Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Outreach and Coordination 2024 Q1 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Subject	TAC O&C Subcommittee Meeting 2024-Q1	Date	02/22/2024
Chair	Michael Perez (Co-Chair) Deputy Chief Diversity Officer Office of Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion (ODOI)	Time – START/ADJOURN	10:00am/11:21am
Location	Conference Room 2 Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219	Scribe	Addie Alexander VCU CPP

Subcommittee Members		
Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Name [Alternate Name]	Attended? V = Virtual / R = Registered
Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer [Deputy Chief Diversity Officer] **Office of Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion (ODOI)**	Martin Brown, Chair [Michael Perez], Co-Chair	[Y]
Executive Director [Environmental Planner II] **George Washington Regional Commission**	Charles P. Boyles, II [Meredith Keppel]	[Y]
Environmental Program Coordinator **Nansemond Indian Nation**	Cameron Bruce	V
Director, Volgenau Virginia Coastal Reserve **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)**	Jill Bieri	V
Commander Deputy Chief, Water Resources Division **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District (USACE)**	Colonel Brian P. Hallberg [Greggory Williams]	Y
Tribal Administrator **Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe (Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe)**	Reggie Tupponce	Y
Assistant Director **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD)**	William Curtis	Y

Senior Vice President Governmental Relations [Legislative Specialist, Governmental Relations] **Virginia Farm Bureau (VAFB)**	Martha Moore [Katelyn Rose Jordan]	
President & CEO **Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA)**	Brett Vassey	
Executive Director [Policy Program Director] **Wetlands Watch (Wetlands Watch)**	Mary-Carson Stiff [Ian Blair]	V

TAC Advisors	
Title **Organization (Abbreviation)**	**Attended? V = Virtual**
Regional Community Plans & Liaison Officer **Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (Navy)**	V

DCR Staff and Other Participants

Staff and Other Participants		
Name	**Title (Organization Abbreviation)**	**Attended? V = Virtual**
Matt Dalon	Resilience Planning Program Manager, DCR	Y
Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro	Resilience Planning Program Coordinator, DCR	Y
Ryan Green	Manager, Virginia CZM Program, Department of Environmental Quality	V
Will Isenberg	Coastal Planner, Department of Environmental Quality	V
Lucas Manweiler	Conservation Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality	V
Wheeler Wood	Consultant, Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Public Policy (CPP)	Y

Reference Links	
Item	**Link**
Meeting Agenda	https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=meeting\49\39209\Agenda_DCR_39209_v2.pdf
Meeting Handouts/Presentation Slides	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20240222-outreach-coordination-subcommittee-handouts.pdf
Video Recording of the Meeting	

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions	Michael Perez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The subcommittee adopted the current meeting agenda and the Q4 2023 meeting minutes.
2. Presentation by DCR	Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro (DCR) shared an overview of the committee's role and updates: ● The Phase II CRMP is due in December of this year, and will include all major flood hazards, a comprehensive risk assessment, and a list of all projects related to resilience that are recently implemented or currently considered. The meeting today will start to get into the subcommittee's recommendations. ● DCR has signed a contract with Dewberry to help with flood hazard data, impact assessment, end user survey analysis and a web explorer update mock-up ● DCR is currently scoping a contract for additional consultants to help with planned projects and initiatives analysis, financial tools and information, and other elements of CRMP Phase II.

3. Old Business	Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro reviewed the outreach and engagement subcommittee's goals and current strategy
	● Goals include understanding how end-users will use the plan, situating the plan in the context of localities impacted by flooding and what is already being done to address flooding, as well as empowering communities to take action on flood resilience (this goal is really about outreach).
	● In terms of the outreach goal, there are additional subgoals including informing stakeholders around how to address coastal flooding, and engaging stakeholders in solutions.
	● DCR has been working on communicating the outreach and engagement strategy to the public through workshops, tribal communities, and the TAC. They have also updated their website.
	   ○ Communications to the public don't divide stakeholders into the different tiers. This was based on feedback from the TAC.
	● The "Outreach and Engagement Activities" chart lists the actions associated with the O&E strategy including:
	   ○ The TAC is one of the most important
	   ○ There are monthly NGO coordination meetings to drive awareness and encourage engagement
	   ○ A critical infrastructure working group is being led by VDEM and is scheduled to begin at the end of the month. This will deepen understanding of end users' needs. DCR will report back from that meeting to the TAC
	   ○ End-user survey was completed in January and will be discussed more today

