



**Virginia Coastal Zone**  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



## Virginia Coastal Policy Team Meeting Summary

*September 30, 2024*

1111 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

*Virtual attendance was also available via Microsoft Teams*

### **10:00 Welcome & Brief Introductions**

### **10:10 Review Meeting Goals**

### **10:15 Program Enhancement (Section 309) Overview & Discussion**

- Section 309 funding supports program improvements over a 5-year funding cycle (FY2026-2030) to address high priorities, which often evolve over time for each state coastal program. Note that coastal programs need to evolve to match evolving challenges. The result of Section 309-funded work should be a program change, which can be:
  - A change to the Coastal Zone boundary
  - New authorities (statutes, regulations, enforceable policies, MOUs, etc.)
  - New or revised guidelines, procedures, or other policy documents formally adopted by the state
- The program evaluation and strategic funding process requires some capacity/support from Virginia Coastal Policy Team (CPT) members and may include: Virginia CZM staff presenting to CPT programs/stakeholders, or asking for data and information, or asking for participation in strategy development. CPT partners (and their constituents in turn) play a key role in identifying coastal policy issues – what are the difficulties involved in developing policy to produce program change?
  - Geographic differences – difficult to produce a policy that's beneficial to everyone
  - Time – not only capacity, but timing to make recommendations (e.g., if a policy process eclipses the development process)
  - Size of the unit of government – policy or regulatory change for a smaller government may be easier than scaling up to a larger program
  - Size of the task - It may be easier to make a policy when approached in small increments
  - Implementation outside of a branch of government – if the governor and legislature don't agree
  - State agencies (especially those with regulatory duties) being careful to avoid possible contradictions between existing policies or politics
  - Disagreement among the CPT
- Section 309 funding is match free ~\$500k/yr
- The Section 309 strategies development is separate from Project of Special Merit (PSM), but identifying certain enhancement areas can create eligibility for PSM competition if NOAA is highlighting an enhancement area that is also in the state's Section 309 strategy. Current Enhancement Areas eligible for PSMs include Coastal Hazards, Ocean Resources, and Wetlands (recently replaced Public Access).
- Overview of the process
  - Phase I Needs Assessment (high-level)
    - In October-December 2024, Virginia CZM staff will assess each of the nine (9) Enhancement Areas based on stakeholder feedback and existing data. Virginia CZM staff will contact select partners for data/information and meet with coastal



planning district commissions (PDCs) and their local stakeholders (local govts, NGOs, etc.) for feedback.

- At the winter (January/February 2025) CPT meeting, Virginia CZM and CPT will review the Phase I Needs Assessments to identify and vote on high priority Enhancement Areas (typically 3-4).
- Phase II Needs Assessment (in-depth)
  - In February 2025, meet as workgroups to discuss the high priority Enhancement Areas identified at winter CPT meeting.
- Draft Strategy Development
  - February/March 2025: draft the Strategies for the Enhancement Areas, considering projects that will fit into those strategies to build towards a program change. Program changes do not have to happen in Years 1-4, but the effort should build towards a program change. Example: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative featured field data collection to verify rare species, then stakeholder engagement, and resulted in a MOU between partners for continued coordination. Some topics that were listed under a given Enhancement Area could move to another area in order to condense the number of Strategies to maximize funding for each. Example: septic system vulnerability to sea level rise (SLR) was listed under Cumulative & Secondary Impacts of Growth & Development (CSI) (ranked as high priority) but ultimately moved to Coastal Hazards (also ranked a high priority).
- Enhancement Areas (\*current Strategy)
  - Coastal Hazards\*
  - Ocean Resources\*
  - Marine Debris\*
  - Cumulative & Secondary Impacts of Growth & Development (CSI)
  - Wetlands
  - Special Area Management Planning (SAMP)
  - Aquaculture
  - Public Access
  - Energy & Government Facility Siting
- Example projects
  - Coastal Hazards
    - Goal: enhance state/local capacity to adapt to coastal hazards anticipated from climate change by evaluating/strengthening laws/ policies
    - Projects:
      - Community resilience plans
        - Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)
        - Community Rating System (CRS)
      - Shoreline Plan & Policy Development
        - Working waterfronts resilience assessment
        - Living shoreline studies
  - Marine Debris
    - Goal: Development & Adoption of specific actions in support of the updated 2021-2025 [Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan](#) (VMDRP)
    - Projects:
      - [2021-2022 Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Work Group](#) (ADVWG) meetings, report, and policy outcomes

