

Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Management Technical Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2022 Final Report

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**HAMPTON ROADS COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Final Report

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Prepared by the staff of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission



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ABSTRACT

This report describes the environmental technical assistance program conducted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) during FY2022 through its Coastal Resources Management Program. This program encompasses environmental impact review, participation in state and federal programs, coordination of regional programs addressing environmental issues, public information and education, and technical assistance to Hampton Roads localities. It contains representative examples of the technical work, comment letters, outreach materials, and associated materials generated and used in assisting the region's seventeen (17) local governments, supporting the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (Virginia CZM), and working with the other Planning District Commissions (PDCs) in the Coastal Zone.

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Introduction

In March 2022, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) submitted a proposal to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (Virginia CZM) for funding to continue HRPDC's Technical Assistance Program. Through this program, HRPDC provides technical assistance on a variety of environmental and coastal resources management issues to its seventeen local governments and to coordinate their response to those issues.¹ It also provides assistance to the incorporated towns in the region as well as to a wide variety of other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and other for-profit and not-for-profit entities. This program has operated successfully with financial assistance from Virginia CZM since the latter's inception in 1986. In October 2022, HRPDC was awarded financial assistance to maintain its Technical Assistance Program through September 2023. This award was later extended through December 2023. This report provides an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program during that period.

The Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program is a comprehensive program, providing on-call staff capacity, regional coordination mechanisms, and technical analysis and research capabilities. It assists the region's localities on local issues in a timely manner, ensures a collective response to regional, state, and federal issues as they arise, and facilitates cooperation and coordination among the localities. The Technical Assistance Program provides the resources to begin many efforts which are later funded through specific grants or local assessments. In other cases, the program allows for the continuation of efforts after initial funding. Examples of these programs include HRPDC's work on the Chesapeake Bay Program, public access, and recreational trails. In several cases, Virginia CZM funding for this program has provided seed money allowing the region to undertake new environmental initiatives, such as the Regional Water Supply, Groundwater, Wastewater, Stormwater Management, and Coastal Resiliency Programs, including their public information and education components. These regional initiatives are now institutionalized and have been enhanced through dedicated local funding. These regional programs are unique examples of intergovernmental cooperation that promotes responsible use and management of coastal resources in the Commonwealth.

The Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program also enables HRPDC to participate in and support key elements of the Virginia CZM program, such as the environmental impact review (EIA) and federal consistency determination process, wetlands and dune regulations, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management regulations, air quality regulations, and several state water quality programs. This participation results in cost savings to the state by educating localities collectively about state and federal initiatives and coordinating local government input to these efforts. Over the past thirty-seven (37) years, several hundred local government staff members from the region's seventeen (17) local

¹ The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission consists of the Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg, the Counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry, and York, and the Town of Smithfield.

governments (Figure 1) have received technical training in wetlands regulations and delineation, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) implementation, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, low impact development, environmental site design, floodplain management, geographic information systems, land conservation, land use planning, resilience planning, green infrastructure, watershed management, and comprehensive coastal resources management. Local government board members, staff from other planning district commissions (PDCs), and representatives of the private sector also participated. As a result, the capacity of the region to address these issues has increased across the governmental, non-government, and private sectors.

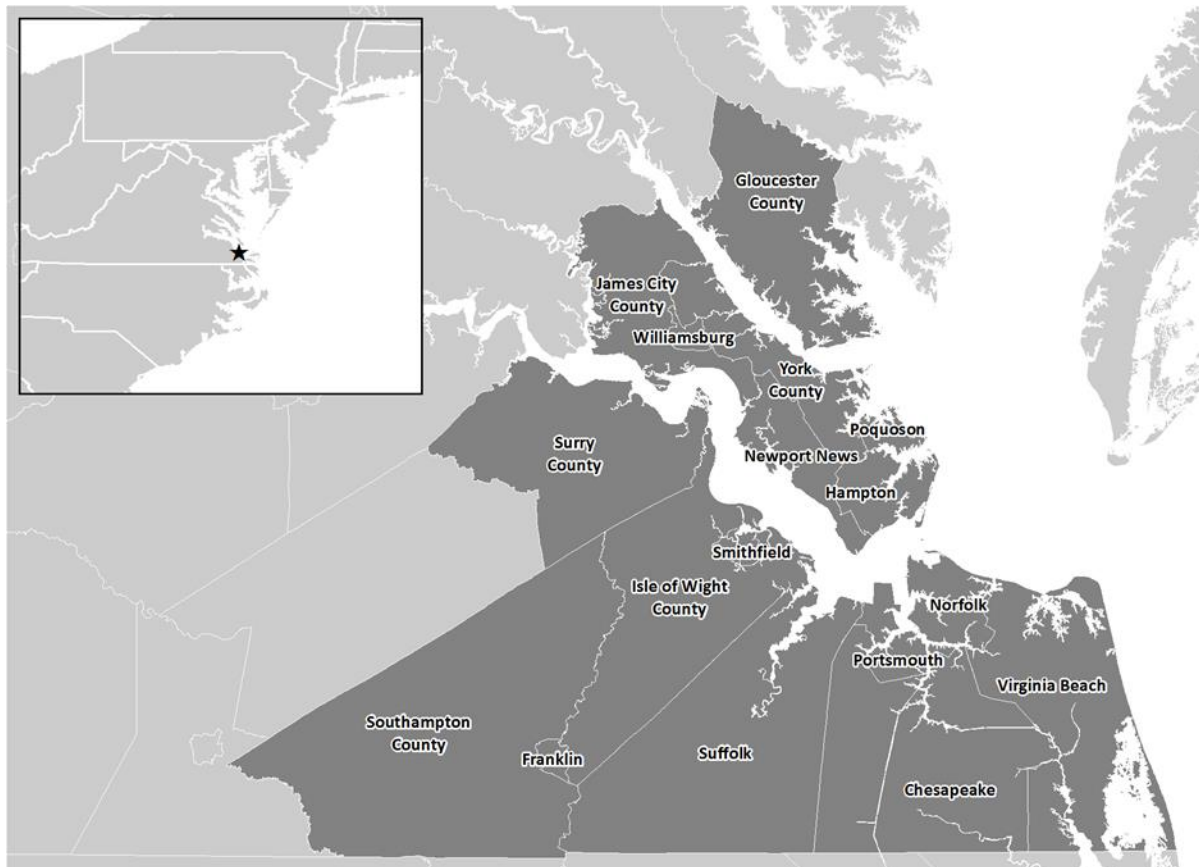


Figure 1: Map of Local Government Members of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Through review of environmental impact documents and coastal zone federal consistency determinations, the regional coastal resources management program has also facilitated rapid resolution of local government concerns with the impacts of state projects proposed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Community College System, state supported colleges and universities, and others, as well as federal projects such as federally funded or assisted construction projects, harbor dredging, military facility construction and operations, military-civilian encroachment issues, offshore energy and resource planning, and related resource management programs.

The Technical Assistance Program allows HRPDC to serve as a central source of environmental data and information, including water and wastewater data, soil surveys, historic aerial photographs, and regional

land use data. HRPDC also houses and collects a wide variety of GIS datasets from various federal, state, and local partners, such as U.S. Census data, high-resolution elevation data, and land cover data, as well as datasets developed by HRPDC and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). Many of these data resources and related applications are housed on HRPDC's regional GIS data portal, www.HRGEO.org, which was launched in 2018.

The FY 2022 – 2023 Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program enabled the region's localities to continue to address, in a comprehensive and integrated fashion, many aspects of coastal resources management - Chesapeake Bay issues (including the Chesapeake Bay Program and the CBPA), environmental impact review (EIR), local land use and comprehensive planning, alternative energy development, wetlands protection, shoreline management, coastal resiliency, public access, and GIS data analysis. The program has allowed the continuation of regional support for and participation in Virginia CZM activities, regional participation in other state and federal initiatives, completion of necessary technical studies, technical assistance to the region's localities, and conduct of public information and education activities.

Program Objectives

The Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program has six (6) primary objectives. These objectives, while expanded in scope, have remained largely the same since the program's inception. They are:

- 1) To assist Hampton Roads localities in implementing Virginia CZM recommendations, related state and federal environmental management programs, and related state legislation and regulations.
- 2) To support the Commonwealth of Virginia in implementing the Virginia CZM program through coordination of local and regional review of environmental impact assessments/statements and applications for state and federal environmental permits and related environmental documents and by serving as an information conduit between the state and localities on coastal resource management issues.
- 3) To complete regional environmental studies that are necessary to support local government consideration of state and federal priorities.
- 4) To enable the Hampton Roads region to continue to play an active role in the development, implementation, and refinement of the Virginia CZM program, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and related environmental initiatives.
- 5) To improve the coordination and quality of local and regional decision-making concerning coastal and related environmental resources.
- 6) To increase public awareness of the value of coastal resources and of the local and regional efforts to manage them.

To accomplish these objectives, a comprehensive program was structured involving a range of activities in the following categories: regional coordination, EIR, public information and education, training, regional technical studies, and technical assistance.