	- DCR is creating an online participatory mapping tool where people can provide information on places that have flooded and the impacts to understand the lived experiences of funding. - Meeting with localities to share information and understand end user needs. - Tribal engagement meetings, similar to local government meetings - Underserved community meetings, planned to conclude by August of this year. - DCR has added a few new activities to the list since the subcommittee last met, including: PDC interviews, private sector meeting, and federal facility owner meeting. Purpose of additions was to close stakeholder gaps. The meetings will be workshop-style, likely in the early fall/ late summer. Joe Howell (Navy) asked if he could be copied on communications to the Hampton Roads PDC to be able to share engagement with Navy stakeholders. Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro agreed. Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro reviewed the results of the end-user survey 41 end-users responded - All 8 coastal PDCs, 1 tribal government, and 6 state agencies responded - DCR sent emails (some personalized) to request engagement. - Key takeaways - People felt that Phase I products were useful, especially the web explorer. The open data downloads were least used. - Respondents are interested in state and federal grants to fund flood resilience efforts, and are not interested in other forms of funding. - They see many opportunities for the commonwealth to support flood resilience, especially through funding and financing - The state is using the plan for public education and awareness, program and operational decisions, and research - Localities and PDCs are using these products in similar ways, and specifically for plan development and grant seeking - DCR will use this feedback in the following ways: - craft phase II products, including analysis, narrative, and format - create other supplementary products - help to inform recommendations of TAC subcommittees - make sure there is adequate information about how to use the open data downloads features - Subcommittee members were asked to review the end-user survey before the next meeting to understand implications for the group's recommendations The VFRIS Flood Story App (participatory mapping tool) is nearly complete - It will be easy to use via phone or computer

- This will include data on when, where, type of flooding, frequency, impacts, and photos.
- This should be launched next month, and will be shared with the public. Any member of the public will be able to add to it.

It was asked how the participatory mapping tool relates to existing flood mapping tools, and what the plan is to get people to use it.

- Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro responded that DCR is working on developing an outreach strategy, which will involve the to-be-hired consultants
- In terms of how it will relate to existing participatory maps, it will not directly pull in other maps' contents, but the CRMP will acknowledge that there are other similar tools that have been collecting this information. This tool will be statewide, so this tool could be used in outreach for other resilience and flooding plans.

The subcommittee member shared the potential for this tool to help fact check how flood mitigation efforts are going.

Mary-Carson Stiff asked if there could be an opportunity to include other data sources. Wetlands Watch has a phone app that allows people to indicate hot spots. It could include a photo, but wouldn't have all the other data points that this app will create. That additional data could be useful. Flood sensors that feed data to WAZE could be helpful too, as well as local government 411 calls. Could this data be imputed into this app?
- Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro and Matt Dalon (DCR) responded that they will consider this, and even if it can't happen in time for this deadline, it could be a recommendation for the state to take that on.
- This tool is especially helpful for communities that don't have any mapping tool. Any data in this tool will be given back to localities to help them with their planning efforts.

Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro reviewed progress on locality meetings
- Meetings are with local government staff. In the case of Accomack County, it will be elected officials.
- DCR has identified localities that they want to coordinate with more closely through workshop-style meetings, as opposed to presentations. Criteria:
    - high flood risk
    - low phase I engagement
- DCR has been planning with PDCs for how to set up meetings with those localities' staffs

Mr. Tupponce raised the issue that most VA tribes are on or near rivers, and are concerned with flooding. There is a monthly Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), for work that's happening in collaboration with the EPA, which could be a good way to meet with the tribal government staff, rather than just Chiefs who have a lot on their plate.
- Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro shared that DCR presented at RTOC last week, and will share additional updates on that.

Col Hallberg (USACE) shared that there could be coordination with James City County and Poquoson as the Corps kicks off the Peninsula study. They will be doing scoping meetings with localities that will certainly bring up additional issues that won't be covered by the federal plan.

- Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro responded that a key question is around schedule and timing. The participant shared that the scoping meeting will have to be done by August. DCR agreed that the timing may work and confirmed that DCR will follow-up.

Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro shared an update on tribal engagement:

- The RTOC meeting presentation included a report on the CRMP, Phase II, including specific requests for feedback on the tribal data to be included in the Phase II impact assessment, and opportunities for further engagement with tribes.
    - All Federally recognized tribes are invited to participate in the TAC. Tribes noted challenges in participating in TAC. DCR asked if there were other opportunities that would be of interest to engage tribes that aren't on the TAC, given capacity.
- DCR is also looking for partners to work with who also engage with tribes, including VIMS. DCR will attend those meetings to ask Tribes what they need from this plan, and specifically what data they need
- The deadline for updating asset data to include in the impact assessment is March, so that's the priority question now, but additional meetings can happen after to receive feedback on other aspects of the CRMP.
- A participant shared that their tribe is concerned about watershed issues, and the interrelated issues with ecosystems, especially fisheries. Other concerns tribes have include exposure of their buildings and infrastructure to flooding (ex., roadway/stormwater infrastructure).
- Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro shared that DCR is looking for feedback on tribal impacts, as well as how the impact assessment can be designed to reflect the impacts that tribes would like to see in the plan.
- There should be additional report-backs by the next meeting, and input on how to keep having these conversations with tribes is welcome.

Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro provided an update on underserved community meetings

- The goal is to understand communities at risk of flooding, and to get their input.
- DCR is meeting with CBOs that serve or represent underserved communities because of the difficulty of getting people to come out to meetings without an existing relationship
- underserved communities are being identified with the help of consultants
- the goal is to have these meetings between June and August
- DCR is mapping census blocks that have a high social vulnerability index in the coastal area to cross reference them with areas of flood vulnerability to identify underserved communities at flood risk.
- USACE shared that the Corps is looking for at least one underserved community to submit a request for a continuing authority's project

package, which is 100% federally funded; this could be a good thing to partner on.

- ○ Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro responded that that would be great for the Corps to join the meetings where possible. Local governments will also be invited to join and share information.
- ○ another participant shared the importance of incentivizing participation by underserved communities because these communities experience outreach fatigue
- ○ Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro responded that they have heard feedback that DCR shouldn't do these events alone but should partner with existing efforts. They recently attended a workshop hosted by UVA on the Eastern Shore. They would love to know of other opportunities to collaborate with existing efforts.

Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro then reviewed the Resilience User Portal and Data Call
- Purpose is to develop a comprehensive inventory of resilience actions, support collaboration, and identify gaps where there is a hazard and no effort to address it
- So far DCR has collected info from PDCs and localities, as well as from other non-governmental organizations
- DCR did a second bulk upload from 6 of the 8 PDCs
- There are currently 11 users of the portal; DCR is working to get more active users and to get more stakeholders to upload information
- The purpose is:
  - ○ taking account of VA's financial needs, trends, and gaps
  - ○ supporting regional cooperation
  - ○ showcasing flood resilience accomplishments
  - ○ matching projects with funding opportunities
  - ○ satisfying code requirements
- Most info comes from localities and PDCs, but very little info from State agencies or Tribes.
- There are 660 projects or initiatives currently in the portal; there are some duplicates because the original batch has not been updated
- A lot of work in rural areas is being done at the PDC level, while work in Northern VA and Hampton Roads is more at the locality level
- The total cost of existing projects is $8.37 billion
- Next Steps:
  - ○ March-June: technical assistance
    - ■ new contractor will provide ongoing assistance in response to owner requests
    - ■ April 1 is deadline to submit projects or request assistance
  - ○ April: further analysis of submissions
  - ○ May-September: content development
    - ■ cleaning up the data
    - ■ figuring out what products themselves look like
    - ■ develop summary products for the final report
- A participant asked about feedback from PDCs on putting forward projects and discrepancies between what locality wants and what the board will