- Public opinion surveys
- Annual beach monitoring
- Next Steps
  - Virginia CZM consults technical experts for a Phase I Needs Assessment of all Enhancement Areas
  - Concurrently present to stakeholder meetings hosted by PDCs
  - Virginia CZM staff propose rankings for consideration by the CPT
  - CPT votes on high priority areas at Jan/Feb 2025 CPT meeting
  - Virginia CZM staff completes more detailed Phase II (in-depth) Needs Assessments with assistance of technical experts for high priority areas
  - Strategies are developed for high priority areas where program changes have a high likelihood of development
- Questions/Comments
  - This 5-year cycle aligns with the timelines of other 5-year cycles
    - [Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan](#) (VCRMP) has a 5-year update cycle which is currently ending
    - Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) updating Hazard Mitigation Plan this year
    - Statewide flood master plan is under development and will receive updates in 5 years
- Notes from experience in the past
  - Politics can impact success, so consider that when selecting topic area
  - Important to have support from state agencies that have the purview for the relevant policy
  - Recommendation: Once the 5-year strategy is determined, it is difficult to adapt. There will always be gubernatorial administration changes in that period and need to create some adaptability in the process.
    - “Pre-baking” project ideas to be flexible
    - Note: Virginia CZM can update Section 309 strategy mid-cycle but requires NOAA review/approval
  - Recommendation: offer capacity support to agencies who are receiving asks
- CPT members and partners encouraged to share feedback on process moving forward.

## 10:45 Funding Landscape Updates

1. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Round 2 Non-Competitive Proposal (Virginia CZM)
  - Included 2 staff positions and project
    - Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) wetlands restoration coordinator (starting around January)
      1. 3-year position
      2. Focused on planning, implementation, grant applications
      3. Focused on tidal wetlands restoration, conservation, and resilience efforts throughout
    - Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)’s Division of Natural Heritage (DNH) Coastal Data Management Specialist
      1. 3-year position
      2. Focused on getting backlog of biodiversity data put into the agency database
    - Old Dominion University (ODU) facilitation of coastal wetland native plant production stakeholder process
      1. 1-year funding (2025)

2. Series of meetings on wetlands native plant production in the Hampton Roads area, but with the plan for building capacity across the Coastal Zone
  3. Focused on assembling state stakeholders to identify needs and solutions for native wetland plant production, then hosting meetings with growers, practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders
2. BIL FY24 Competitive Letters of Intent (LOIs) (Virginia CZM)
- 3 LOIs submitted – waiting to hear back for invitations for full proposals in the next couple weeks
    - Middlesex County in partnership with the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) (2025-2026)
      1. Acquiring 118-acre farm to create public beach and perform outreach to the community
      2. Converting farmland to forest and living shorelines
    - Pamunkey Indian Tribe (2025-2029)
      1. Retrofitting shad hatchery to a mussel hatchery, bolstering the Tribe's ability to restore mussels
    - Rappahannock Indian Tribe (2025-2028)
      1. Working with Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) to acquire private oyster leases in Rappahannock to restore diploid oyster reefs to add biodiversity
  - Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERR-VA) BIL Tract
    - Submitted 2 projects
      1. Land acquisition near West Point airport – public access with a healthy marsh
      2. Designing a thin layer placement (TLP) project at Catlett Island Preserve
  - Note that there is only 1 more competition in this funding source to occur Summer 2025.
    - Should follow the same schedule with a NOFO in June 2025, but major changes to the 2024 NOFO are not anticipated
3. Inflation Reduction Act Non-Competitive Award Update (Virginia CZM)
- Outcome 1: New Coastal Planner – 5-year position – start date October 10
  - Outcome 2: VMRC subaward to the James River Association (JRA) to create a sustainable funding roadmap and expand geographic reach of the [Living Shoreline Collaborative](#) (LSC)
  - Outcome 3: Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) Fellowships for Virginia CZM network
    - Funding for 3 [Fellowships](#), tentatively 1 per year but possibly several
    - Virginia CZM provides \$40k and host office provides \$20k
    - PDCs are also eligible
    - Virginia CZM is requesting final proposals for projects by mid-January. The call for draft ideas to refine with Virginia CZM staff will go out in November.
    - If more proposals are submitted than VASG can accept, the CPT may be asked to review proposals and potentially rank them
    - Handout forthcoming with more detail
    - Contact VASG's Lisa Eddy ([lmaddy@vaseagrant.org](mailto:lmaddy@vaseagrant.org)) about Fellow ideas so she can coordinate & advertise to applicants to identify the right skillset.