Program Accomplishments

EIA/EIS and Federal Consistency Review (Product #1)

HRPDC staff reviews and comments on applications for state and federal regulatory permits, including the associated Environmental Impact Assessments/Statements or federal consistency determinations. Local staff representatives are regularly contacted to identify any concerns individual local governments may have with specific projects. On occasion, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission may be informed on projects with significant regional or local impacts. Generally, no formal action is taken by the Commission as a result of these notifications. However, historically, the Commission has requested more extensive HRPDC staff and local government review of particular issues. HRPDC staff reviews requests for comments from DEQ and responds as appropriate. From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, HRPDC staff provided comments on one (1) federal consistency determination (DEQ #23-011F – ACOE North Landing Beach RV Resort and Cottages). HRPDC reviewed other projects as requests for comments were sent out by DEQ staff but did not provide comments. HRPDC, in cooperation with the localities, works to ensure that projects are coordinated with and meet local government requirements. HRPDC's responses are combined with any others from state agencies when DEQ makes its final determinations. While these determinations (and the collected comments) are conveyed back to HRPDC, DEQ staff does not generally identify any specific impacts to projects based on HRPDC staff comments. However, in several cases DEQ staff or staff from other state agencies have followed up with HRPDC staff to have comments clarified.

Coordination of review and comment on environmental documents with the region's localities is frequently problematic, because of time constraints placed on the review process by the state and, in some cases, by project applicants who request expedited review from the state. In addition, projects are often submitted for environmental impact review before designs are complete. Localities often wait for permit applications, which require complete designs and plans, prior to review.

Public Information, Education, and Training (Product #2)

An integral component of the Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program is the provision of public information and education on environmental issues in the Hampton Roads region. Provision of public information and education was identified by the participating localities at the outset of the program in 1986 as a critical need that could be met cooperatively through HRPDC. Since that time, HRPDC staff have provided written communications and briefings to the Commission and a wide range of interest groups on environmental issues and has provided regular briefings to many of those groups. These efforts continued during the grant year.

To ensure that the members of the HRPDC board are kept informed about the status of ongoing HRPDC coastal resources management program activities and pending environmental issues that may affect the Hampton Roads region, HRPDC staff routinely briefs the Commission on coastal resources management issues of importance. During the year, briefings were given to the HRPDC board on regional legislative

priorities, roadway flooding sensors, flood insurance outreach and education, greenhouse gas mitigation programs, and recycling.

HRPDC staff have provided briefings on regional environmental programs, environmental issues and state and federal regulations to a variety of groups and given presentations on related HRPDC technical studies and programs at several state, regional, and national conferences. Briefings are also provided to state agency boards, legislative commissions, local government planning commissions, city councils/county boards, and town councils on request. During the grant period, HRPDC staff presented individually or on panels on several environmental issues, including coastal resiliency, floodplain management, flood insurance, and locality-military coordination. These meetings and presentations are summarized in Table 1.

HRPDC regularly updates its website, www.hrpdcva.gov, with news articles and reports from HRPDC staff. During this grant, HRPDC planning staff posted nineteen (19) entries related to coastal management issues, covering topics such as drinking water resources, funding for flood protection projects, regional population trends, outdoor cleanup opportunities, recycling, flood insurance, and greenhouse gas mitigation. HRPDC staff continues to update the agency's website, adding and updating program information, meeting materials, presentations from conferences or other outside events, and technical reports and other work products. All Commission meeting agenda materials are now posted and available on the HRPDC website. The website also contains an extensive section devoted to HRPDC's regional planning, coastal resiliency, and water resources programs, including links to other federal, state, local, and private sector sites. Efforts to further enhance the website remain ongoing. A Commission Action Summary is posted after each meeting, and the meetings can be viewed on the organization's YouTube channel.² Recordings of many virtually held meetings have also been posted to the agency's website and YouTube channels.

² <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfXhXsIMTXxq9wEltbPBVg>

Table 1: FY22-23 Coastal Resources Presentations by HRPDC Staff

Date	Event/Audience	Presentation Title
October 26, 2022	Virginia Association of Floodplain Managers Annual Conference	"Resilient Design Guidelines for Hampton Roads"
October 31, 2022	Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation Forum	"Joint Land Use Study Implementation in Hampton Roads"
November 11, 2022	Center for Watershed Protection 2022 Coastal & Island Symposium	"Resilient Design Guidelines for Hampton Roads"
November 29, 2022	Chesapeake, VA Girl Scout Troop	Climate Resilience in Hampton Roads
January 12, 2023	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty	"GetFloodFluent Flood Insurance Calculator Update"
February 9, 2023	Coastal GeoTools 2023	"Resilient Design Guidelines for Hampton Roads"
February 22, 2023	Virginia Beach Vision/Greater Norfolk Corporation Joint Task Force	"Regional Coordination for a Resilient Hampton Roads"
April 4, 2023	Virginia Floodplain Managers Association (VFMA), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Norfolk Chapter's Joint Technical Seminar	"Regional Collaboration for Resilience in Hampton Roads"
April 6, 2023	Mid-Atlantic Planning Collaborative Webinar: "Compatible Use and Development with Military Installations: Volume II"	"Military-Locality Coordination for Resilience in Hampton Roads"
April 14, 2023	Biennial Bay-Wide Stormwater Partners' Retreat: Climate Change and Stormwater: Dealing with the Challenges of Coastal Stormwater Management"	"Resilient Stormwater Design Guidelines for Hampton Roads"
April 18, 2023	Hampton Roads Public Information Officers	"GetFloodFluent: Flood Insurance Calculator Update"
April 19, 2023	2023 Marine Board Spring Meeting	"Planning for a Resilient Waterfront Economy in Hampton Roads"
June 28, 2023	Navy Community Plans Liaison Officers Workshop	"Military-Locality Coordination for Resilience in Hampton Roads"
July 11, 2023	U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Climate Resilience Workshop: "Developing a "One Community" Response to Installation Resilience"	"Military-Locality Coordination for Resilience in Hampton Roads"
August 9, 2023	Chesapeake Bay Commission (Virginia Delegation)	"Military-Locality Coordination for Resilience in Hampton Roads"

Through the Regional Environmental Committee (REC) and other workgroups and committees, HRPDC staff has provided, facilitated, or hosted training on a variety of topics to localities. HRPDC has partnered with state or federal agencies on various training events by providing logistical support. HRPDC continues to partner with Old Dominion University (ODU) and Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) to hold meetings of the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise/Recurrent Flooding Adaptation Forum. HRPDC staff helps ODU faculty develop agendas, coordinate speakers, and publicize events. In addition, HRPDC staff have established a CBPA Working Group that brings together CBPA staff from each locality to share insights, ask questions, and discuss program implementation. This group met one (1) time during the grant year. HRPDC staff has also established a Coastal Resiliency Working Group to provide a forum for technical discussions on resiliency-related issues. This group met seven (7) times during the grant year. The nine (9) specific training opportunities are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Educational and Training Opportunities Provided in FY2022

Date	Topic	Event	Host	Attendance
November 3, 2022	Planning implications for historic racial segregation in housing; Environmental impacts of large-scale solar site development on agricultural soil productivity	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC*	71
December 1, 2022	Naval Weapons Station Yorktown Integrated Natural Resources Plan and shoreline restoration work	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC	32
January 5, 2023	NFIP Risk Rating 2.0 methodology and HRPDC flood insurance calculator	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC*	66
February 2, 2023	James City County Natural and Cultural Assets Plan	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC*	67
February 24, 2023	VDOT Resilience Plan	HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Working Group	HRPDC*	59
April 6, 2023	Improving resilience of wastewater treatment and transportation sectors	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC*	57
May 19, 2023	Flood mapping tools, data, and analysis and implications for transportation planning	Hampton Roads Adaptation Forum	ODU	67
June 1, 2023	USACE Continuing Authorities Program	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC	42

Date	Topic	Event	Host	Attendance
September 7, 2023	Virginia's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan	HRPDC Regional Environmental Committee	HRPDC	37

*These meetings were held virtually.

Regional Coordination Process (Product #3)

The regional coordination component of HRPDC's Coastal Resources Management Technical Assistance Program includes the facilitation of meetings between the area's local governments and other organizations as well as participation in state and federal programs. Through the regional coordination process, HRPDC works to ensure that local government planning and implementation activities in the areas of stormwater management, water supply and groundwater management, wastewater, Chesapeake Bay, sea level rise, floodplain management, resiliency, and coastal zone management are coordinated and mutually supportive. This coordination process provides opportunities for local government innovation and enhancement of activities in each of these areas.

The Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program enables HRPDC to maintain a regional coordination process on environmental issues while also providing links to other ongoing regional environmental programs. Through the REC, HRPDC staff support local governments in implementing legal requirements of various state and federal regulatory programs. This process also helps the region by providing support for coastal resources management and environmental education. The REC meets approximately ten (10) to twelve (12) times per year. The Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program also enables HRPDC staff to support regional coordination on issues related to coastal resiliency, sea level rise, recurrent flooding, and climate change adaptation. These issues fall under the purview of HRPDC's Coastal Resiliency Committee. The Coastal Resiliency Committee meets on a quarterly schedule, with additional working group discussions of technical matters scheduled for off-months when necessary. Additional information on these efforts is described in a later section of this report.

