

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (Flood Committee)

Subject	Flood Committee Meeting 2025 – #3	Date	9/10/25
Chair & Vice Chair	DCR Director, Matt Wells Chief Resilience Officer, Greg Steele	Time	1:00 pm
Location	Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room, 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219	Scribe	Gabrielle Rosario

Flood Committee Members		
Name [Alternate Name]	Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Matthew Wells	Director Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)	Y
Greg Steele	Chief Resilience Officer Office of Commonwealth Resilience	V
Martin D. Brown	Chief Diversity Officer Office of Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion (ODOI)	
Robbie Coates	Director, Grant Management and Recovery Division Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	Y
Shawn Crumlish [Peter D'Alema] {Tony Leone}	Executive Director [Director of Program Management] {Senior Program Manager} Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)	{Y}
Bill Curtis	Assistant Director Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Y
Jamie Green	Commissioner Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)	Y
LJ Hansen	Director of Public Works, Virginia Beach representing Virginia Municipal League (VML)	Y
James Hutzler	Government Relations Associate Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)	
Fred Kirby	State Review Engineer Virginia Department of General Services (DGS)	Y
Adrienne Kotula	Virginia Director Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	Y
Rachael Peabody	Acting Executive Director, Middle Peninsula PDC representing Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)	V
John Lawson	Director Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI)	
Alex Samms	Chief Deputy Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	V
Chris Swanson [Angel Deem]	Environmental Division Director [Chief of Policy] Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Y [Y]

Invited Guests		
Name	Title Organization	Attended? V = Virtual
Angela Davis	Director, Floodplain Management Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Y
Caitlin Verdu	Commonwealth Resilience Coordinator Office of Commonwealth Resilience	Y
Sigrid Lampe	Commonwealth Resilience Policy Advisor Office of Commonwealth Resilience	Y
John Millsbaugh	Project Manager Arcadis	V
Madison Teeter	Resilience Specialist Arcadis	V

DCR Staff		
Name	Title (Organization Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Darryl Glover	Deputy Agency Director (DCR)	Y
Matt Dalon	Resilience Planning Program Manager (DCR)	Y
Emily Breen	Resilience Planner (DCR)	Y
Gabrielle Rosario	Virginia Sea Grant Fellow (DCR)	Y
Ellie Plisko	VCU Wilder Fellow (DCR)	Y

Members of the Public	
Name	Organization
Chris Stone	Licensed Professional Engineer

Reference Links	
Item	Link
Meeting Agenda	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20250910-flood-committee-agenda.pdf
Meeting Handouts/ Presentation Slides	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20250910-flood-committee-presentation-materials.pdf
Video Recording of the Meeting	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMLtp8cvtmY

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair of the Flood Committee, Director Matt Wells (DCR) started the call at 1:02pm and roll was taken.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Director Wells asked members to move to adopt the agenda and all members approved by voice vote.
3. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2025	Director Wells then asked about the adoption of the minutes and all members approved by voice vote.
4. Chief Resilience Officer Updates	Vice Chair of the Flood Committee, Greg Steele then provided updates on the Virginia Office of Resilience (VOR), including an announcement that VOR released the Resilience in the Commonwealth Status Update in July. He also mentioned that the first meeting of the Interagency Resilience Management Team (IRMT) met this summer, and the second meeting will be held later this September. VOR continues to engage across the Commonwealth, and they recently presented at Resilient Virginia and met with all five USACE districts. Mr. Steele then outlined the structure of engagement for VOR; Mr. Steele will be the primary engager for external outreach, Caitlin Verdu will be the primary engager for state agencies, Sigrid Lampe will be the primary engager for academia. VOR will also create a master list of all hazards each state agency is addressing, and they will develop it in coordination with the IRMT. Finally, VOR visited Tangier recently to discuss building flood resilience in the area.
5. Department of Conservation and Recreation Updates	Matt Dalon (DCR) announced that Emily Breen has started with the Office of Resilience Planning as a Resilience Planner. Director Wells provided an update on the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF), including the list of awardees for Round 5 and that Round 6 will be open soon with \$85 million available for funding. He also outlined the upcoming changes to the Round 6 grant manual. Director Wells then announced that the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (RVRF) will be made available soon this fall, and it will be focused on Southwest Virginia. There will be a total of \$60 million available in funding. Director Wells then provided updates on the Dam Safety division, including that they have made progress on capturing dam ownership and classification. He then said they anticipate another \$5 million round for the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund to be open later this year.
6. Hurricane Helene Recovery Update	Robbie Coates (VDEM) provided updates on Hurricane Helene Recovery, including that Virginia is estimated to receive \$366 million in federal assistance.