**Figure 1.** Virginia CZM Program Manager Ryan Green reviews the IRA Non-Competitive Capacity funding allocations with the CPT.

4. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) & Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR))
  - DEQ – Virginia was successful in the CPRG
    - States were offered \$3M to do climate planning – also available to some localities
    - Completing this planning rendered eligibility for competitive funding
      1. Virginia was the only state to receive 2 competitive fund awards
    - Project intended to reduce methane
      1. Bulk of money going to Virginia Energy to reduce methane escape from abandoned mines
      2. \$10M going to reduce methane from landfills
      3. \$10M to DEQ for food waste reduction, building on work from a previous executive order.
        - a. This allowed some subawards to colleges & universities as well as some state agencies to fund projects that would reduce food waste (reduce waste, take left over food to feed those in need, and compost the rest).



- b. 5-year grant - 1 year to do more background research to set up the program, 3 years of subawards, and 1 year to finalize and conclude
    - c. Ideally this will build the infrastructure in the communities to continue this work
  - DWR – NC, MD, SC, and VA are working together on a CPRG funded collaborative effort to restore marsh and wetlands, among other activities.
    - Have \$52M total between NOAA & EPA grants
    - Projects
      1. Hog Island Shoreline Restoration (~\$3M)
      2. Ragged Island Shoreline Restoration (\$9.5M)
      3. Guinea Marsh Restoration (\$10M) - working with VMRC and MPPDC
      4. Accomack County land acquisition
      5. Staff for wetland restoration and enhancement project – hiring 3 biologists to restore wetlands
      6. Incorporating New Kent County Wildlife Management Area to restore and protect resources
      7. Working with 9000 acres of forested land purchased on Eastern Shore to create long-term habitat plan for commercial timberlands
      8. The Green Sea – ~2000 acres land bridge from Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to the Cavalier WMA
    - Note The Nature Conservancy (TNC) also has funding to use across the multi-state region
    - Reach out to David Norris (DWR) with any questions
- 5. Other partners – if an organization has received a grant award, please share!
  - Funding tracking by CBNERR-VA for BIL and IRA funding – over 20 projects coming to Virginia.
    - If a BIL or IRA funded project has not been well advertised, please reach out to Erin Reilly (CBNERR) to make sure she has captured it

## 11:15 Virginia CZM Operational Funding Review (Virginia CZM)

### 1. FY24 Project Review

- Focus on non-recurring Section 306 projects
  - i. Ecotourism booster – MPPDC will help support water trails from the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) area and potential website enhancements (e.g., GoPro footage of the water trails). Also looking for a long-term plan for the ecotourism guide certification course
  - ii. Shore Change model – multi-year effort
  - iii. DWR is taking over the Stranding Response Resource Development – help support the program and identify difficulties for the program
- Resilience Focal Area projects
  - i. VIMS Shoreline inventory work
  - ii. DCR resilience planning for protected lands
  - iii. Virginia Energy aggregate resource management
- Section 309 projects
  - i. Coastal Hazards bucket
    1. Public financing options (Tax Increment Financing = TIF)
    2. RAFT
    3. CRS



- ii. Ocean Resources
  - 1. Section 10 habitat conservation plan – VMRC and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) developing plan
  - 2. VCU Fisheries Stakeholder Engagement
  - 3. University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (UVA-IEN) – Virginia Ocean Plan development
- iii. Marine Debris
  - 1. Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW) – implementation of the actions from the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan (VMDRP) and updating the next iteration of that plan
- 2. Reprogramming Details
  - FY24 Task 12 – currently a TBD project.
    - i. One project has been outlined from a formerly high-ranked proposal from the BIL non-competitive competition held by Virginia CZM. Project related to changing tidal datums ~\$90k
    - ii. Still have ~\$30k to allocate
  - FY23 Task 1.01 - originally proposed for a grants database, \$75k needs to be reprogrammed
  - How will Virginia CZM conduct the reprogramming?
    - i. Cannot always rely on the CPT for individual project reprogramming due to quick turnarounds, but the CPT should be aware and involved as much as possible
    - ii. Criteria for consideration:
      - 1. Ease of reprogramming – e.g., scope in hand, NOAA review not required because there is an existing scope, and the reprogram is less than 10%, etc.
      - 2. Project will help the coastal zone at large or is highly transferable
      - 3. Where region/agency specific, look at the recent balance
      - 4. CPT ideas
        - a. How does the investment accrue over time?
        - b. Urgency – whether a project's topic has been prioritized in the past
        - c. Relative cost increases on ongoing projects
    - iii. Virginia CZM will categorize projects ideas that are ready for reprogramming into a spreadsheet.
    - iv. CPT partners are encouraged to share project ideas to make CZM aware when considering reprogramming needs.
    - v. Looking forward to FY25, Section 306A projects will be available again
      - 1. These projects have been limited recently since the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews were difficult to conduct as NOAA conducted NEPA reviews for simultaneous BIL and IRA projects.
      - 2. These projects can include land acquisition, public access, and other low-cost construction projects.
      - 3. CPT and partners are encouraged to submit project ideas they have been considering.