During this grant year, HRPDC staff continued local government coordination of ongoing consideration of various environmental issues. Stormwater management, the Chesapeake Bay Program, solar power, green infrastructure, and resilience continue to be issues of considerable interest. The meetings usually include presentations by HRPDC staff, local committee members, or state agency representatives and often include discussion of potential project ideas or responses to regulatory developments. Each meeting also includes opportunities for regional and local staff to provide status reports or ask questions on issues relevant to the committee. These meetings are all open to the public, and guests are allowed to ask questions and participate in discussions.

Regional Environmental Committee

The following meeting summaries describe the discussions of the HRPDC REC during the past year. During this grant year the Regional Environmental Committee met eleven (11) times. Four (4) of the meetings were held in person, while the rest were held virtually via Zoom. Alternating meeting formats between

in-person and virtual allows HRPDC staff to balance increasing attendance and accessibility with network building.

Meeting Date: October 6, 2022

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The meeting featured presentations from Mr. Matt Wells, DCR Director, on the Department's strategic priorities for the current administration, and from Ms. Robyn Woolsey from the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), who spoke about the District's living shoreline evaluation program. The meeting also included presentations from HRPDC staff on the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF), the Hampton Roads Datathon, and askHRgreen.org's FY22 annual summary.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included greater awareness of DCR's strategic goals for the next few years and awareness of its programs and priorities and knowledge of programs to support living shoreline implementation and funding for resilience projects.

Total Attendance: 52

Total Stakeholders: 32

Meeting Date: November 3, 2022

Summary: This meeting featured presentations from Dr. John Finn, Christopher Newport University (CNU), on the socio-environmental impacts of redlining in Hampton Roads communities, from Dr. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech, on the long-term implications for soil productivity from large scale solar site development, from Mr. Steve Raabe, OpinionWorks, on a survey of Virginia voters' perceptions and attitudes towards plastic pollution, and from Ms. Kathie Angle, Newport News, on the city's Flood Assistance Program.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased knowledge and awareness of how land use and other policies from previous decades continue to affect communities, the potential implications of solar developments for site reuse after they are decommissioned, and how communities can address flood risk.

Total Attendance: 71

Total Stakeholders: 36

Meeting Date: December 1, 2022

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was environmental restoration and resilience. This meeting featured presentations from Ms. Liz Friel, Living River Trust, on the Paradise Creek Restoration Project in Portsmouth, from Mr. Tom Olexa, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, and Mr. Scott Hardaway, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), on a living shoreline project currently being implemented at the installation, and from Mr. Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch, on the organization's "Catch the King" citizen science initiative. The meeting also included a briefing from HRPDC staff on the HRPDC board's annual retreat, which was focused on the Chesapeake Bay restoration and working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on coastal storm risk management studies, and a briefing on a funding opportunity for brownfields restoration projects.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased knowledge of environmental restoration projects, including challenges and opportunities for funding and implementation. The meeting also resulted in broader awareness of regional initiatives on flood risk and sea level rise education.

Total Attendance: 32

Total Stakeholders: 20

Meeting Date: January 5, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was sustainability and resilience. The meeting featured presentations from Ms. Emily Hinson, James River Association (JRA), on the organization's Living Shoreline Collaborative (LSC), and from Mr. Jon Nelson, Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD), on HRSD's Sustainable Environment Advocacy Group. The meeting also included updates and briefings from HRPDC staff on recommendations from the state's Waste Diversion and Recycling Task Force, updates to GetFloodFluent.org's flood insurance calculator, and the 2023 General Assembly session.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased awareness of regional legislative priorities and how other organizations are working internally and with partners to support environmental sustainability.

Total Attendance: 66

Total Stakeholders: 33

Meeting Date: February 2, 2023

Summary: This meeting featured presentations from Ms. Sarah Sterzing, Keep Norfolk Beautiful, on a litter report completed by Litterari that included Norfolk, from Mr. Fernando Pasquel, Arcadis, on the status of the 2023 Virginia Stormwater Handbook Update, from Mr. David Mergen, Chesapeake, on the new rule from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the Northern Long-eared Bat, and from Ms. Tammy Rosario, James City County, on the county's Natural and Cultural Assets Plan.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased understanding of state and federal regulatory changes, which will directly affect local decision-making, and increased knowledge of how localities can conduct natural resources planning.

Total Attendance: 67

Total Stakeholders: 35

Meeting Date: March 2, 2023

Summary: This meeting featured presentations from Dr. Elizabeth Malcolm, Virginia Wesleyan University, on the university's sustainability academic programs and other efforts, from Mr. Kyle Gilmer, HRTPO, on the Hampton Roads Regional Trails Report, and from Dr. KC Filippino, HRPDC, on the status of the solar energy regulatory advisory panel working on the Permit by Rule. The meeting also included briefings from HRPDC staff on how Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds are funding energy efficiency programs and on developments at the 2023 General Assembly session.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased knowledge of solar regulations developments and regional sustainability initiatives, including coordination with transportation planners, and awareness of state legislative developments.

Total Attendance: 29

Total Stakeholders: 17

Meeting Date: April 1, 2023

Summary: The primary topics of this meeting were resilience and the Chesapeake Bay. The meeting featured a presentation from Ms. Jess Kraus, Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC), on two white papers written by VCPC students and staff that focused on incorporating resilience into the wastewater treatment and transportation sectors. The meeting also included a presentation from Ms. Julie Mawhorter, U.S. Forest Service, on Tree Cover Fact Sheets developed through the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership, which offer communities information and data on tree canopy and associated benefits. The meeting also included updates from HRPDC staff on the CFPF, relevant state legislation and budget discussions, and outcomes from the 2023 Environment Virginia Symposium.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included training on applications of resilience into transportation and wastewater planning and policy and on a new tool from the Chesapeake Bay Program as well as increased awareness of state legislative and budget developments.

Total Attendance: 57

Total Stakeholders: 28

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was on natural resources management and protection. The meeting featured presentations from Dr. Wendy Stout, Virginia Tech, on the Virginia Tech Coastal Collaborator Center in Hampton, from Mr. Nathan Burrell, Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), on grant programs available to local governments for open space acquisition and programming, and from Ms. Ariana Taylor, Dominion Energy, on the company's supply chain sustainability efforts. The meeting also included briefings from HRPDC on an analysis comparing built parking lots with local zoning requirements, on a project to design and implement water quality improvements in HRPDC's main parking lot, and on recent and ongoing environmental education initiatives with askHRgreen.org.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased awareness of grant and partnership opportunities with universities and NGOs.

Total Attendance: 59

Total Stakeholders: 31

Meeting Date: June 2, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was environmental protection and restoration. The meeting featured presentations from Ms. Michelle Hamor and Ms. Kim Koelsch, USACE, on technical assistance opportunities through the agency's Continuing Authorities Programs, from Ms. Kendall Topping, Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF), on efforts to promote urban trees, and from Ms. Kati Grigsby, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), on restoration projects in Norfolk and Portsmouth. The meeting also included a briefing from HRPDC staff on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and general observations from Mr. Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased awareness of opportunities for localities to partner with the USACE for technical assistance and knowledge of miscellaneous environmental programs.

Total Attendance: 42

Total Stakeholders: 21

Meeting Date: August 3, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was on environmental programs and regulations. The meeting featured a presentation from Ms. Olivia Caretti, Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP), on oyster restoration best management practices that will be approved by the Chesapeake Bay for nutrient reduction credits. The meeting also included briefings from HRPDC staff on NOAA's Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) program and the draft Virginia Runoff Reduction Method 4.0 as well as a discussion of potential regional comments on the new grant manuals for the CFPF and the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included draft regional comments on the CFPF Fund and Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund draft grant manuals and greater knowledge and awareness of changes in the Chesapeake Bay Program and Virginia's stormwater regulations.

Total Attendance: 58

Total Stakeholders: 32

Meeting Date: September 7, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was on environmental programs. The meeting featured a presentation from Mr. Glenn Oder, Fort Monroe Authority, on the organization, fort, and efforts to commemorate the arrival of the first African slaves in America with a new memorial. The meeting also included presentations from Ms. Becky Gwynn, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), on the Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, from Mr. Mark Bennett, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Virginia and West Virginia Science Center, on the center's monitoring programs, and from Mr. Andrew Larkin, NOAA, on the York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable (YRSCBR)'s Coastal Wetlands Plan.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased awareness of the Fort Monroe Authority and its activities and knowledge of Virginia's Wildlife Corridor Action Plan and the York River Coastal Wetlands Plan.

