School. The park includes two picnic pavilions which accommodate 200-300 people each, 8 individual picnic shelters for smaller groups, restrooms, 1/4-mile disc golf course, beach volleyball court, boat ramp, fishing pier and public playground.
- Fort Clifton Park**
100 Brockwell Lane, Colonial Heights
Fort Clifton was a Confederate stronghold on the Appomattox River serving as an important link in the line that defended Richmond and Petersburg in 1864 and 1865. Located on a high bluff at the junction of the Appomattox River and Swift Creek, the fort controlled navigation on the river north of Petersburg and was a formidable defensive bastion that wasn't taken by Union forces until the fall of Petersburg on April 3, 1865. The 21-acre park includes one picnic pavilion which accommodates 60 people, restrooms, walking trails and fishing pier.
- Hopewell/Prince George Visitor Center**
4100 Oakview Boulevard, Hopewell
The Hopewell/Prince George Visitor Center offers one-stop shopping including state-wide tour of the river, boating concerns, maps, local attractions and recreation information.
- R. Garland Dodd Park at Point of Rocks**
201 First Church Road, Chesapeake
This 178-acre park offers 3 miles of trails through several habitats including serene deciduous forest, riparian environment of the Appomattox River and dual freshwater marsh. Good spots for birdwatching and nature observation. Trails take you through all habitats to include Ashton Creek Marsh along a 1/4 mile fishing boardwalk. This is an excellent place to study wildlife birds and dragonflies. Amenities: restrooms, tennis and basketball courts, picnic areas and athletic fields.

- Historic Point of Rocks Park**
1905 First Church Road, Chesapeake County
This 30-acre park with 3/4 mile of Appomattox River shoreline is open by appointment only. Conservation and historical interpretive focus on 1800s Strachan house, Civil War hospital activities and river riparian environments. History programs and events scheduled throughout the year.
- Appomattox River Regional Park**
600 Folar Trail, Prince George County
Over 65 acres of prime woods on the river features over 3 miles of hiking trails, including a section of the Appomattox River Trail, fishing pier, birdwatching, picnic pavilion, a canoe/kayak launch, an observation pier, fitness trail and restrooms.
- Anchor Point Marina**
302 Beacon Ridge Road, Hopewell
A private marina to serve both Anchor Point residents and the general public that provides wet/dry slips and small boat/canoes are welcomed. Amenities: gas pump, restrooms & showers, pump-out station, marine repair shop, snack bar and patio area.
- Weston Plantation**
400 Weston Lane, off of 21st Avenue, Hopewell
The first plantation on the Appomattox River, Weston is notable for its original interior, especially its distinctive moldings, wainscoting, and chair rails. The house was built in 1788 and is a classic example of Virginia Federal style architecture and the very essence of the Tidewater plantation mansion. All three floors and the stibben dependency are open to the public through guided tours. Concerts on the lawn are held on Sundays during May & June. It has a fishing pier open to the public free of charge.
- Hopewell City Marina**
1951 Riverside Avenue, Hopewell
A public, municipal marina with covered and open boat slips rentals. Amenities: long-term camp for motorized craft, ship store, restaurant & bar/cafeteria, ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch, fishing area with pier, picnic tables, pavilion overlooking the river fishing tournaments, Rooftop on the River concert series.
- Riverside Park**
530 Main/12th Avenue, Hopewell
A city park with basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball/softball fields, and access to the Riverside Stormwater Emergency a section of the Appomattox River Trail.

- City Park**
205 Appomattox Street, Hopewell
Located off Appomattox Street across from the Appomattox Regional Library, this park offers a restroom, boat launch, nature inspired play space, a fishing pier, wildlife/water garden, picnic pavilion and access to the Hopewell Riverwalk, a section of the Appomattox River Trail.
- The Beacon Theatre**
401 N. Main Street, Hopewell
This is the region's centerpiece for concerts offering a wide range of music to suit any taste from country, bluegrass, rock, beach, soul, R & B, to heavy metal and more. It was built in 1928, designed by Fred Bishop, and was a silent movie and vaudeville show house through the 1930s and 40s and first renovated to a movie house until closing in 1981. The restoration of this beautiful, intimate venue is spectacular.
- Union Fort**
Appomattox Street, Hopewell
This historical site along the Appomattox River Trail contains the only Civil War-era earthworks at the City of Hopewell as well as picnic tables and interpretive signs.
- City Point Open Air Museum**
305 Cedar Lane at Water Street, Hopewell
City Point, the oldest part of Hopewell, was founded in 1674 by Sir Thomas Law for the Virginia Company. Its strategic location on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers earned a key role in Virginia's history. A pleasant walking tour highlights 25 historic homes and structures, with most focusing on City Point's Civil War history. Outdoor sculptures are located throughout the historic area. Beautiful views of the Appomattox and James Rivers.
- Appomattox Plantation & General Grant's Cabin**
1051 Paces Avenue, Hopewell
This beautiful 1780s plantation owned by the Ffowles family sits at the confluence of the James & Appomattox Rivers in City Point. In 1863, it became one of the last intact parts in the world and home of Ulysses Grant's headquarters during the Civil War Siege of Petersburg. Preservation Councils restore three times to better with 193 general and admit also to offer a 60-play for seeing the war. It is a national Historic Park Service site as part of Petersburg National Battlefield and open to the public daily.
- Old City Point Waterfront Park**
1799 Paces Avenue, Hopewell
This park and popular fishing spot sits on the James River and offers a boardwalk, riverfront trail, benches, picnic tables and restrooms.

The Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) is the only non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Appomattox River for all to enjoy between the Lake Chesdin Dam and City Point in Hopewell. FOLAR is leading the effort to create the Appomattox River Trail, over 20 miles of public open space, including accessible trails and river access. We have miles to go to complete the trail and it can cost \$193 per foot to build.

Join FOLAR as a member to help support the Appomattox River and Trail.
www.folar-va.org

Facebook.com/FriendsOfTheLowerAppomattoxRiver
twitter.com/folarva
instagram: folarva

Our thanks to the following photographers who made their photos available for this site: F. M. Petts, III, Kiley Fowler, Daniel Jones, Ken Newman, John A. Roney, Jr.