## 11:55 NOAA Updates

- John Kuriawa (NOAA's Office for Coastal Management) thanked everyone for working through grant system changes at NOAA.

- NOAA mid-Atlantic region is down two staff, with a new hire coming in November who will help mainly with resilience efforts and ocean planning. The other position (Regional coastal resource manager) will also start in November.

**12:00 Lunch (on your own)**

**1:00 Conservation Work Updates**

**1. Wildlife Action Plan (DWR)**

- First plan released in 2005, third update due in 2025
- What's new?
  - Biggest change is engagement with Federally Recognized tribes, including incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and culturally important species
  - Including marine species like sea turtles & marine mammals
  - More direct inclusion of climate vulnerability and climate smart actions
- Required submission to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to receive funding
- 8 elements to address
  - Identify species of greatest conservation need. 883 were identified in last update, now have 1,933 species – most being invertebrates & plants which are new to the plan this year. Each species also receives a conservation opportunity rating
  - Identify habitats needed to conserve species of greatest conservation need
  - Identify threats to species of greatest conservation need
  - Identify conservation actions to address the threats to species & habitats
  - Identify monitoring strategies to articulate conservation actions
  - Create a plan to revise future plans
  - Coordinate with conservation partners & stakeholders (federal, state, Tribes, NGOs, universities, etc.). Held second coordination meeting with stakeholders recently.
  - Public review and commenting
- DWR using the Northeastern region lexicon for this plan, but DWR is also associated with the Southeastern region.
- Most of the species with limited information have not been well-studied, not necessarily changing habitat ranges. However, some animals with range extensions into Virginia are highly described and DWR is monitoring that
- Some of the data products support environmental review. However, for regulatory purposes, DWR leans on known locations to designate hydrologic geography for them.
- The action plan will drive much of the non-regulatory work of DWR including other projects like those funded by CPRG.
- Are there already tools to see if projects align with the plan? Yes, and a new tool is forthcoming - Bewildvirginia.org - tool set up for 2015 plan by PDC but will soon be configured by 12 order HUCs.

**2. Virginia Security Corridor: Sentinel Landscapes Program (Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF))**

- Sentinel landscape – national partnership, areas where conservation and working lands converge with national defense interests (within any military branch)
- At Federal level – Department of the Interior (DOI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Defense (DOD), and possibly NOAA
- There are 18 landscapes, Virginia has 2



- Additional landscapes in MD & NC where the program has been established for a longer time
  - The two landscapes in Virginia overlap to form the Virginia Security Corridor (Potomac in Northern Virginia & Tidewater are the 2 individual landscapes)
    - There are 14 installations among the 2 landscapes
    - Naval Support Facility Dahlgreen was originally included and then removed - may end up joining the Middle Chesapeake Corridor (primarily in Maryland)
  - Primary goals
    - Prevent encroachment on bases - ex: residential development, electromagnetic interference (e.g., solar developments). A common tool is conservation easements
    - Build resilience against climate-induced hazards – ex: flooding, fire
    - Conserve and restore key habitats to benefit water quality and rare, threatened, and endangered species (especially on base).
  - How does it work?
    - Identify military concerns and associated natural resource solutions
    - Find local experts
    - Seek funding: [Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program](#) (REPI) as match – DOD money that installations can apply for (also a funding source that NGOs can apply for)
    - First work at an installation level, soon at a landscape-scale
  - What's next?
    - Kick-off meeting in November – starting with a small group to navigate forming a partnership among individual installations
    - Establish a steering committee and decision-making structure
    - Building a landscape-wide partnership
  - DOF program
    - Caitlin Verdu (program overview)
    - Mary Bennett (Tidewater)
    - Chris Moi (Potomac)
  - Questions?
    - How is the information coming from the installations into the natural resource management plans? Not affecting them the plans but using the information and coordinating with the installations.
    - Is DOF the host of the sentinel landscape program? Yes, DOF is the host agency. This is unique for Sentinel Landscapes.
3. Conservation Targeting for Resilience (VIMS) – FY20-22 Task 71
- Project was a 3-year Resilience Focal Area project
  - Included former Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC) & DCR Natural Heritage, but today's presentation focuses on the VIMS portion
  - VIMS's Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM) worked to model potential tidal wetlands for each decade from 2030-2100
  - Modeling marshes:
    - Mapped the upper & lower extent
      1. Projected extent of mean low water (this can include non-vegetated flats) + 1.5\* intertidal range (the jurisdictional tidal wetland)
        - a. Did not build into this model any erosion drivers, so the location of the trailing edge is conservative
      2. Used relative sea level rise