Total Attendance: 37

Total Stakeholders: 20

Participation in State and Federal Programs

Several state and federal environmental programs encourage using regional organizations as a cost-effective mechanism for informing and engaging local governments and seeking their input. For example, the Chesapeake Bay Program in both its 1996 and 2002 Local Government Participation Action Plans recommended better use of technical assistance providers such as PDCs to serve as vehicles to distribute information and outreach on Chesapeake Bay-related issues. It also suggested developing a network of local officials and staff with expertise in dealing with resource protection issues. Virginia's Regional Cooperation Act strongly recommends this type of role for PDCs. Several programs, including Virginia CZM as well as state agencies such as DCR, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and DEQ, use the PDCs in this manner. Historically, NOAA's Section 312 evaluation of Virginia's CZM program has recognized the benefits and cost-effectiveness of the network of PDCs in supporting Virginia CZM and in assisting their member local governments.

In the Hampton Roads region, the Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program and HRPDC's various committees help provide this function. Both HRPDC staff and local government members of these committees (including the REC, Directors of Utilities Committee, and Coastal Resiliency Committee) frequently serve on state and federal advisory groups. On a regular basis, the participating localities request that HRPDC staff serve as their representative to these advisory groups. Alternatively, the committees may recommend a local government member to represent the region. In both cases, HRPDC committees provide all seventeen (17) member localities with a mechanism to participate, at least indirectly, in many state or federal programs and efforts. Also, data and information on Hampton Roads conditions are provided by the Hampton Roads representative (HRPDC or local government staff) to state and federal agencies on behalf of the localities, thus minimizing state and federal agency data collection and input costs. During FY2022, this program included regional participation in state or federal programs addressing water quality, resiliency, stormwater management, groundwater management, and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

HRPDC staff work closely with state and federal agencies on coordination of programs as they affect the Hampton Roads region. This work involves follow-up to previous studies conducted by HRPDC with Virginia CZM funding, serving on advisory committees supporting plan and regulatory development, and development of new cooperative initiatives involving state, local, federal, and private or non-governmental entities. During the past year, this included participating on the YRSCBR and its Habitat Restoration Steering Committee (habitat protection and restoration), the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan (VCRMP) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and several subcommittees (resilience), the Resilience Coordination Working Group (resilience), Virginia CZM's Shoreline Stakeholders Group (SSG) (natural resource protection), JRA's LSC (natural resource protection and resilience), the Land Conservation Capacity in Hampton Roads workgroup (natural resource protection), and others. HRPDC staff also participated on local committees for Newport News's floodplain management plan and Hampton's Living with Water effort.

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

During the grant period, HRPDC staff continued to participate in Coastal Zone PDC meetings, contributing to the ongoing refinement of the Virginia CZM Program. HRPDC staff participated in two (2) Coastal Policy Team (CPT) meetings on February 15, 2023, and September 21, 2023. HRPDC staff also participated in three (3) Coastal PDC meetings on February 21, 2023 (hosted by Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC)), May 24, 2023 (hosted by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC)), and August 31, 2023 (hosted by Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)).

The Coastal PDCs provide a network linking all regional agencies and localities in the Coastal Zone to address environmental issues. In recent years this network has provided support for multi-regional partnerships and initiatives, including the Chesapeake Bay, coastal resilience, ecotourism, working waterfronts, and planning for the Lower Chickahominy River Watershed. HRPDC staff have played an integral role in the development and enhancement of these larger networks. During the past year, HRPDC

staff continued to PlanRVA's coordination of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC) by participating on the steering committee and workgroups.

Chesapeake Bay Program

The Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program continues to support HRPDC's participation, on behalf of its member localities, in the Chesapeake Bay Program. Beginning in FY 1998-1999, this element of the Program received greatly increased emphasis through several initiatives, including the renewal of the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, establishment of a Metropolitan Areas Work Group, development of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement 2000 and development of new and revised Chesapeake Bay Program Implementation Strategies. The Commission's involvement with the Chesapeake Bay Program continued with the development of the Tributary Strategies and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and aiding localities in complying with stormwater management permit requirements continue to be a major focus of HRPDC's environmental work.

In addition, both HRPDC and Hampton Roads local government staff maintain involvement on various federal and state advisory and regulatory committees. While this participation is also funded by other programs, HRPDC provides a forum, through the REC and Coastal Resiliency Committee, for those representatives to gather information and responses from other local governments in the region and to convey information from these advisory groups back to the region. HRPDC staff currently participates in the Chesapeake Bay Program's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team and Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG). This participation includes attending in-person meetings when possible and otherwise participating in conference calls or virtual meetings. HRPDC staff also supports the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) as needed. During this past year this support also included presenting at the LGAC's December 2022 quarterly meeting as a speaker.

Regional Technical Studies and Special Projects (Product #4)

HRPDC staff regularly coordinates with local and regional partners to identify timely and appropriate special projects or technical studies that address important regional issues. HRPDC staff and regional advisory committees identify potential topics for special projects or technical studies during the grant application process, but often there are important issues that arise during the grant year, and this grant allows HRPDC staff to respond to those needs as they occur. During FY2022, HRPDC staff identified and completed four (4) such projects: continued improvements and updates to the FishSwimPlay.com website; support for the LCWC; analysis of the CFPF, including development of a dashboard showing information on projects in Hampton Roads; and development of a proposal to acquire new LiDAR data in partnership with USGS.

FishSwimPlay.com Improvements

FishSwimPlay.com was originally created by HRPDC staff in 2017 as part of a previous Virginia CZM grant focusing on improving public access to the water in Hampton Roads. The map application was built on Esri's ArcGIS Online platform and includes locations and other information on a wide variety of public access facilities in Hampton Roads, including boat ramps, canoe and kayak launches, fishing piers, observation decks, and others. Since the site's launch HRPDC staff has been investigating ways to improve it, either by amending the format to promote greater usability or by adding additional sites or information. During this past grant year, HRPDC staff completed several upgrades to the Esri Experience that were started in the previous grant year. The site now includes a landing page (Figure 2) that directs users to three separate applications for water access (Figure 3), parks (Figure 4), and regional trails (Figure 5). Each of the applications includes a map feature that lets users navigate around the region and summary information on each site as well as the ability to select facilities by type or search by name. Work during the past year included extensive coordination with HRTPO's staff to incorporate ongoing regional trails planning and existing facilities.

