

Coastal Policy Team Meeting Summary

January 30, 2019

10:00am – 3:30pm

10:00 Welcome & Introductions

10:10 FY19 Grant Application and Final Products (see note from CSO below with latest estimates for funding)

- Tentative Time Schedule (not yet confirmed with NOAA):
 - Friday, March 1 Proposals due to CZM
 - Monday, April 1 Draft Application due to NOAA
 - Wednesday May 15 Final Application due to NOAA
- Continuing Grants (~\$1.6M for state agencies; ~\$346k for local Technical Assistance))

The CPT agreed that if VA CZM receives more Federal dollars than the FY 2018 level of funding, CZM will increase the funding to continuing grants and land acquisition by an equal percentage. If there is not enough to raise all continuing grants considerably, the CPT agreed that any additional funds will go into land acquisition.

If CZM receives funding less than FY 2018 levels, the CPT agreed that VA CZM will then revert Federal funding amounts for continuing grants back to FY 2017 levels.

- Year 3 Focal Area Grant Plans (~\$400k)
 - Promotion of Oyster Aquaculture (VIMS)
VIMS will be conducting industry outreach and craft policy shifts as an outcome of spatial analyses. Some FY18 funding will be shifted to policy work by the Coastal Policy Center in response to the Secretary's Aquaculture Work Group recommendations.
 - Promotion of Rural Ecotourism (AN, MP and NN PDC)
The PDCs are analyzing use of online tools to promote and create a one-stop shop for accessing info on a variety of trails, e.g. water trails, oyster trail, Birding & Wildlife Trail, etc. The private sector will be involved and efforts undertaken to drive more traffic to the website. AN PDC is updating the Seaside Water Trail funded by CZM back in 2006 and also creating a Bayside Water Trail.
The new website is live at – viriniawatertrails.org.
18 people signed up for the Ecotour Guide Certification course this year.
 - Interpretive Signage (CZM)
CZM staff is creating an inventory of signage at all CZM-funded land acquisition and public access sites. The inventory will be used to prioritize restoration and updates of signs. TNC and AN PDC are working on interpretive signage on both bayside and seaside. VA Aquarium is developing interpretive signage for the VA Beach resort strip.

- Nature Resiliency (VIMS)
 - Two grants to VIMS will focus on 1)evaluating living shoreline performance and 2) expanding natural infrastructure
- Community Resiliency (NV and HR PDCs)
 - The Northern Virginia Regional Commission’s grant will focus on stormwater modeling in collaboration with George Mason University along with developing urban heat island maps and evaluating precipitation projections for use in stormwater models.
 - The Hampton Roads PDC grant will focus on developing more cost effective ways to document first floor elevations of structures in flood-prone areas.
- Year 4 Section 309 Grant Plans (~\$500k)
 - Coastal Hazards (~\$170k)
 - Funds will be used for projects that help build natural or community resilience. Year 4 of the coastal hazards strategy includes continued support for developing VIMS Shoreline Inventories and providing living shoreline contractor training. It also includes support for advancing use of the Resiliency and Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) and developing a coastal resiliency atlas. Work undertaken already through a grant to Wetlands Watch to develop a resilience project sortable database will serve as the basis for the atlas.
 - Economic Benefits of Land Conservation – Chickahominy (~\$170k)
 - RR PDC is continuing with Chickahominy work through University of Virginia Institute for Engagement and Negotiation (UVA-IEN). RR PDC and UVA-IEN are using focal groups to determine best policies for land conservation and development. The results will be presented at a workshop through an FY 19 grant.
 - Laura McKay stated that CZM is working with the Chickahominy Tribe s to acquire land on the Lower Chickahominy to build ecotourism infrastructure and provide an appropriate location for internment of ancestral remains currently warehoused.
 - Ocean Resources - Ocean Planning/Marine Debris (~160k)
 - New Executive Order** in summer 2018 eliminated Regional Planning Bodies, but states that Federal Agencies are to collaborate with Regional Ocean Partnerships (e.g. the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). MARCO is in the process of creating a new entity, the Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean (MACO. An Ocean Forum is scheduled for March 20 in Monmouth, NJ.
 - Offshore wind** test turbines are due to be constructed in Summer 2020. Laura McKay was appointed to the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA). The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is exploring what additional areas, beyond the existing commercial offshore wind lease area would be suitable for offshore wind development. VOWDA may be interested in developing a Virginia Ocean Plan.
 - The Ocean Acidification Work Group**, currently led by MARCO and MACAN (the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network) has prepared two papers for publication: one on research needs and one on monitoring needs.
 - Virginia’s Balloon Release Reduction Campaign** has expanded to cover

the entire Mid-Atlantic Region through a grant to MARCO from NOAA. There will be a Marine Debris Summit June 17-19 at George Mason University (GMU) in Arlington.