### 3. Used NOAA intermediate SLR

- Also looked at current land use data to compare where the wetlands may migrate in terms of land use and current land cover
    - Made locality and PDC level summaries
  - Used National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and VIMS's Tidal Marsh Inventory data
  - Created a new app to select the land cover conflicts by locality & decade
    - Graph showing coastal zone 2030-2100 shows overall loss of wetlands and movement into forest, cropland, and turf/grass among other land cover types
  - Change in wetland area
    - Interesting considerations for planners
    - Summarized by PDC showing the variety of losses of land cover types
      1. Percentage losses were different than total losses by PDC
  - Where is the data?
    - Adaptva.com
      1. Under tools page, click on the interactive map
      2. Under the Table of Contents that opens up, select the Natural Resources tab and select the "Projected Wetlands" tab
      3. Shiny App discussed above will be linked to the different decades of wetlands
  - Applications of this data
    - Considerations in planning
    - When doing wetlands projects, consider:
      1. How to plan for persistence with this data
      2. Larger wetland conservation/restoration
    - Informs conservation planning for land acquisitions
    - Locality and PDC data highlight where greater and lesser wetland losses are anticipated and what can be done about that
    - Looking at regional approaches to wetland projects
  - Questions/comments
    - Is there already an existing database showing the historical loss that could be linked to this?
      1. The tidal wetlands inventory started in 1972 and while the methods evolved over time, there is potential to do this. This change analysis has already been done for the York River.
      2. Also need to consider land use changes over time
    - 98% of this loss occurs in the private space. Need a mechanism/incentive to ensure that private property owners take action on this
    - Also consider any migration onto public lands and how to prepare for that
    - This used an intermediate curve, but the state is using the intermediate high curve, the VIMS [AdaptVA site](#) is intermediate-high, and the future RPA is intermediate high. So how should end users utilize this?
      1. The project was scoped before intermediate-high was set as the standard projection
      2. A user's guide would be helpful for this
    - There will likely be some wetlands that have favorable sediment banks to keep up with sea level rise.
      1. That consideration was not included because that presents modeling difficulties and will change over time
4. Coastal Virginia Ecological Value Assessment (Coastal VEVA) Tool Update (Virginia CZM)

- This update is funded by the first round of BIL capacity funding
- Uses data from partners:
  - DCR-DNH: Conservation sites and natural landscape assessment
  - DWR: Priority wildlife diversity conservation areas
  - VIMS: aquatic priority conservation areas
  - VCU: Aquatic resource integrity
- Model will be updated soon
- Once complete, this model will be hosted on Coastal GEMS.
- Afterwards, CZM will update the Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) plan. More information to be shared at the next CPT meeting.
- If there are questions on how to use this, contact Virginia CZM Conservation Coordinator Lucas Manweiler