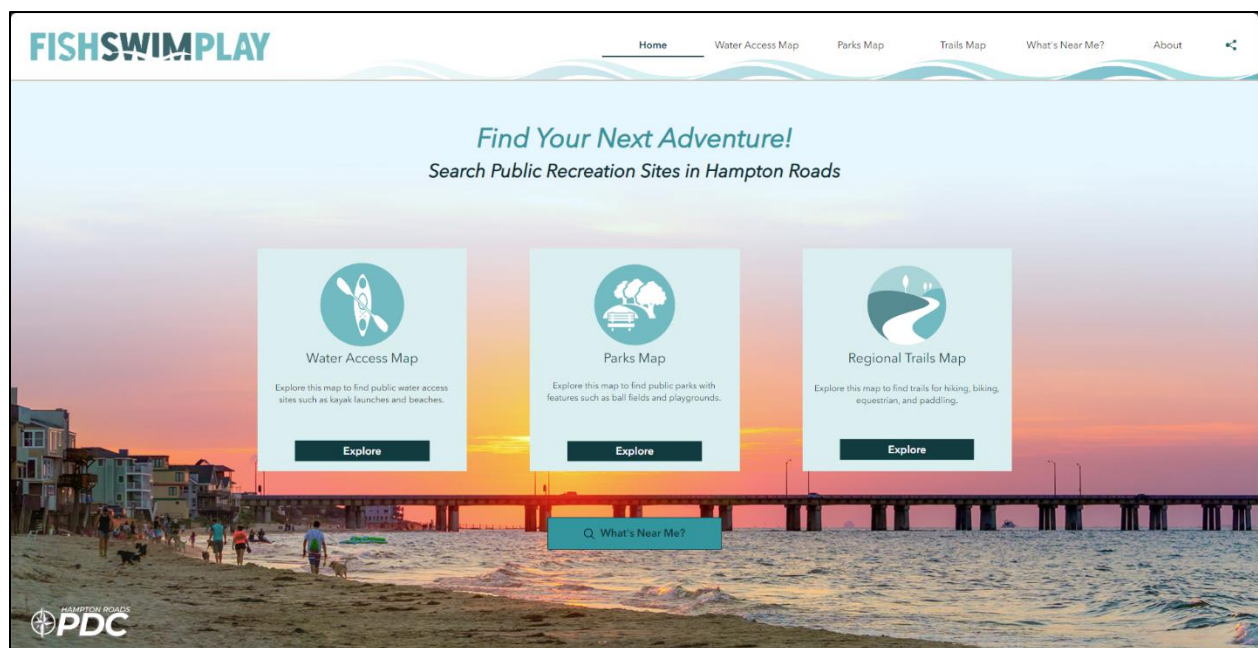


Figure 2: Screenshot of the FishSwimPlay.com Landing Page

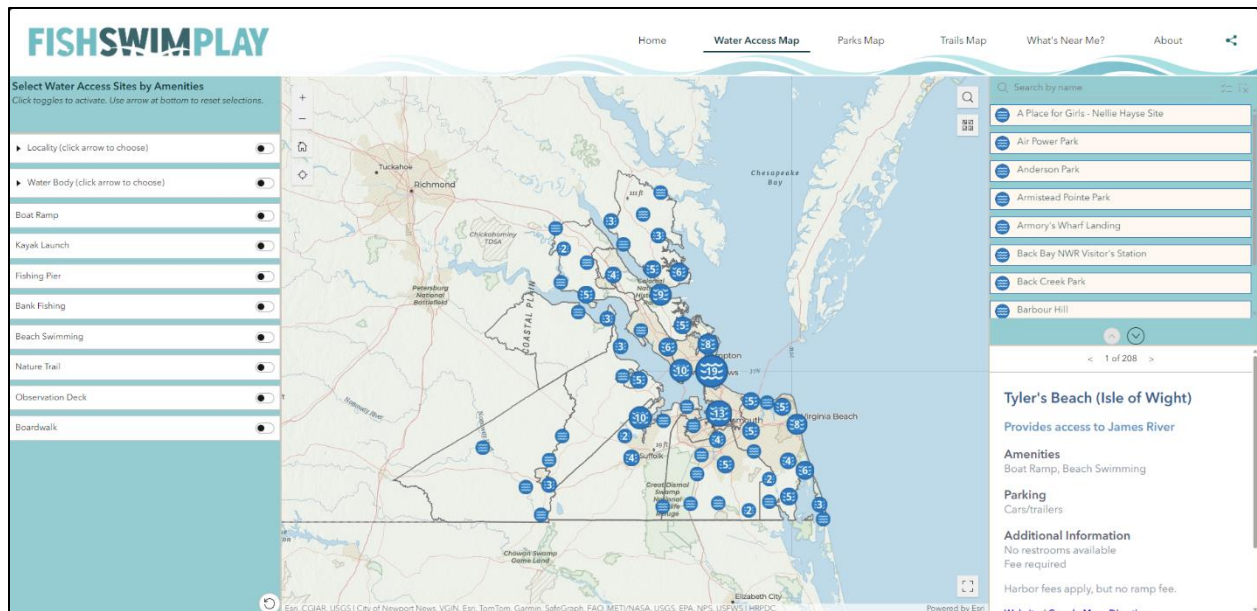


Figure 3: Screenshot of the New FishSwimPlay.com Water Access Tool

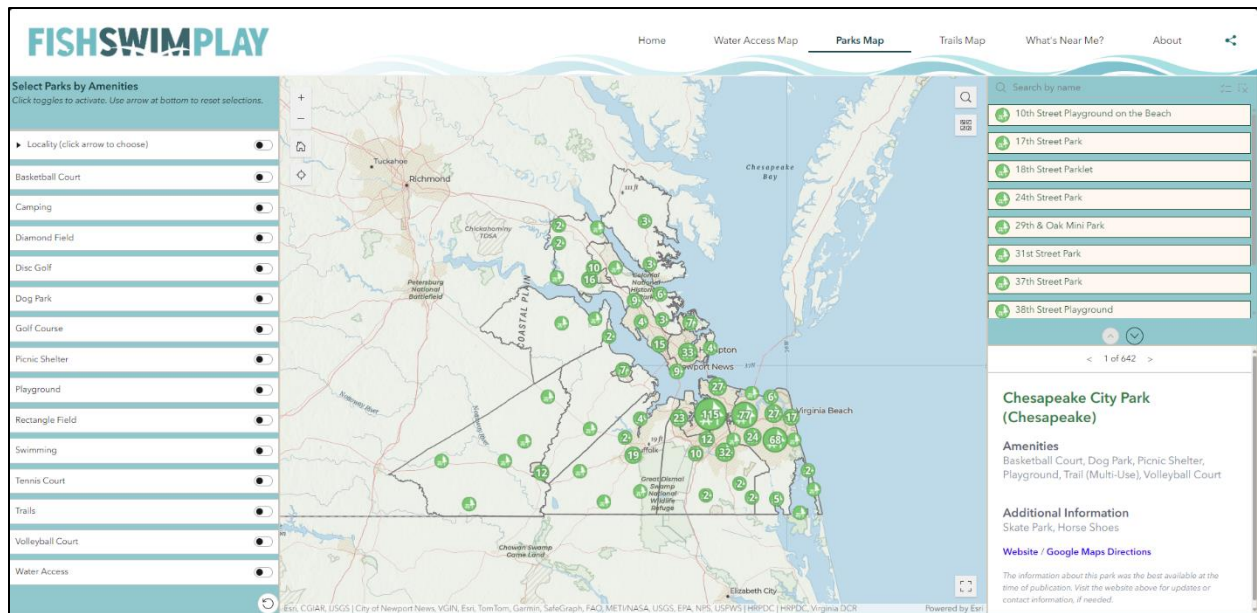


Figure 4: Screenshot of the New FishSwimPlay.com Parks Tool

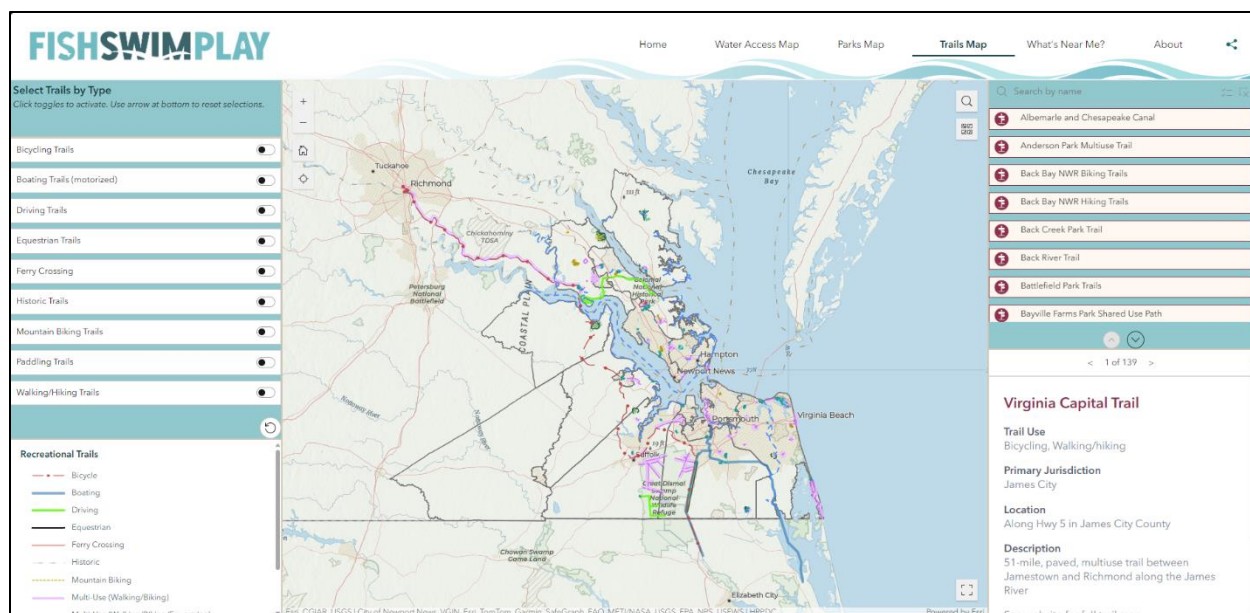


Figure 5: Screenshot of the New FishSwimPlay.com Regional Trails Tool

Future steps for maintaining and updating FishSwimPlay.com include optimizing the site to work with mobile devices and continuing to work with local and regional partners to update data.

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

HRPDC staff continue to support the LCWC, which is led by PlanRVA. This support includes appointing a representative to be on the Steering Committee, participating in planning discussions for summits and other meetings, and attending workgroup meetings. During the past grant year, HRPDC staff participated in two meetings of the Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship Workgroup (November 14, 2022, March 15, 2023) and one meeting of the Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions Workgroup (March 13, 2023). During these meetings HRPDC staff participated in discussions and reviewed project materials.

Community Flood Preparedness Fund Analysis and Tools

The CFPF was established by the General Assembly in 2020. The CFPF was originally funded through proceeds from Virginia's participation in RGGI; 45% of all proceeds were allocated to the CFPF. The CFPF provides funding for local governments for three categories: planning and capacity building, studies, and flood protection projects. HRPDC has tracked developments with the CFPF, available funding, and award announcements and trends since its inception. The HRPDC board has consistently advocated for state funding of local resilience initiatives. To support this, HRPDC staff compiled information on CFPF funding and awards and created two (2) online products to share that information with locality staff and officials. These included an Esri Storymap (Figure 6) which includes overall summaries of awarded funding for proposals in Hampton Roads across all three categories and descriptions of projects awarded through the third grant round.