RODA, the Regional Offshore Development Alliance has been established by the commercial fishing community to respond to fisheries needs in the face of offshore wind development activities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

- Final Product Content and Deadlines: consistency issues across grants and need for closer attention to final product deadlines to allow adequate CZM staff review time

Grantees were reminded that final products should focus on quality over quantity and report on outcomes. John Kuriawa noted that grantees should put links in the final report (e.g. to presentations) and not include the entire presentation in the final product.

Laura McKay stated that VA CZM will no longer require hard copies of Final Products except for possibly oversized products that cannot be scanned. In the grant proposal, for each deliverable, on the "Product Format" line, grantees need only write "one digital file."

10:40 Review of Workshop Results and Ideas for Next Focal Area (File #1)

- Ideas for next steps and focal areas (see file)

Discussions with NOAA about a possible Piankatank SAMP

The idea of a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) to protect the oyster reefs on the Piankatank River was discussed. Concerns were expressed that localities might not support additional conservation measures if they affected local land use authority or the local tax base. A suggestion was presented to focus on Shellfish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) on the smaller tidal creeks of the Piankatank basin. It was noted that this could have a positive economic result by opening waters to shellfish harvesting and aquaculture and that localities might be more willing to support it. There was also a discussion about whether the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act should be evaluated in light of the need to adapt to sea level rise within resource protection areas. The group agreed to pursue further conversations about this and evaluate whether the issue could be addressed as a future Section 309 project.

- Schedule for determining next focal area
 - Focal Area(s) identified at September 2019 meeting
 - Focal Area(s) finalized at January 2020 CPT meeting
 - Draft applications due March 2020
 - Final applications due May 2020
 - Grants begin October 2020

10:45 Natural Resilience Project Proposal Sortable Database (Ross Weaver, Wetlands Watch)

This grant involves developing a draft sortable database of potential resilience-building projects. This should put Virginia in a better position to pursue funding opportunities as they arise. The database should also help improve collaboration between departments and foster partnerships for funding. The project has three

components; 1) Stakeholder input to design a strawman database, 2) Organize and conduct a one-day Workshop to gather further input, and 3) Revise the draft database and prepare a final report from workshop input.

The Louisiana Coastal Master Plan was suggested as a good model for Virginia. AdaptVA was discussed as a good place to host the database. Wetlands Watch and VIMS will talk more about this. Coastal GEMS was also considered as an option. It was noted that the database will need to show a “return on investment” in order to justify stakeholder’s efforts in keeping the database populated.

Review of draft database structure and maintenance options

The draft database uses “Airtable” software, which provides a number of benefits. Passwords could be used to edit data with the public having “view only” rights. It was discussed whether both green and gray infrastructure projects should be considered in this database and noted that an evaluation of cost-effectiveness and project lifespan was important.

Date and location for workshop to receive feedback.

More feedback from end user needs will be obtained through the spring workshop. Then Wetlands Watch will create a final version of the database. There was a suggestion to hold the workshop at VMRC’s new office or at VIMS.

12:00 Lunch (Please bring your lunch)

1:00 Waterways Maintenance Fund (Melissa Fularon, Virginia Port Authority)
Discussion of upcoming grant opportunity for local government dredging activities and collaboration with CZM. Please review materials before the meeting at:
http://www.portofvirginia.com/pdfs/stewardship/VA_Waterway_Maintenance_Fund_Guidelines.pdf

Virginia Port Authority has \$1.3 million a year to give out in grants. The proposals are due March 1. If desired, localities can present their projects at World Trade Center in Norfolk on Feb. 14th 1-3pm (but do not have to do so). In May, there will be a Board Meeting where recommendations (including projects to be funded) will be presented and then voted on. If the Board passes the resolution, the projects will be funded. Projects are on a reimbursement basis. Localities have to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Laura McKay stated this funding source would be eligible match for CZM projects; grantees could use VA CZM money for planning and VA Port money for construction.

The VA Port Authority will meet with VA CZM in the next month or two.

1:30 Narrative Enforceable CZM Program Policies & Fisheries Geographic Location
Description to obtain automatic consistency review for offshore impacts on fisheries (Angela King, Tina Rayfield and Todd Janeski)

The Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC) drafted narrative enforceable policies including Point and Nonpoint Source pollution language and is working on how to incorporate grandfathered projects. They will be working with DGIF on agency

authorization of policies and will likely need clarification from NOAA on several issues. An advisory meeting will be scheduled for March and VCPC will work on a package for NOAA submission regarding the routine program change.