## 1:45 Resilience Work Updates

1. Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Material Technical Document (Virginia CZM/VMRC) – FY23 Task 10
  - Received grant last year to create a manual for beneficial reuse
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has a goal across all districts to use 70% of dredged material for beneficial reuse by 2030. Virginia has fallen behind on taking advantage of this.
  - VMRC sees the economic value and ecological benefits to this
  - There was initial hope for the manual to be highly technical, but as stakeholder discussions continue, the manual will likely be a high-level discussion document covering the different types of existing beneficial use options and how to set up opportunities for future work.
  - Held a stakeholder meeting at VIMS on 8/20/24 and received good feedback on opportunities, concerns, etc.
  - Project team to send out a GIS questionnaire in the coming weeks to establish a map with dredging projects that could take advantage of potential use methods.
  - This is meant to be an iterative document.
  - The stakeholder list consists of over 80 individuals, but this is not comprehensive. Invitation for those who have not already engaged with this project to please do so.
  - Note that the Elizabeth River Project (ERP) was given a NFWF grant to work on thin layer placement & there will be coordination between these projects. Similarly work in the Middle Peninsula will coordinate with this
  - Final deliverable: report and GIS tool (likely live on Coastal GEMS)
2. Designing Living Shorelines for Resilience (Wetlands Watch/Virginia CZM) – FY23 Project of Special Merit
  - Working on this project in coordination with VMRC to make progress in designing LS that are adaptive to SLR.
  - The end product, which is almost complete, is called “Designing Living Shorelines for Sea Level Rise in Virginia: A Resource for Practitioners”
  - A technical work group held 8 meetings to develop this, with an advisory role from academic institutions and PDCs
    - i. Discussed successes and challenges in the design of adaptive living shorelines
    - ii. Considering wetlands migration & persistence in place

- The statutory requirement considers SLR impacts and coastal hazards, so this document also covers designing shorelines that handle the higher energy storms.
  - The resource includes:
    - i. Design considerations including useful life, slope, designing for sea level rise, designing for coastal hazards, adaptive management
    - ii. 26 case studies featuring examples of adaptive shorelines and ranging in site conditions, geographic distribution (rural vs urban), plants alone & plants with other structures, sills, bulkhead removal, etc. Attempting to represent the current scope of active living shoreline techniques.
    - iii. Lastly, it will have a data and tools section.
  - Next, there will be an outreach phase to introduce the document to CPT members and specific end-user groups to better frame it for their use.
  - Questions/comments
    - i. Is there an expected guidance for permitting these shorelines?
      - 1. VMRC – This project was specific to LS design but does include permitting considerations.
    - ii. Previous discussion of tax-exempt status?
      - 1. Living shorelines are already tax exempt, but the local commissioner of revenue needs to recognize this
      - 2. There are some localities that already omit the land under LS from property tax (Suffolk may be a good case study example here)
    - iii. Thinking about Section 309 – these are the kinds of issues that Section 309 Strategies can advance before the legislature reflects progress. Some of these issues become more complicated when addressed by legislation versus working on other strategies.
3. Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative
- Thomas Ruppert – Director of Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative at William & Mary
  - Cross program interdisciplinary program
  - W&M initiative, but also a focal point aiming to collaborate with other entities
  - Still a developing program – hiring an assistant director for the program ideally by the end of the year
  - Working with W&M Law School to co-fund post-graduate legal fellows to work with the collaborative
  - Started working with Virginia Floodplain Managers Association to develop a legal guide looking at laws in 2 areas: tort law & property takings law, and how it's important for these managers to understand this at the local level
  - Proposed Project – Policy Analysis of Changes to Vertical & Horizontal Datums
    - i. Responding to NOAA who asked for states to reflect on potential impacts from future datum changes
    - ii. Searching through the state code for places that reference the datums, then assessing how changes will impact the areas influenced by those places in code.
    - iii. Then developing outreach materials and conducting outreach to help inform the professions that need to be aware of changes
  - Questions/Comments
    - i. Significant anticipated impacts for VMRC – work with the Habitat Management Division & Shellfish Management Division. A lot of shoreline



engineers conduct design work, so VMRC will have to teach them how to use this forthcoming data.

1. From the shellfish perspective, VMRC does surveys with inhouse surveyors so VMRC will have to educate those staff as well
- ii. If the datums change, does that impact how surveyors shape a polygon (i.e., a reduction in the taxable area across a jurisdiction)? It may be miniscule by property but huge across a jurisdiction.
  1. There will be vertical & horizontal tidal datum changes in addition to the tidal datum changes that will likely have property impacts.
- iii. Need to coordinate with surveyors

## **2:10 Virginia Ocean Planning Updates (Virginia CZM)**

- Virginia CZM has been meeting with over 120 different stakeholders through 6 workgroups. Winding workgroups down now and working towards the development of a draft document.
- Some of the recommendations relate to:
  - Sand resources & mineral mining to benefit from the renourishment
  - Helping to develop a resilient commercial fishing industry
  - Enforceable policies to respond to offshore wind projects & others that happen further from the coast
- Held a community open forum to introduce the public to the plan & had ~65 people attend
- Request for the CPT to contact Virginia CZM if anyone is interested in participating who has not had the chance yet.
- Comment:
  - The changes happening in the ocean impact Virginia as a whole, so thanks to the more inland CPT members for supporting this.