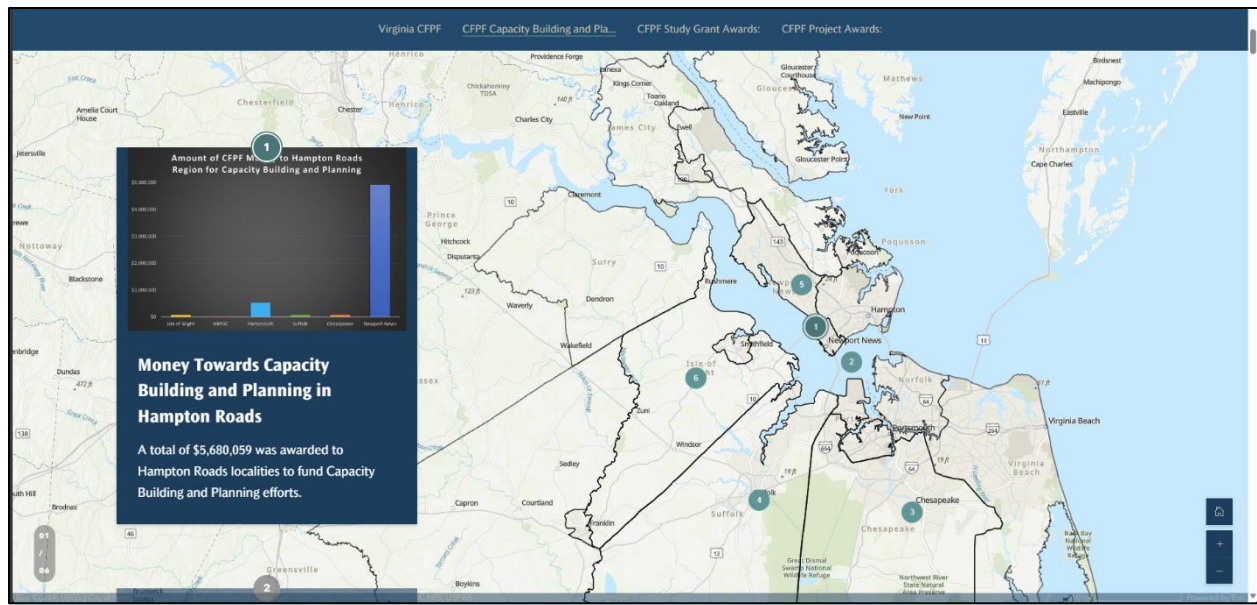


Figure 6: Screenshot of the HRPDC CFPF Storymap

The second tool created for this effort is an Esri Dashboard, which contains more data and information on each of the projects that were awarded CFPF grants in Hampton Roads. Projects include activities such as property acquisition, wetland, floodplain, and stream restoration, living shorelines, structural flood protection, stormwater management system upgrades, and other on-the-ground implementation efforts. The dashboard (Figure 7) summarizes project data by locality and grant award and includes a map and detailed information for each of the projects awarded through the third grant round.

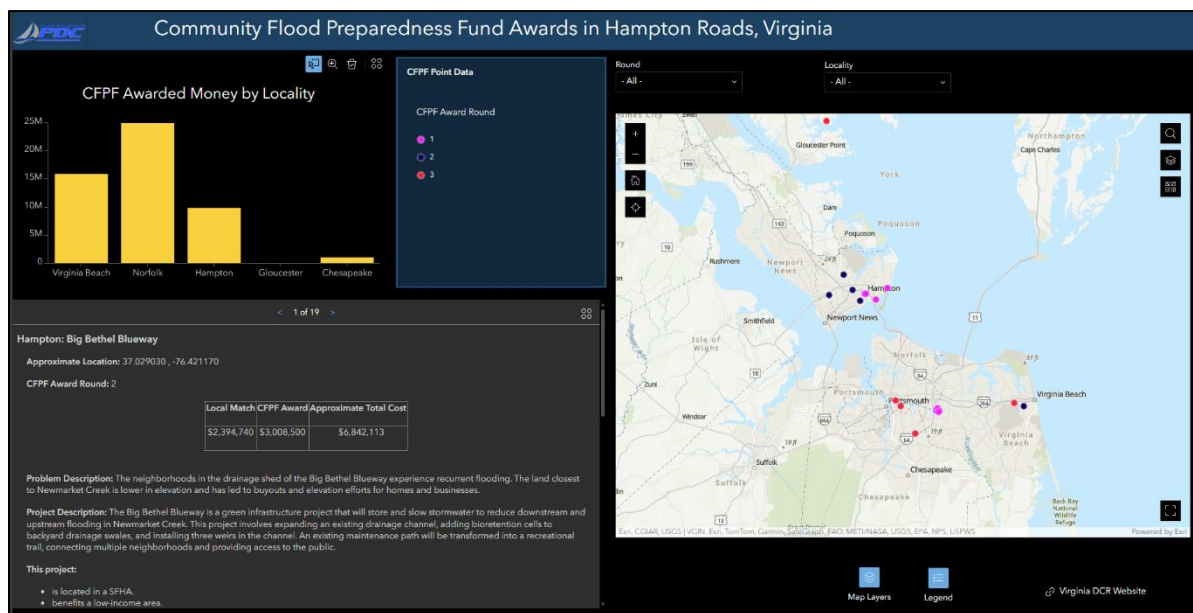


Figure 7: Screenshot of the HRPDC Dashboard

HRPDC regularly updates locality staff through the Coastal Resiliency Committee about developments with the CFPF and related programs and intends to maintain and update these tools in the future as additional efforts are awarded CFPF funding.

LiDAR Data Proposal

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data is remotely collected range data. It is often used for the collection of topographic data. In Hampton Roads, LiDAR data is used for many local, regional, and state analyses for land use planning, floodplain management, and other purposes. The accuracy and resolution of the data makes it critically important for resilience planning. In 2013, HRPDC, along with HRSD, ODU, and the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), helped fund a USGS-led effort to acquire data for eight (8) localities in eastern Hampton Roads that overlapped with an area of interest that had been previously identified by the U.S. DoD. In December 2022, HRPDC staff reached out to contacts at several federal agencies to identify potential partnership and funding opportunities for collecting new LiDAR data for the same localities (other Hampton Roads localities had already received new LiDAR data from unrelated efforts). This outreach resulted in ongoing and extensive communication and coordination with staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USGS. Through this coordination and working with localities to determine interest and potential funding, HRPDC staff developed and submitted a proposal in May 2023 under the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) program to fund the acquisition of new LiDAR data for eight localities in Hampton Roads: Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and York County (Figure 8). HRPDC was notified that the proposal was recommended for funding in late May 2023, and the final joint funding agreement was signed in August 2023.