A Program Change for activities on the Outer Continental Shelf regarding mining of sand gravel and minerals, renewable offshore energy and oil and gas will be submitted to NOAA. This will focus on how they affect coastal uses. It will involve coordinate with Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and Federal agencies affected.

Todd Janeski and Bettina Rayfield are working on development of Fisheries Geographic Location Descriptions (GLDs), where boundaries are drawn around a geographic location in the ocean outside of Virginia's coastal zone. Such boundaries would be derived from the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal's "Communities at Sea" fishing areas. If a listed activity is proposed within this boundary it will then be reviewed through the federal consistency process. BOEM oil and gas exploration could affect Virginia fisheries, especially scallops and menhaden, so these potential uses will need to be evaluated to determine how to quantify their potential effects on fisheries.

2:00 FY 17 Reprogramming/ Funding Issues (File #2)

- Section 306/306A (~ \$33k available)
 - Update "Boat Safely, Respect Wildlife" materials (\$10k requested for FY16 reprogramming but not yet funded)
 - E. Shore Birding and Wildlife Programs, Inc. (\$2-3,000 has been requested and could be paid from FY 18 Task 1.01 "other" category)
 - Repairs to Seaside Landfill walkway and interpretive signage (~\$6,000 but could be taken from FY17 Task 75 if Riverview Farm Project in Newport News is not ready)
 - Fairfax County marine debris proposal (\$13k requested)
 - MPPDC: analysis of local revenue losses from new blue/green industries that do not provide revenue to the locality and lower taxable land value and development of policy options to reverse the revenue losses (\$8-10k). More details at end of this file.

John Kuriawa suggested keeping the number of projects to a minimum; either do a bigger collaborative project, or fewer projects.

It was decided that with the FY 17 306 money, VA CZM would support the MPPDC BGI and NVRC Marine Debris project. The other projects could possibly be funded with future reprogramming funds. Restoration of the Seaside walkway will be undertaken with FY17 ecotourism focal area funds.

- Section 309 (about \$12k available)
 - Additional work on narrative enforceable policies to refine and package work completed;
 - Addition of \$5k to CPC grant to conduct aquaculture policy analysis work complementary to the focal area on promoting shellfish aquaculture

- Addition of \$5-7k to CPC grant to develop online tool (website) to guide aquaculturists in seeking permits

VA CZM suggested adding \$12K in FY 17 reprogramming funds into the open VCPC grant (for the above projects), with Tony Watkinson and Marcia Berman are looking at revisions to that scope of work. The project will be finished by Dec. 2019. The CPT agreed.

2:30 Maintaining and Updating CZM-funded 306A Projects (File #3)

- Update on CZM signage inventory for construction, acquisition and restoration projects
 - Eastern Shore – 9 signs missing, 2 damaged/dated signs
 - Hampton Roads – 1-Site with no sign, don't know if there are any signs damaged/dated
 - Middle Peninsula – No signs missing, none damaged/dated
 - Richmond Regional – 1 Site with no sign, 1 damaged/dated sign
- Plans for new signage
VA CZM has been working with Newport News on plans for a path at Riverview Farm Park that would link the existing walkway to the working waterfront however, the City does not appear ready to undertake the work at this time.

2:45 Coastal GEMS landing page and new draft mapping application

- Demo of landing page and draft mapping application. Version 4 has:
 - New landing page
 - Ability to load different years of BMP data
 - Hosts new story maps
 - Fact sheets are located in a list
 - Can view symbology by clicking arrow next to the data layers
 - VBMP basemap imagery
 - Better print functions
 - Can add data from outside sources (web services)
 - Can add files, e.g. shape files
- Request for beta testing
Shannon Alexander, Marcia Berman, Sarah Stewart, Ben McFarlane, Lewie Lawrence volunteered.

This version is live but still needs a little work. Version 3 will stay up until version 4 is totally ready to roll out.

3:00 Other Partner Updates

- View seagrass video (6 minutes)
- March 7 Workshop on Shorebird BMPs for shoreline management and possibilities of a 2021—2026 Section 309 strategy with complementary NFWF funding. Location TBD – hopefully in VA Beach but have 3rd floor BOA as back-up
- March 20 MACO Ocean Forum at Monmouth
- June 17-19 Marine Debris Summit at GMU Arlington Campus
- Fall 2019 CZM Magazine story ideas and schedules
- DCR is holding six different meetings in March in regards to the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection fund proposals. The meeting on Feb. 25 is at Pocahontas State Park. The Eastern VA-Hampton Roads meeting is on Feb. 28.

