



Coastal Policy Team
DRAFT Meeting Agenda
September 12, 2019

10:00am – 4:00pm

Location: 1111 East Main Street, 14th Floor Training Room, Richmond, Virginia

10:00 Welcome & Introductions (Laura McKay)

10:10 Coastal Resilience Master Plan (Ann Phillips)

Rear Admiral Ann Phillips provided an update on development of the Commonwealth's Coastal Resilience Master Plan. See:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/DescriptionBoundary/Building-a-Master-Plan-Climate-Resilience-CPT-Meeting-Sept-12-19.pdf>. Rear

Admiral Phillips expects to have a draft of the Plan for the November 15th Virginia Coastal Policy Center conference, which constitutes Phase I of the process. Phase 2 will be implementation with an update every five years.

The Plan frames the actions that Virginia must take toward increasing resiliency across the Commonwealth, not just in coastal areas. Coastal PDCs, military installations, and NASA sites are also covered in the plan. Recommendations will be included. The State needs to provide additional funding to localities to increase capacity – the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) was suggested as a model. Additional funding sources were discussed, including funding/grants for property buyouts (e.g. from the Shoreline Resilience Fund, from localities and the state) and stormwater fees. FEMA will have “Building Resilient Communities” funds next year for pre-disaster projects, possibly including property buyouts (e.g. strategic redevelopment properties). This is expected to be a recurring funding source. The State should revisit allowing localities to have stricter policies than the State – the Dillon Rule currently precludes creative solutions from being implemented by localities.

Lewie Lawrence (MPPDC) noted that localities may need incentives to participate in the Plan. Lewie and Ben McFarlane (HRPDC) suggested that if the SLR projection data were incorporated into an official planning document, guidance, etc. for the locality or region, support from localities could be secured.

Laura McKay (CZM) asked what the CPT and/or CZM should focus on going forward and the following topics were suggested by the CPT attendees:

- Consider adding existing projects to the climate project proposals database being created by Wetlands Watch with CZM funding. [NOTE: at a Sep 24 habitat workshop at VIMS the ACOE presented its climate projects database that allows users to upload existing completed projects. This could potentially serve Virginia's needs. See www.engineeringwithnature.org .
- Find or provide additional funding/capacity to plan

- Create guidance, standards and provide educational outreach to increase public awareness of adaptation needs and tools.

Additional needs identified included: 1) Putting money into the Shoreline Resilience Fund, 2) Funding a more comprehensive Coastal Study similar to Louisiana's or Texas' – perhaps find a foundation that could help with funding. and 3) possibly increase funding for rural areas with less capacity.

11:10 Natural Resilience Project Proposal Sortable Database

Shep Moon (CZM) provided an update on the CZM-funded database being developed by Wetlands Watch. The draft database, year 1 final report and related forms are currently on the Wetlands Watch website:

- Report: <http://wetlandswatch.org/publications>
- Project Database: <http://bit.ly/VAdatabase>
- Project Submission Form: <http://bit.ly/SubmitVAdatabase>
- Grant Submission Form: <http://bit.ly/SubmitGrant>

These also will eventually be on the Adapt VA website. Several needs and next steps were identified, including quantifying a project's individual needs, building partnerships within these projects, and project prioritization. Several challenges and barriers were also identified: difficulty incentivizing the entry of projects into the database; a need to prove that the database is useful, and securing matching funds for the projects. Priorities included identifying sites for dredge materials and ensuring that projects are aligned with the Coastal Resilience Master Plan.

Follow up questions and needs also included:

- More input from stakeholders for the development and maintenance of the database
- Process for maintaining the database and ranking/prioritizing projects
- Clarifying, articulating, and marketing the purpose of this database
- For now, remove the "priority" field until we can work out how to prioritize
- How much money is needed overall and for each PDC
- Identify and place into separate categories public vs private projects
- Identify project costs to budget for future projects

Economic impact of resilience projects – document proof of value How to get input from the PDCs was discussed, especially on the process for database maintenance and prioritization of projects. It was suggested that a mixture of meetings with all or groups of the PDCs and individual PDC emails, phone calls and meetings (these individual meetings will be part of the year 2 Wetlands Watch grant from CZM). Laura McKay suggested that the PDC's ask Ross Weaver (Wetlands Watch) to start scheduling such meetings this fall.