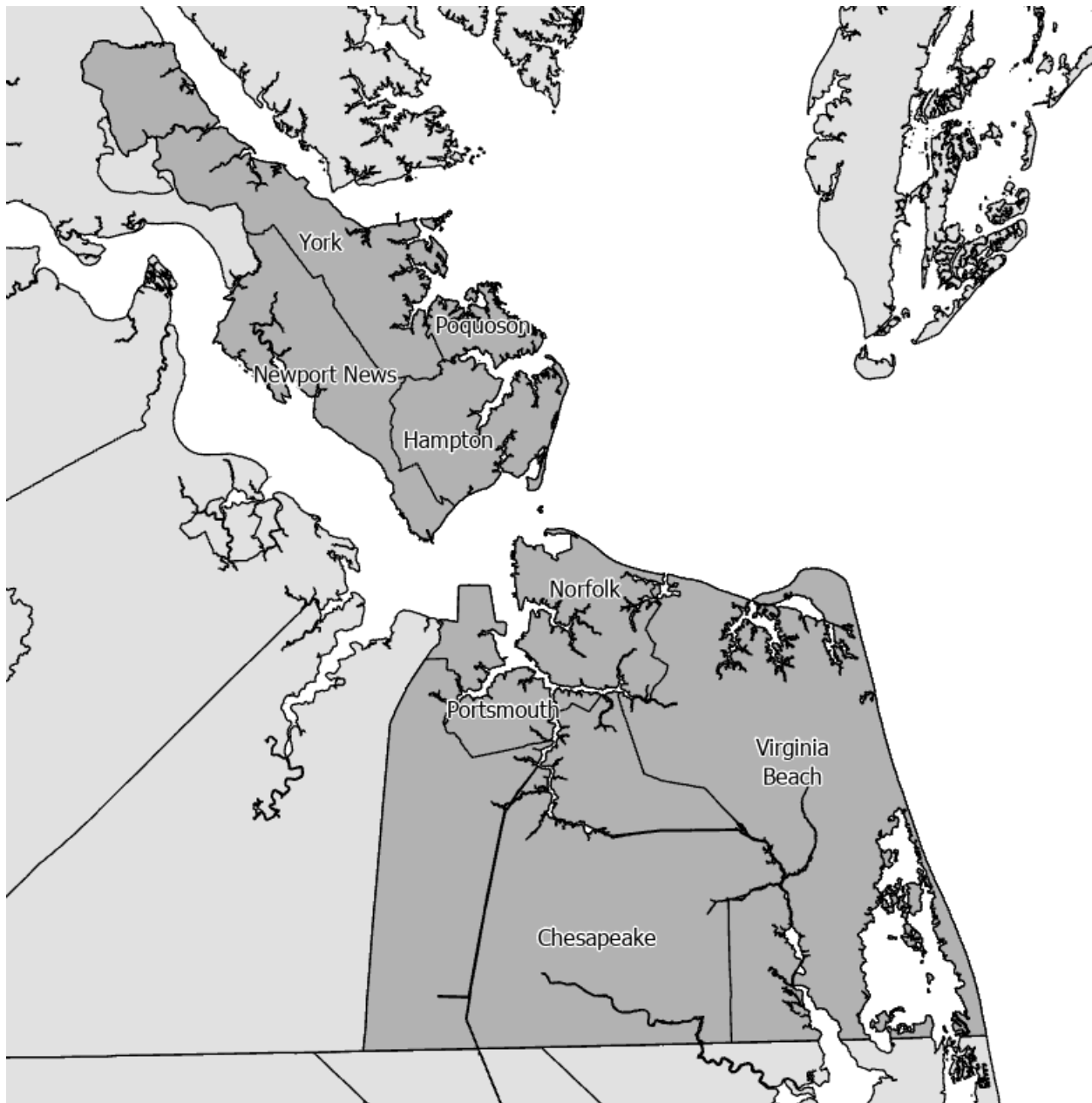


Figure 8: Project Map Submitted for Hampton Roads BAA LiDAR Proposal

Data collection will be conducted by USGS contractors. Data will be acquired at the QL1 topographic data quality level, with a vertical accuracy of 10 cm, a nominal pulse spacing of less than or equal to 0.35 m, a nominal pulse density of 8 points per square meter, and a digital elevation model cell size of 0.5 m. Data collection will also be tidally coordinated. After submission, the project scope was later expanded to include Virginia's Eastern Shore. Additional coordination on flight scheduling, data review, and other decisions will be completed in 2024. Final data delivery is expected in 2025.

Local Assistance and Coordination

This element of the Hampton Roads Technical Assistance Program entails staff support and assistance to local governments and private entities as they address key coastal resources and other environmental

issues such as sea level rise adaptation, floodplain management, water quality, land conservation, habitat restoration, shoreline management, energy development, wetlands and dune protection, public access, and nonpoint source pollution in their comprehensive planning processes and related activities. Specific local projects or issues to be addressed through this element are identified by the localities throughout the grant year. These requests encompass assisting on grant proposals or permit issues, identifying of state or federal agencies that may be of assistance for local projects, providing information about legislation or regulations, identifying technical resources that may be useful to a locality, or responding to an elected official's request for information. The localities and others frequently turn to HRPDC for assistance on GIS mapping and analysis projects. Through this element of the program, HRPDC staff also assists private or non-profit entities in their initiatives. A major component of these services is the maintenance and sharing of GIS data on a variety of topics. During this grant year, HRPDC staff assisted localities with data needs for resiliency (e.g., sea level rise inundation areas) and provided input on GIS data for use in Norfolk's comprehensive plan update. HRPDC staff also updated regional outdoor recreation data layers, developed new layers for existing and future regional land use, and maintained and updated the regional parcels layer. In addition, HRPDC staff continues to work with local government representatives to identify research priorities for issues of interest. HRPDC staff continues to utilize the region's GIS data portal, www.HRGEO.org, by adding GIS datasets created as part of regional initiatives and developing Storymaps, Dashboards, and other applications. This portal provides a convenient way for HRPDC and HRTPO to share data with outside organizations. A "Map of the Month" feature highlights a new topic each month. In the past year, these topics included an analysis of predominant housing types across Hampton Roads³, results from the 2023 Great American Cleanup in Hampton Roads⁴, and new boundaries for Hampton Roads Urban Areas⁵ and the Virginia Beach-Chesapeake-Norfolk Metropolitan Statistical Area and Urban Areas⁶. HRPDC has also been working towards expanding its GIS capacity across the organization. During this grant year, this effort resulted in a GIS Needs Assessment that was completed in March 2023 and a GIS Strategic Plan that was completed in June 2023.

Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants (Product #5)

In October 2008, HRPDC was awarded the first of a series of grants by Virginia CZM to study the impacts of climate change on the Hampton Roads region and identify potential responses to those impacts (FY '08 Task 12.03). Additional grants were awarded in 2009 (FY '09 Task 12.04), 2010 (FY '10 Task 12.04), 2011 (FY '11 Task 51), 2014 (FY '13 Task 54), 2015 (FY '15 Task 94.01), 2017 (FY '17 Task 84), 2018 (FY '18 Task 84), 2019 (FY '19 Task 84), 2020 (FY '20 Task 43), 2021 (FY '21 Task 43), and 2022 (FY '22 Task 43). These efforts have required considerable research and analysis and have resulted in several reports which are now available on HRPDC's website. These reports document the results of various analyses and investigations and form the basis for an ongoing regional discussion of how local governments in Hampton Roads should respond to climate change impacts, particularly sea level rise. Based in part on this work, HRPDC's member localities have consistently recognized the importance of these issues and have support

³ <https://www.hrgeo.org/apps/bdfa21be4e6745bb8595e4dde2390f75/explore>

⁴ <https://www.hrgeo.org/apps/9cbb814a350d4e9eab1563f75aa13023/explore>

⁵ <https://www.hrgeo.org/apps/4c30ff7b764440e59db51548c6f66c6c/explore>

⁶ <https://hrpdc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=265d86be640148879b3aa5f1bb0d298f>

regional coordination to address them. In 2016 HRPDC created a new, locally funded Coastal Resiliency Program, to provide coordination and technical assistance services to the region's localities. This program has been supplemented in recent years with focused discussions from the region's chief administrative officers and a new subcommittee of the HRPDC board.

Support from Virginia CZM through focal area and Technical Assistance grants has been foundational for HRPDC's coordination and technical work. This has allowed HRPDC staff to develop not only expertise and capacity in these matters but also to be able to identify gaps and opportunities. During this past year, HRPDC finalized, submitted, and began work on two (2) proposals to the CFPF, one (1) for a capacity building initiative supporting locality participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), which received \$15,000, and one (1) for four (4) separate technical studies to support locality resilience planning and analysis, which was awarded \$115,000. These grant projects are anticipated to be completed by the middle of 2024 and will further advance the region's resiliency goals. In addition, these grants are being coordinated with localities through the various committees that have previously participated in HRPDC's coastal resources management efforts, including the REC, the Directors of Utilities Committee, the Coastal Resiliency Committee, regional stormwater workgroup, and regional CBPA workgroup. The capacity that has been developed over the years at the local and regional level allows for these projects to target specific needs and to use local staff knowledge and experience to improve the projects.

Resilience Planning (Product #6)

This product encompasses HRPDC's regional resiliency initiatives that are supported by Virginia CZM, including coordination efforts.

Resilience Coordination

HRPDC coordinates and manages a regional resiliency program that includes policy development, technical analysis, research, and coordination. The coordination aspect of this program is conducted through the HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee, which includes representatives designated by each HRPDC locality chief administrative officer. The committee provides feedback on regional initiatives, serves as a forum for discussing best practices and sharing information, and helps develop regional recommendations. The following meeting summaries describe the discussions of the HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee during the past year. During this grant year the Coastal Resiliency Committee met four (4) times.

Meeting Date: December 9, 2022

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was coastal hazards. The meeting featured updates from HRPDC staff on the CFPF, the HRPDC board's submitted public comments on proposed regulations from the State Air Pollution Control Board related to RGGI, the VCRMP, and HRPDC's 2023 legislative agenda. The meeting also included several updates from committee members and other participants.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased awareness of state resiliency planning and funding efforts.

Total Attendance: 48

Total Stakeholders: 30

Meeting Date: March 24, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was coastal hazards. The meeting featured a presentation from Mr. Kyle Spencer, Norfolk, on the city's Ohio Creek Watershed Project, a resilience implementation project funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which is nearing completion. The meeting also included a briefing from Mr. Paul Robinson, Resilient, Inclusive, & Sustainable Environments (RISE), on the organization's most recent challenge, "Flood Insurance of the Future." The meeting also included updates on discussion from the Coastal Resiliency Working Group and on the regional resilient design standards initiative, the VCRMP, the CFPF, and updates to GetFloodFluent.org.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased knowledge of how resilience projects can be implemented in Hampton Roads, including lessons learned, and increased awareness of opportunities to partner with businesses that are working with RISE.

Total Attendance: 30

Total Stakeholders: 24

Meeting Date: June 23, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was coastal hazards. The meeting featured a presentation from Mr. Rob Martz, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and Mr. Mike Morgan, CDM Smith, on HRSD's new Climate Resilience Plan. It also featured a presentation from Mr. C. J. Bodnar and Ms. Kristina Searles, Virginia Beach, on the city's Back Bay Marsh Terrace Project. The meeting also included updates from HRPDC staff on the regional hazard mitigation plan, new LiDAR elevation data, roadway flooding sensors, the CFPF, the VCRMP, and the Resilience Coordination Working Group. The meeting also include a briefing from the HRTPO staff on efforts to incorporate resilience into the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased knowledge of resilience planning and implementation efforts by HRSD and Virginia Beach, awareness of the state of resilience planning and funding in Virginia, and coordination with regional transportation planners.