They are on the Calendar on the DCR Dam page. The proposals close on March 29. The grants require 50/50 match. The projects ranged from \$13K - \$75K last year.

Some examples are:

- Remapping a floodplain
 - Stormwater plan
 - Updating a floodplain plan
 - Tying them into comprehensive plan
 - Outreach on floodplains in the community
 - Not hazard mitigation plans
- DCR - The VA Water Conference is at the start of March on stormwater, dam safety, floodplain management. It is cosponsored by VA Lakes and Watersheds Association and VA Floodplain Management Association.

3:30 Adjourn

Attendees:

Shannon Alexander – A-NPDC
April Bahen – CZM
John Bateman – NNPDC
Sharon Baxter – DEQ-DEE
Steve Begg – VDOT
Marcia Berman – VIMS
Dave Davis – DEQ-Wetlands
Gina Diccico – DCR
Melissa Fularon - VA Port Authority
Lewis Gillingham – VMRC
Lance Gregory – VDH
Cirse Gonzalez – CBNERRS
Becky Gwynn – DGIF
Scott Hardaway – VIMS
Angela King – VCPC
Todd Janeski – VCU/DCR
John Kuriawa – NOAA
Sam Lake – VA Sea Grant
Lewie Lawrence – MPPDC
Pam Mason – VIMS
Laura McKay – CZM

Nick Meade - CZM
Corey Miles - NVRC
Linda Millsaps – GWRC
Katie Moody - RRPDC
Shep Moon - CZM
Denny Morris – Crater PDC
Barbara Nelson – VA Port Authority
Denise Nelson – Berkeley Group/GWRC
Taylor Parker - VDOT
Matt Poirot – DOF
Beth Polak – CZM
Meghann Quinn – DEQ-P2
Bettina Rayfield – DEQ-EIR
Robbie Rhur – DCR
Dan Salkovitz – DEQ-Air/Renewable En.
Sarah Stewart – RRPDC
Jutta Schneider–DEQ-Water Monitoring
Lyle Varnell – VIMS
Tony Watkinson - VMRC
Ross Weaver – Wetlands Watch
Virginia Witmer – CZM

From CSO:

Grant Williams

Wed, Jan 2, 3:42 PM (8 days ago)

CSO Members,

House Democrats have released the text of the omnibus package negotiated between the House and Senate in 2018, which would reopen and fund most of the federal government, including NOAA, for the remainder of FY2019. Incoming House leadership plans to quickly pass the bill this week.

Should this package ultimately become law, **Coastal Management Grants would receive \$110 million for FY2019: \$30 million for the National Coastal Resilience Fund and \$80 million for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Grants. This would be a \$5 million increase over FY2018 funds for CZM Grants.**

Negotiations between the White House and Congress are ongoing therefore it is not clear when this bill could become law. However, this should be the package that ultimately moves forward as it is both bicameral and bipartisan.

Other items of note:

Coral Reef Program: \$28.6 million

NERRS: \$27.5 million

Marine Sanctuaries: \$54.5 million

Sea Grant College Program: \$71 million

Press Release:

<https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/legislative-text-democratic-legislation-to-reopen-federal-government-fund-most>

Funding Tables for Proposal

<https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/D060G7.pdf>



Photos of deteriorated walkway at Seaside “Park” aka the landfill in Northampton County.





Idea for reprogrammed funds from Lewie Lawrence:

An \$8K- 10K project to understand how to create a positive rather than negative local economic impact when local revenues are lost due to new blue/green industries that currently do not have an adequate or required revenue stream back to local governments. Each of these industries is consuming coastal lands by extracting blue/green natural resources and converting those resources to credits or a product that is removed from the community, leaving the land restricted or converted to a lower land use classification that no longer generates the same or better revenue for the locality. A few examples.

- Solar- new solar installations convert ag lands that had generated local revenue to lands that don't – there is limited to no revenue from solar installations returned to local governments
- Carbon Credits- How or what restrictions are placed on the land area; how does the carbon tax credit revenue flow? Can any revenue flow to the local government?
- Nutrient Banks- Being built with no local permit required; they are not taxed; no revenue flows back to the locality- land is restricted
- Wetland banks- the upland land use value is lost when the land is converted to credits. Land is permanently converted to the lowest land use category, wetlands, and assessed at \$500 acre. All value is stripped away and converted to credits and sold.
- Sand and Gravel- millions and millions of tons of natural resources are being removed, no tax revenue returned to a locality. The locality is left with a pit that is filled with water that can't be used.

- Wind- no revenue return to a locality

Coal was managed and ended up with a “coal extraction fee” How did this come about and how do we model a natural resource extraction fee to address this loss of revenue?