## **2:20 Plant Virginia Natives Updates (Virginia CZM)**

- Marketing partnership
- This collaborative initiative focuses on cohesive and coordinated messaging and strategies
- Regional Plant Virginia Natives campaigns have expanded throughout the state in every county except the Middle Peninsula
- Community based social marketing model with proven tools to change behavior
  - Captivating communications
  - Personal commitment/instilling new social norms
  - Point of sale prompts
- Campaign strategy goes beyond these pieces and has resulted in local ordinance changes, etc.
- Regional native plant guides are most popular items
  - Downloadable on [PlantVirginiaNatives.org](http://PlantVirginiaNatives.org)
  - Welcome comments/suggestions for how to develop/edit the website
  - Recently added section on 'How to Landscape with Natives' due to demand for this information
- A new animated video highlighting the benefits of native trees is available
- Upcoming Surveys
  - Of partners on meeting goals of the Plant Virginia Natives Action Plan
  - Of providers to determine and predict demand for native plants
  - Of residents in the Northern Virginia region to test branding of Plant Virginia Natives Campaign and changes in behavior that can be attributed to the campaign. The tool developed will also help determine the effectiveness of the regional native plant marketing model.





### 3:10 Grant Management Updates (Virginia CZM)

- Contracts used to be called contract package. Now known as subaward & subaward package.
- Office of Fiscal Management is more closely relating the Terms and Conditions to the CFR, so using terms like 'sub awardee'.
  - Contractors do this for profit
  - Sub awardees do not do this for profit
- The subaward package will look different this year
  - Some language changes (e.g., contract-->subaward). Pay attention to these changes
  - New NOAA regulations/policies that Virginia CZM has to pass on, resulting in 2 new documents in the package.
- Attachment A: scope of work
- Attachment B: Terms & Conditions for DEQ
- Attachment C: Terms & Conditions for Virginia CZM (these have not changed very much)
- Attachment D: Terms & Conditions for Department of Commerce
- Attachment E: Terms & Conditions for NOAA
  - Build America Buy America is very specific with impacts to future Section 306A projects
- The uniform guidance is changing, and April will report out on a forthcoming webinar detailing these changes. Projected changes: 1) de minimis will go up to 15% and 2) the Modified Total Direct Costs will be the first \$50k of each subaward included in the MTDC
  - Must complete a budget amendment to implement this change
- Progress reporting on October 15
- Projects ending September 30
  - Final products and financials due November 16
  - Make these Section 508/ADA compliant
    - Special note – all graphics (not just pictures) need alternative text
- When putting trainings on the second page of progress report, describe them well and provide specific number of participants (not estimates)
- Subaward Packages will come out by the end of the week, but work can begin October 1

### 2:30 CPT Member/Partner Updates

- Brianna Heath (GWRC) – NNPDC does not have an environmental planner, but today is Brianna's first day with GWRC. Now contact Lisa Hull at NNPDC.
- Joe Weber (DCR-NH) – just hired spatial ecologist to conduct work on Task 72
- David Hawkins (Virginia Energy)
  - Year 1 of Resilience Focal Area Project (Task 73) was extended
  - Geohazards geologists received a FEMA BRIC grant for landslide potential – request for a presentation on this at the next meeting
- DEQ – Released RFA for \$20M Nonpoint Source, cost-effective, pay for outcomes, program. Webinar tomorrow morning at 11am.
- Mary-Carson Stiff (Wetlands Watch) – DCR now partners with Catch the King event. Community Science opportunity to use cell phone to drop pins around the extent of the high tide to create a polygon to support the flood modeling. October 17 event. New partnership with HRPDC.
- Christina Trapani (Clean Virginia Waterways (CVW)) – Christina is the new Executive Director. No longer a program of Longwood University, now under the fiscal sponsorship of United Charitable. Virginia Marine Debris Summit March 18-20 at Norfolk Botanical Gardens in 2025. CVW and Virginia CZM are updating the VMDRP this year and adding 2 new staff to the program. 2 new videos – one highlighting the VMDRP and the Public Perception Survey.
- Elizabeth Andrews (UVA-IEN) – New role at UVA-IEN through an extension at VASG.