Total Attendance: 30

Total Stakeholders: 20

Meeting Date: September 29, 2023

Summary: The primary focus of this meeting was coastal hazards. The meeting featured updates from HRPDC staff on the CFPF, Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund, regional roadway flooding sensors project, the FY25 Coastal Resiliency Program budget, the state Resilience Coordination Working Group, resilience related grant programs from NOAA, the scoring of the regional hazard mitigation plan for points under the CRS, the VCRMP, and HRPDC's 2024 legislative agenda.

Outcome(s): Outcomes of this meeting included increased awareness of the current status of resilience planning in Virginia, including funding and potential changes to the state's planning structures and processes, and support for the FY25 HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Program work program and budget.

Total Attendance: 42

Total Stakeholders: 30

The Coastal Resiliency Working Group provides a forum for in-depth discussion of policy and technical issues that require more time and focus than is available during typical committee meetings. During this grant year, the Coastal Resiliency Working Group met seven (7) times on October 28, 2022, January 27, 2023, February 24, 2023, April 28, 2023, May 10, 2023, July 21, 2023, and September 13, 2023. Topics included the VCRMP, the CFPF, VDOT's Resilience Plan, RISE challenge winners, the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, regional transportation planning, resiliency legislation, and roadway flooding sensors.

Regional Resilience Technical Assistance (Product #7)

HRPDC regional resilience technical assistance efforts included: supporting the Virginia CZM resilience database, supporting the VCRMP, and identifying regional resilience priorities and needs.

Coastal Zone Resilience Database Support

HRPDC staff continued to maintain and update its resilience project database and dashboard tool (see Figure 9). This tool allows for convenient access to regional project data that can be downloaded and used by other partners such as Virginia CZM and the VCRMP TAC members. The dashboard⁷, which can be found on [www.HRGEO.org](https://www.hrgeo.org), was first published in May 2019 and has been updated several times since to make sure that information on the included projects is current. HRPDC worked during the grant year to update the database and develop a more coordinated approach to concurrently updating the HRPDC database and the VCRMP resilience project database. HRPDC staff anticipates updating the online dashboard in 2024 to take advantage of new online tools.

⁷ <https://www.hrgeo.org/apps/hampton-roads-resilience-projects-dashboard/explore>

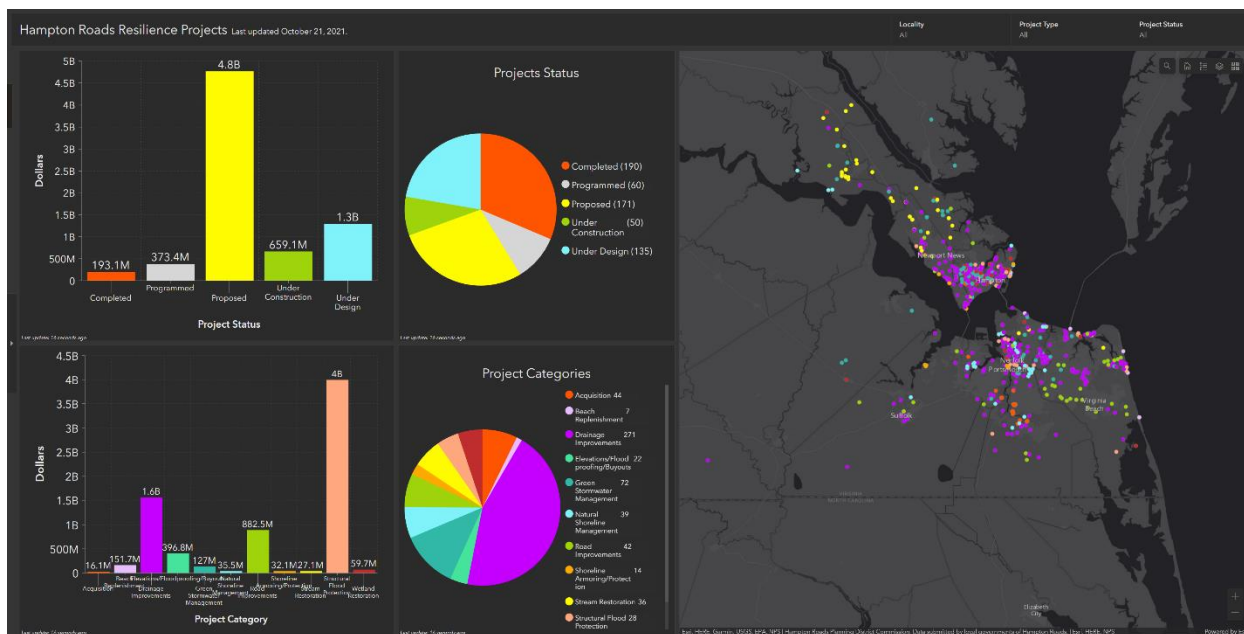


Figure 9: Screenshot of the Hampton Roads Resilience Projects Dashboard

Coastal Resiliency Master Plan Development Support

During this grant year HRPDC staff continued to support the VCRMP development. Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer, and Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Chief Resilience Officer, served on the VCRMP TAC and on several subcommittees. Participation included attending and participating in quarterly TAC meetings on December 1, 2022, March 16, 2023, June 27, 2023, and September 19, 2023. HRPDC staff also attended the Annual Flood Preparedness Coordination Meeting on June 28, 2023. In addition to the TAC, HRPDC staff attended and participated in subcommittee meetings on August 17, 2023 (Project Prioritization Subcommittee), August 22, 2023 (Research, Data, and Innovation Subcommittee), and August 24, 2023 (Funding Subcommittee).

Ms. Katchmark was also asked to participate in the Resilience Coordination Working Group, a group convened by the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (SNHR) to develop recommendations for legislative and policy changes to improve the ways the Commonwealth plans for and implements resilience programs and policies. Ms. Katchmark participated in meetings on January 31, 2023, February 28, 2023, March 28, 2023, April 28, 2023, May 31, 2023, June 27, 2023, August 1, 2023, August 25, 2023, and September 26, 2023.

Identification of Regional Resilience Priorities and Needs

During this grant year, HRPDC staff continued to work with the HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee, locality chief administrative officers, and the HRPDC board to identify and refine key priorities for new public policies, funding needs, and data needs. These discussions were reflected in HRPDC's 2023 Regional Legislative Agenda⁸, which was adopted by the HRPDC board on October 20, 2022. Specifically, the 2023 Regional Legislative Priorities included support for two positions directly related to resilience:

⁸ <https://www.hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6784/2023-Legislative-Priorities-PDF>

establishing, at the state level, a dedicated funding source for flood prevention projects and creating a state structure for coordination on resilience. The HRPDC board also supported efforts to make Hampton Roads a hub for offshore wind energy development.

In addition to its regional legislative priorities, in FY2022 HRPDC also considered and continued to support several regional resilience initiatives. In addition to the two (2) CFPF grants described above, HRPDC, through its Coastal Resiliency Committee, supported efforts to develop regional resilient design standards for stormwater management and floodplain management. These standards are built on previous and ongoing efforts and include regionalized sea level rise and precipitation projections, floodplain maps reflecting future sea level rise, tailwater projections for stormwater management, and design storm values. HRPDC anticipates finalizing and adopting these standards in 2024.

HRPDC also supports maintaining and expanding a network of roadway flooding sensors that provide real-time flooding information to localities, researchers, and the public through a data portal and the Waze app. HRPDC completed a pilot project in January 2023 installing roadway flooding sensors in seven localities. This project was funded primarily from a grant from the U.S. DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and was a recommendation from the Norfolk-Virginia Beach Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) completed in 2019. The pilot project has allowed for HRPDC and its localities to assess the benefits of a regional sensor approach and the various challenges and costs associated with the current system in addition to any future expansion, such as permitting processes, maintenance procedures, long-term viability of sensor equipment, and others. HRPDC anticipates deciding if and how to expand the network in 2024.

Conclusions

The Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Management Technical Assistance Program continues to enable HRPDC staff to provide important and timely assistance to local governments and other stakeholders throughout Hampton Roads on a variety of coastal resources management issues. The capacity for HRPDC to provide these serves is significantly enhanced through the resources provided by Virginia CZM. The technical assistance, public information, educational opportunities, training, research, analysis, and coordination efforts provided through this program serve the region's decision-makers, locality staff, residents, and other partners and stakeholders. This program continues to be a key part of the region's overall strategy for managing its coastal resources and addressing new challenges. In addition, the funding for resiliency efforts through this grant has allowed for the continued development and evolution of HRPDC's Coastal Resiliency Program, which has had and continues to have an important role in supporting local, regional, and state resiliency efforts. These services continue a decades-long relationship between HRPDC and Virginia CZM to identify issues of interest and concern before they become problems so that they can be addressed in a cost-effective manner.