	approve. Most localities want to put things before their board before putting it into a state plan. ○ Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro hadn't heard that concern or question. Believe that most projects and initiatives submitted are included in already-adopted plans. The group discussed that some regions have more locally-adopted plans which would include relevant actions than others. Carolyn noted that NNPDC, GWRC are two regions that may be in similar space in terms of not having many "resilience" plans adopted. ○ Matt Dalon shared that there is an approval form for the user portal to ensure that it's not just one person's idea. The participant followed up with the context that at a certain point it becomes a political issue about priorities. Localities may not want to get funding for something, even if it is identified as a need, because they want to address another priority first. Matt Dalon shared that that's where storytelling is important. ● A participant shared in the chat that Accomack County wasn't color coded in the map. Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro shared that the map reflects project owners, not the geographic location of projects. The map is not a final product to be included in the report; DCR will look at other ways to depict the information in the future.
4. New Business	Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro shared the Phase I TAC Recommendations on outreach and engagement and invited the subcommittee to review these. Some key ideas were: ● Integrate data collection with outreach meetings ● Be specific about requests for data ● Identify gaps in outreach coverage ● Use more varied outreach strategies ● Additional recommendations were: ○ the subcommittee wanted to be involved in defining the strategy for the plan ○ saw PDCs as important partners in outreach ● DCR is trying to address this feedback, where possible and is always open to feedback on how their outreach strategies are going ● Next meeting ○ new consultant will be present to aid in facilitating discussion ○ Will work to develop recommendations. Goals of discussion will be: ■ understand strengths and weaknesses ■ identify and prioritize opportunities ■ organize opportunities into recommendations ○ one way to structure this meeting could be a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) ● What does the subcommittee need to support discussion on recommendations for the next meeting? ○ There has been a lot of outreach in the NGO space, including through regular monthly updates. A comprehensive overview of what's being done so far would be helpful to identify gaps or opportunities for us as a subcommittee (not just DCR outreach, but what's being done by other groups too). This would help define the

	subcommittee's place and ensure recommendations aren't duplicative/not needed. Would also help to know what strengths/weaknesses exist in partners to supplement the work the state's doing.
	○ Think about plans that already exist. Thinking of the RAFT model; plans that already exist. Know that the prior TAC's recommendations included looking closer at hazard mitigation plans. Think there is quite a bit of overlap with HMPs. Probably can't pull out every recommendation from every plan, but do some sort of graphical representation of plans that already exist that we can pull strategies and data from.
	○ DCR is hopeful that we will be able to share more information about how we propose identifying underserved communities at flood risk. Facilitate conversation about gaps in outreach.
	○ Tribes – only one at severe flood risk is Pamunkey. Shoreline work, drone work to scan low-lying areas. Combination of sea level rise and subsidence is hitting them hard. As DCR learns more/engages further with the tribes we can share information about the status of that work.
	○ A map that shows the communities that have received CFPF or FEMA hazard mitigation assistance would be helpful because that would show which communities have capacity and willingness to work with us on outreach and engagement. Signal that local governments will be responsive, but also that neighborhoods and communities could be more willing to also participate and engage. It's much easier to get to local government staff; it's exponentially more difficult to get to community/neighborhood level. Unusual that there would be community/neighborhood level engagement if the locality is not engaged. This is the trend that Wetlands Watch has observed. ■ DCR already has an existing map of CFPF funding, and DCR can work with VDEM to map federal funding. ■ VCN also has a map: https://vcnva.org/cfpf-projects-virginia/#:~:text=The%20Fund%20is%20operated%20by,%24102.4%20million%20for%20the%20CFPF. ■ Note that there are also other federal funders (other than FEMA, though they are still the primary) that fund flood resilience. Probably just focus on the public sector. ■ This would be a great resource to have generally.
	○ Updated stakeholder chart/map would also be helpful – going back to the first subcommittee meeting regarding who we needed to engage with. Update this and have – (1) stakeholders engaged; (2) stakeholders DCR plans to engage; (3) stakeholders contacted who did not engage.
	● Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro also reminded members that they can make recommendations for the subcommittee chair to invite guests that they think the subcommittee would benefit from hearing from in the discussion. Share info with Michael Perez.

5. Public Comment	There was no public comment
6. Action Items	● DCR will provide follow up before the next meeting and send out materials in advance. Next three meetings will cover recommendations. ● The next full TAC meeting will be on March 13 in the Patrick Henry Building ● The Q2 meeting will include outreach and engagement updates and recommendations for future planning ● Subcommittee members will review the phase I recommendations handout and end-user survey results summary prior to the next subcommittee meeting.
7. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

The purpose of these minutes is to record and preserve, to the best of our ability, the major contributors and general topics covered during this meeting. Verbatim transcription is not the intent of this document. If you have any questions, please contact flood.resilience@dcr.virginia.gov