11:25 Hampton Roads Resilience Projects Dashboard

Ben McFarlane gave an overview of the dashboard as an example of a regional resiliency database (<https://www.hrgeo.org/datasets/hampton-roads-resilience-projects->

dashboard). It began as an Excel sheet for localities to populate with projects and turned into a GIS dataset. It can be downloaded as an Excel sheet or shapefile. It's updated twice per year. All projects are public projects, no private projects are included – it's difficult to get that information. Lewie and John Bateman (NNPDC) noted that in rural areas there are more private projects than public projects.

It was noted that these types of databases represents valuable metric to document the existing expense of resiliency efforts and to justify the need for more funding, otherwise the General Assembly is not likely to embrace more funding requests.

11:35 NOAA/NFWF Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund RFP

Laura McKay gave a brief summary of this funding opportunity (<https://www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience/emergency/Pages/ecrf-2019rfp.aspx>). A webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th 2019 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT. \$48 million is available nationally for certain counties. Proposals are due Nov 12, 2019

11:40 FY 2020 Section 309 Projects of Special Merit Nationally Competitive Funds

Laura reported that proposal applicants must submit a letter of intent to apply to CZM by September 26. The NOAA FFO is expected out by mid-October. Proposals are due to NOAA by early December. Projects would begin Oct 1, 2020. Eligible enhancement areas are: coastal hazards and ocean resources. [Post meeting note: only one letter of intent was received by Sep 26 so there will not be a competitive process.] The proposal is for review and possible updating of Bay Act guidance based on sea level rise considerations.

11:45 Next Section 309 Assessment and Five Year (FY 2021-2025) Strategy

Section 309 Assessment and Five Year (FY 2021-2025) Strategy Timeline	
OCM issues final Section 309 guidance	On or before June 30, 2019
Coastal management programs (CMPs) begin developing their assessment and strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMPs engage key stakeholders • OCM and CMPs work together to identify high priority enhancement areas and develop strategies 	October 1, 2019
Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities (TBD)	November - January
Phase I Assessment and Ranking Completed	Mid-January CPT meeting
Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities (TBD)	February - April
Draft assessment and strategy due to NOAA	May 1, 2020
OCM provides comments to CMPs on draft assessment and strategy	July 1, 2020

Section 309 Assessment and Five Year (FY 2021-2025) Strategy Timeline	
Final assessment and strategy due	September 1, 2020
OCM approves final assessment and strategy	November 1, 2020
OCM issues federal funding opportunity for FY 2021 Project of Special Merit (PSM) Competition (<i>tentative</i>) Funds available only for Coastal Hazards projects.	Late summer or fall 2020
Proposals for FY 2021 PSM Competition due (<i>tentative</i>)	Late fall 2020 (not before November 1, 2020)
CMPs begin carrying out FY 2021-2025 strategies	October 1, 2021
OCM issues FY 2021 PSM awards	October 1, 2021

- Areas and Assignments for Phase I Assessments
 - Laura: Ocean Resources, Marine Debris, Public Access
 - Shep: Coastal Hazards, SAMPs, Wetlands
 - Jeff: Aquaculture, Energy & Government Facility Siting, Cumulative & Secondary Impacts
- Phase II Assessments will be completed for areas ranked as high priority

Laura noted that stakeholder engagement is essential to this process since NOAA has placed a greater emphasis on it with newly revised evaluation criteria. Key stakeholders include elective bodies (people that can make change happen and provide funding), NGO's, and state agencies. Laura McKay, Shep Moon, and Jeff Flood (CZM) will attend PDC Quarterly meetings or PDC committee meetings (HRPDC's Coastal Resiliency, etc.) to explain the 309 process and solicit feedback. Paper surveys and online polling were also suggested as options, but in-person discussions were greatly desired.