- Rachael Peabody (VMRC) – FY23 project to look for locations that DWR and Virginia Aquarium could use for stranded whales. Made good headway with hopefully a forthcoming MOU. Also made good connections with the U.S. Navy.
  - Currently at 78 vessels removed from ADV database.
- Ben McFarlane (HRPDC) – working with RAFT team to coordinate a regional effort for the historic triangle area, including USACE project (Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Assessment)
  - New project to develop a model to review, assess, and document the process for communities participating in the national flood insurance program. Expect outreach to partners who work in this space.
- DEQ – Blue Carbon Project with VIMS, TNC, UVA – soon will be able to verify the blue carbon in seagrass beds. This will be the first verification of its kind and will serve as proof of concept.
- Matt Dalon (DCR-ORP) – Updating the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan (VCRMP). Hosted 4 community meetings. Thanks to PDCs who helped set up the meetings as well as the partners who showed up to the meetings.
- Pam Mason (VIMS) – Introducing Jeryl Phillips, newest member at CCRM taking over a lot of the work that Pam Mason has been doing.

### **3:00 Meeting Adjourned**

#### **Attendees (61)**

Ryan Green, Virginia CZM  
Jeff Flood, Virginia CZM  
Will Isenberg, Virginia CZM  
Lucas Manweiler, Virginia CZM  
Virginia Witmer, Virginia CZM  
April Bahen, Virginia CZM  
Nick Meade, Virginia CZM  
Sharon Baxter, DEQ – Division of Environmental Enhancement  
Matt Dalon, DCR – Office of Resilience Planning  
Aaron Wendt, DCR – Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service  
Erin Reilly, CBNERR-VA  
Sarah Stewart, PlanRVA  
Ben McFarlane, HRPDC  
Davis Davis, DEQ – Office of Wetlands & Stream Protection  
Pam Mason, VIMS – Center for Coastal Resources Management  
Adam Kenyon, VMRC – Division of Shellfish Management  
Rachael Peabody, VMRC – Environmental Policy  
Mary-Carson Stiff, Wetlands Watch  
Breanna Heath, GWRC  
Lewie Lawrence, MPPDC  
Joe Weber, DCR – Division of Natural Heritage  
Karinna Nunez, VIMS – Center for Coastal Resources Management  
Rob Evans, DCR – Division of Natural Heritage  
David Hawkins, Virginia Energy – Geology & Minerals  
Laura Schmidt, Virginia Energy – Geology & Minerals  
Maura Christian, DEQ – Office of Watershed & Local Government Assistance  
Danielle Simms, DEQ – Office of Environmental Justice  
Kevin McLean, DEQ – Chesapeake Bay Program  
Meghann Quinn, DEQ – Pollution Prevention



Curt Smith, MPPDC  
Chip Boyles, GWRC  
Lisa Hull, NNPDC  
Rebecca Murphy, NVRC  
Rabita Banee, Virginia Energy - Policy  
Jeryl Phillips, VIMS – Center for Coastal Resources Management  
Dave Norris, DWR - Regional Wildlife Management  
Ellie Plisko, DCR – Office of Resilience Planning  
Caitlin Verdu, DOF – Watershed Programs  
Taylor Parker, VDOT – Water Resources Program  
Thomas Ruppert, W&M Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative  
Joe Grist, VMRC – Division of Fisheries Management  
Keith Tignor, VDACS – Division of Consumer Protection – Plant Industry Services  
Amy Martin, DWR - Nongame & Endangered Species Program  
Julia Wellman, DEQ – Environmental Impact Review  
John Bateman, Lancaster County  
Brendan Burke, DHR – Underwater Archaeology  
Lisa Eddy, VASG  
Karyn Reid, DCR – Floodplain Management  
Dan Salkovich, DEQ – Air & Renewable Energy  
Justin Williams, DEQ - Office of Watershed & Local Government Assistance Programs  
Luke Peters, The Berkeley Group LLC on behalf of Crater PDC  
John Kuriawa, NOAA – Office for Coastal Management  
Andrew Franzyshe Crater PDC  
David Gianino, VDACS – Division of Consumer Protection – Plant Industry Services  
Anne Doyle, ANPDC  
Todd Janeski, VCU  
Bryant Thomas, DEQ – Office of Ecology  
Elizabeth Andrews, UVA Institute for Engagement & Negotiation  
Christina Trapani, Clean Virginia Waterways  
Kit Friedman, Crater PDC  
Marissa Roland, DCR – Division of Soil & Water Conservation