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	LJ Hansen (VML) asked if the SWIFT program is expected to be carried forward in the future. Mr. Coates noted that this is the first time Virginia has met the criteria for the program, so it'll be available if we meet the criteria again. Mr. Hansen then asked if the money from the Hazard Mitigation Grant program will be available, and Mr. Coates responded yes. Adrienne Kotula (CBC) asked if Mr. Coates knew what the full funding need is in Virginia and which agency is working on getting this data. Mr. Coates responded that multiple agencies collaborate to get this information, but VDEM only knows the disaster case management side. Director Wells noted that the Office of Recovery and Rebuilding helps with coordination on these efforts. Darryl Glover (DCR) asked who owns the SWIFT properties to which Mr. Coates responded that those properties have not been funded yet, but when they are, the local government will purchase the properties and then restrict future development. Bill Curtis (DHCD) then provided updates related to Hurricane Helene recovery, including that DHCD received \$46 million in disaster recovery funds via the Community Development Block Grant. He then announced that the Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund (VDAF) is now accepting applications, and it has \$50 million in funding available. Half of the funds will go to recovery and rebuilding and the other half will go to mitigation. DHCD is working closely with DCR to ensure they create proper guidelines. DHCD is also working with DCR on the RVRF, which aligns well with VDAF. Ms. Kotula asked how DHCD is working with DCR to ensure compliance with flood standards. Angela Davis (DCR) responded that DCR works on the regulations side, and Mr. Curtis responded that payment from the fund is performance based, so that should help enforce compliance. Ms. Kotula then asked if the plan for RVRF is to keep it open until funding is exhausted to which Director Wells responded yes.
7. Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP)	Overview Mr. Dalon provided a brief overview of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP), including the timeline, planning process, and final products. Mr. Hansen asked a clarifying question about the different stakeholders that are involved in the process and where PDCs fit in. Mr. Dalon responded that staff from PDCs are supporting stakeholders, and the representatives from VAPDC, VACO, and VML are core stakeholders. There is a summary of each stakeholder type located on DCR's VFPMP webpage. Mr. Hansen then asked if the intent of the plan is to capture what localities and PDCs are doing or if the plan is primarily looking at state actions. Mr. Dalon responded that the plan is focused on state plans and policies, but it recognizes the need to support localities as part of the plan actions.

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	Implementation Roadmap Madison Teeter from Arcadis then presented on the implementation roadmap for the VFPMP, including an example strategy. Angel Deem (VDOT) asked if there will be an expectation for state agencies to inventory all current policies related to the plan. Ms. Teeter responded that the expectation is that ongoing policies and relevant projects/programs will be listed in a table at the end of the chapter and that a more comprehensive list than what was shown today will be developed. Ms. Davis asked if prior discussion of strategy prioritization will be included to which Ms. Teeter responded yes, and Mr. Dalon also responded that engagement summaries are used for future planning efforts. Ms. Kotula noted that the emerging opportunities section of the draft strategy is the most effective component of the page, and Director Wells noted that maybe the plan can feature that section more prominently. Monitoring and Metrics: Goal A Ms. Teeter then presented the draft metrics for goals in the VFPMP, including those for Goal A. Mr. Hansen noted that some of the metrics are not as measurable as they should be due to their dependence on the occurrence of natural hazards. John Millspaugh from Arcadis responded that there will be additional tracking needed to get the metrics report. Mr. Dalon then suggested looking at the percentage of people in the floodplain exposed to which Mr. Hansen agreed and noted metrics will have more value if they can demonstrate reducing risk. Mr. Dalon noted that some of these metrics will need to be coupled with others to demonstrate and compare the success of investments. Ms. Davis asked if the metrics are based on the Fathom or FEMA data to which Mr. Dalon responded both are looked at to determine if structures are at risk. This prompted Fred Kirby (DGS) to ask if DGS should use Fathom for building permits. Mr. Dalon responded that the Fathom data fills the gaps of the FEMA data, but it is not meant for individual parcel level considerations and should not be the only consideration. Chris Swanson (VDOT) noted that many of these metrics are on the prepare side of resilience, but not on the recovery side. It may be helpful to look at metrics exploring whether we recover faster. Ms. Deem asked if state agencies will be expected to submit data on these metrics to which Mr. Dalon responded that the status tracker will need data from state agencies, but the mechanism has not yet been created. Monitoring and Metrics: Goals B & C Ms. Teeter then presented the draft metrics for Goals B and C in the VFPMP.

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	Ms. Deem asked if there will be a scale on which to evaluate the qualitative metrics and asked if the plan is to report these metrics at the state or agency level. Mr. Dalon responded that there will be a scale, but it is still in development, and the plan is to report out where the Commonwealth is using agency-level data. Ms. Kotula asked when the reporting process will happen to which Mr. Dalon responded the timeline is still in development, but he welcomes feedback from committee members on this. Mr. Dalon asked committee members to provide feedback on the draft implementation roadmap and monitoring/metrics.
8. Committee Member Updates	Director Wells then asked members of the Flood Committee to provide updates from their organizations. Mr. Swanson and Ms. Deem said VDOT is continuing to build out strategies from their resilience plan, which will impact the policies included in the VFPMP policy inventory. Mr. Kirby said DGS is working on the early adoption of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 24. Mr. Curtis said DHCD continues to work on VDAF. Jamie Green said VMRC is updating and creating a beneficial use dredge plan. Ms. Kotula said CBC is beginning to plan for the upcoming legislative session and that they are refreshing the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. She also noted members of CBC are interested in RVRF and VDAF. Mr. Hansen said VML is in conversation with localities to discuss a structure for localities or regions to work together on resilience. Ms. Davis said Floodplain Management at DCR is updating VFRIS. Mr. Glover said that the Soil and Water Conservation Board will consider Round 1 of the regulatory revisions from their stakeholder group last year in order to align those regulations with the Dam Safety Act. Alex Samms (DEQ) said DEQ did a hurricane preparedness exercise and is now well postured to respond to environmental hazards.
9. Public Comment	Chris Stone (Licensed Professional Engineer) Mr. Stone first commended DCR for working on the VFPMP as it applies to all Virginia regions. He then called for DCR to use the best available science in the plan as it currently uses NOAA Atlas 14, which will become outdated once Atlas 15 is released. He emphasized that the VFPMP should integrate climate adjustment factors. He then noted that the funding structure for resilience in Virginia is uncertain, stating that there is no stable funding as CFPF funds are tied to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

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	He also noted that equity and transparency must be included as part of the VFPMP. Finally, he noted that he can provide Flood Committee members with a plan from the American Society of Civil Engineers that uses a 500-year floodplain, and he encouraged members to adopt it.
10. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.

Voting Records

N/A

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