CBNERRVA is holding a Social Science workshop in December at VIMS on stakeholder engagement. Jeff Flood will be attending.

12:45 Collaborative Efforts with DHR Underwater Archaeologist (John Broadwater – Virginia Department of Historic Resources)

The Underwater Archaeological Program at DHR was cancelled in 1989. DHR is looking for partners (possibly CPT partners) to help protect underwater archaeological resources. Many have been lost due to sea level rise and erosion. DHR has a predictive model for the loss of the sites that shows erosion patterns. CPT partners should take a look. DHR would like to resurrect the QR code on pieces of archaeological finds and involve citizen monitors. They have about 100-150 underwater archaeological site exploration permits, but don't have the manpower to manage them. DHR awarded a grant to VIMS to explore the Catlett Islands for archaeological sites

1:00 FY 2020 -2022 New Focal Area Ideas

Prior to the CPT meeting, CZM staff grouped the 8 projects received into 3 themes: Climate Adaptation, Habitat & Water Quality, and Ecotourism. Laura asked the CPT audience if they agreed with this organization before the meeting proceeded to discussion of each project. All agreed and discussion of each proposal ensued.

#1 Coastal PDC Technical Assistance Grants for Resiliency: Ben McFarlane (HRPDC)

This initiative could partner with existing resilience programs or workgroups such as the HRPDC Community Resiliency Committee, the Community Rating System Users Group to give PDC's and localities a voice that they previously lacked and the ability to speak with a unified voice where necessary. In turn, localities would provide regional coordination to the state and provide a sounding board for state policy at the local level. This would also institutionalize consistency across political subdivisions. Furthermore, the need to increase capacity to offer policy recommendations and implement pilot studies doesn't exist – only technical advisory groups currently.

The PDC's were asked how they would spend the money and what would happen after three years?

Responses included:

- More detailed technical assistance
- Help fund a position or partially fund a position
- Help contract out work
- Provide a bridge to funding/consistency of funding until money comes from the General Assembly
- Combine CZM funds with other Federal money to support positions to address resilience issues
- Improve collaboration among PDC's
- PDC's would continue the technical assistance after the grant was over with other funds

The PDCs might consider building in flexibility for a pilot project to bolster capacity. The PDCs said a resiliency special project (special analysis, new ordinance, etc.) could be built into the project.

John Kuriawa (NOAA) noted that he liked the equity and consistency the funds would provide across all 8 coastal PDC's, but would also find it acceptable if one PDC hired a resiliency coordinator with funds "donated" by other PDC's since the concentrated effort of that position would yield many practices that could be replicated by the other PDC's and localities.

#2 Rural Ecotourism Marketing Strategy Implementation (Including Lower Chickahominy): Shannon Alexander (A-NPDC)

This proposal would keep the momentum of the current rural PDC benefits going and bring in the CZM-funded Lower Chickahominy project funded under CZM's current 309 strategy. The marketing plan is just now coming together and additional time and funding is needed to implement that plan. The project has strong support from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The project also continues funding for provision of an Ecotour Guide Certification class that has led to the opening of a few new businesses in

rural coastal Virginia. These benefits will continue for many years. This proposal would help professionalize the ecotourism message across the PDCs to be seen as great places to visit. Providing an economic incentive such as income derived from ecotourism can help support localities' willingness to protect coastal resources and thereby increase resiliency.

#3 Piankatank, York and Mobjack Wetland, Oyster Reef, SAV and Living Shoreline Habitat Restoration Site ID, Design and Collaboration: Willy Reay (CBNEERVA)

Virginia currently lacks a shovel-ready project with which to apply for Federal funds. VIMS will be holding a workshop Sep 24 to move projects along regarding this topic and put out an RFP. Designers for this project may be found at the workshop, and VIMS can do some of the work in-house. This project would develop a network of restoration practitioners that could train others in different geographic areas of the coastal zone using core principles and BMP frameworks.

It was suggested to include other communities in this project; but Willy confirmed the project would stay focused on proposed area first and could be expanded later. He also noted this project would not duplicate efforts done by others. John Kuriawa noted that this project could help secure other Federal funds over time.

#4 Updating & Prioritizing Natural Heritage Element Occurrences and Developing a Conservation Strategy: Joe Weber (DCR)

There was a concern about how old the data was for this project (from 2010 census). However, it was noted that anytime one is carrying out a spatial analysis there is a lag. 2020 Census data won't be available until 2021. In advance of the discussion of project #5 (VIMS), it was noted that projects #4 and #5 look similar and either need to be combined or make the differences obvious if both were to be funded.

#5 Updating VEVA with SLR Effects on Species Shifts: Pam Mason (VIMS)

Some attendees voiced concern over the project's focus on just wildlife and not humans as well. Specifically, the perception that targeting private lands for acquisition and conservation based upon habitat values alone might prompt pushback from other stakeholders who feel left out of the land use planning process. It was noted that local governments lose tax revenues when the State acquires the land in urban areas, but that in rural areas they avoid costs associated with public utilities maintenance making acquisition for conservation a net economic gain to local government budgets.

#6 Connecting Dredging Projects with Shoreline Restoration Projects

This project was withdrawn by VIMS prior to the CPT meeting due to the existing CZM-funded research that is similar in scope.

#7 Modelling Pollutant Residence Time: Pam Mason (VIMS)

Several CPT attendees emphasized the need for a model that could be replicated in other areas and that is accurate enough to be used in real time to make policy decisions (i.e. waterbody closures). John Bateman added that the model could be useful in addressing septic tank failures and the resulting pollution.

#8 Piankatank, Milford Haven, Gwynn's Island Shellfish TMDL: Kelly Meadows (DEQ)
The project prompted concerns from several CPT attendees. John Kuriawa noted that the project would benefit private property owners (e.g. septic repairs and pump-outs) which CZM cannot fund. However, CZM funds could be used towards education or outreach portions of the project or for planning. Others questioned whether it was appropriate to use Section 306 money for a regulatory need and if the project needed the funding since it's eligible for Section 319 (TMDL) money.
[NOTE: This project was subsequently withdrawn by DEQ.]

2:00 Focal Area Theme Voting

Discussion ensued on general Focal Area themes. It was suggested that since a number of the projects focused on the Middle Peninsula, there could possibly be a Middle Peninsula Heritage Program. However, MPPDC expressed doubt that the projects could be completed due to the significant ramp-up effort required given the existing capacity level. It was then also suggested that there could be a Middle Peninsula Special Area Management Plan using Section 309 funds. Could also have a combination of money going to a geographic area while having a Resilience or Conservation Targeting Focal Area theme.

It was decided that the Focal Area themes would be ranked now (through CPT voting) and proposals developed later. Focal Area theme rankings were:

- 1st Climate Adaptation**
- 2nd Habitat & Water Quality**
- 3rd Ecotourism**

A meeting date was set for Nov 18 with Ann Phillips to allow applicants to further discuss their proposals with Ann and revise their projects according to the chosen theme. It was agreed that no new proposals will be accepted, although elements of the current proposals may be combined. Revised proposals will be due to CZM on December 13, 2019 and voted upon at the next CPT meeting on January 15, 2020.

2:30 Narrative Enforceable CZM Policies (Elizabeth Andrews, Coastal Policy Center)
Elizabeth explained that NOAA had encouraged Virginia to develop briefer, narrative policies for clarity and to reduce the number of Program Changes needing to be submitted. Changes in the policies were reviewed and then voted on as a whole by the CPT. All agreed to accept the changes as proposed.

Laura noted that NOAA's new Program Change Database is available at <https://www.coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>. This is a public database containing the history of each change Virginia CZM has made since the program began in 1986. It will also be used to submit and provide for public review and comment any proposed changes. John Kuriawa (NOAA) shared compliments from NOAA staff commending CZM and their partners on the collective effort to create the Narrative Policies.

3:00 Fisheries Geographic Location Description (GLD)

Bettina Rayfield (DEQ) and Todd Janeski (VCU) summarized CZM efforts to obtain automatic consistency review for impacts on fisheries from federal offshore activities such as offshore wind, oil & gas and mineral extraction. Securing NOAA approval for automatic review requires submitting both “Listed Activities” and a “Geographic Location Description (GLD) of the areas within which review is requested and documentation of the value of those areas and how impacts to those resources could negatively impact Virginia’s fisheries landings. It also requires establishment a GLD boundary or boundaries.

Virginia is proposing to use the NMFS Statistical Area as the base map on which to draw GLD boundaries. Although latitude/longitude could be used, this is the numbered grid system other states have used for their GLDs. The fishing industry has expressed strong support for pursuing this GLD.

It was asked if Virginia was tracking where science survey transit lines are. The response was that Virginia is, but the GLD must relate to an enforceable policy of the CZM Program – as fisheries management is.

3:15 Additional Updates

- Virginia Coastal Policy Center Annual Conference is November 15 at the College of William & Mary; Theme is *The Three Ps of Resilience: Planning, Partnerships, and Paying for it All*
- Virginia CZM Magazine will be out later this fall
- CZM webpage updating is in process; hopefully completed by the end of 2019; mostly focused on revamping the Issue pages
- CZM budget guidance links are at:
 - NOAA Budget Guidance - <https://www.ago.noaa.gov/grants/training.html>
 - Relevant Section of the Uniform Guidance - <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?SID=20b027374c0ef38669a973a7d20ee6e4&node=pt2.1.200&rgn=div5>
 - FAQs for the Uniform Guidance - <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/OASAM/legacy/files/July2017-UniformGuidanceFrequentlyAskedQuestions.pdf>
- Final FY20 CZM grant guidance should be available in January 2020
- Thursday Sep 26 webinar on making documents ADA compliant should be recorded
- 2019 contract packages to sent out by the last week of September
- John Kuriawa noted that Training activities on semi-annual progress reports must be a training, not an education-only activity; must have the specific number of attendees and must be funded by CZM or those holding the training funded by CZM

Attendees

Shannon Alexander – A-NPDC

Elizabeth Andrews – VCPC-William & Mary Law School

April Bahen - VA CZM

John Bateman – NNPDC

Sharon Baxter – DEQ

Ellen Bolen – VMRC

John Broadwater – VDHR

Andrew Button – VMRC
Robbie Coates – VDEM
Angela Davis – DCR
John Fisher – DEQ
Jeff Flood – VA CZM
Lewis Gillingham – VMRC
Cirse Gonzalez – CBNERRVA
Morgan Goodman – DEQ
Michelle Henicheck – DEQ
Todd Janeski – VCU
Angela King - VCPC-Wm&Mary Law School
John Kuriawa – NOAA/OCM
Samuel Lake – VASG
Andrew Larkin – NOAA Ches. Bay Office
William Lassiter – DMME
Lewie Lawrence – MPPDC
Pam Mason – VIMS
Ben McFarlane – HRPDC
Laura McKay – VA CZM
Kelly Meadows - DEQ
Corey Miles – NVRC
Donna Milligan - VIMS
Shep Moon – VA CZM
Daniel Moore – DEQ
Elizabeth Moore – VDHR
Denise Nelson – GWRC
David Norris – DGIF
Randy Owen – VMRC
Taylor Parker – VDOT
Luke Peters – GWRC
Ann Phillips – Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection
Bettina Rayfield – DEQ
Willy Reay – CBNERRVA
Ann Regn – DEQ
Jay Ruffa – Crater PDC
Sarah Stewart – PlanRVA
Carl Thiel-Goin – DCR
Lyle Varnell – VIMS
Tony Watkinson – VMRC
Virginia Witmer – VA CZM