



Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Coastal Policy Team Meeting Notes Tuesday, February 9, 2016 10am-12:30pm

Location: DEQ Central Office, 629 E. Main Street, Richmond VA

FY 16 CZM Annual Grant Application

The 2016 schedule was presented:

- Feb 17 (Wednesday) PDC Competitive Proposals due to CZM
- Feb 18 (Thursday) Scoring packages to state scorers
- Mar 3 (Thursday) PDC Competitive Scores due to CZM
- Mar 9 (Wednesday) Continuing grants due to CZM
- Mar 30 (Wednesday) Draft Application due to NOAA
- Apr 13 (Wednesday) Comments back from NOAA
- Apr 22 (Friday) Final app to DEQ Fiscal
- *[Apr 29 (Friday) Semi-annual Reports due to NOAA]*
- May 6 (Friday) Final Application due to NOAA (Grants.gov)
- May 27 Final due to NOAA/GMD

John Kuriawa agreed on the March 30 deadline for Draft App to NOAA (a bit earlier than what NOAA required)

FY16 Project List and Reprogramming of FY 14 Funds

Laura McKay talked about reprogramming and the draft FY 16 Project List. CZM will have \$150K more than in FY15 and there are FY 14 leftover funds to be allocated – approximately \$80K. She presented several options:

- Split the money half State/half PDC
- Develop one \$150k project
- Increase PDC technical assistance grants with \$16K to HRPDC, \$8300 for other PDCs and increase the non-DEQ continuing state grants by \$15K each

She then asked for other ideas from the CPT and the following were offered:

- Ray Fernald suggested a project to produce the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Plan. This may require about \$10K for 1 year. The last plan was done in 1995. This is a high priority for DGIF. Laura McKay mentioned that this could possibly be funded with FY15 Section 309 ocean strategy funds currently available for ocean data collection.
- Laura mentioned that an Eastern Shore Economic Study on the value of conservation easements will need least \$50K but perhaps the study could be expanded and perhaps also cover the Chickahominy area. This will be discussed at the next Southern Tip Meeting
- 120 acres (Parker's Marsh) is on the market and funds could be allocated to land acquisition
- ODU requested funding for a study of Eastern Shore tree species preferences of migratory birds but did not provide any budget figures
- Virginia Witmer mentioned the need for funds to reprint Native Plant Guides – \$6,500 and for a Native Plant Forum - \$5K

- Alli Baird (DCR) proposed an update of the Coastal Virginia Ecological Value Assessment (VEVA) and the Virginia Natural Areas Landscape Assessment (VaNLA) which is one of the largest components of VEVA. Tom Smith said DCR narrow the funding request for the VaNLA update to about \$30K and additional funds would be need to do field work in the Chickahominy and rerun the VEVA model.
- Lewie Lawrence (MP PDC) suggested Analysis for Rural Localities for Design of Public Infrastructure; the localities need alternative designs to adapt to climate changes. No budget suggested for this idea. (Curt Smith suggested a pilot project approach; choose working waterfronts from different regions and develop adaptation plans using students' ideas)
- CZM staff noted the need for a Version 4 (update) of Coastal GEMS. No budget yet. The budget will depend on desired changes. Options include: a new front page that Coastal GEMS points to in order to provide more upfront information; code updates for base maps to allow for viewing of older aerial photography; a function to allow users to pull in data from outside sources; and adding in 3D scene viewers, to name a few.
- VIMS E. Shore lab requested \$75k for an Eastern Shore Poultry Water Quality Impacts Study. There was discussion as to whether this project would have application beyond the E. Shore and whether other sources of funding were better suited to this project. Curt Smith (AN PDC) commented that this is could be an important project for the Eastern Shore that could help shape policy. This project would include a literature synthesis, fact sheets and brochures for public dissemination.
- Danette Poole suggested that the Virginia Outdoors Plan might be helpful in choosing public access tasks to fund.

Tom Smith (DCR) suggested we not increase existing grants because the additional funds may not be available in future years and instead do new, additional projects. John Kuriawa (NOAA) stated that VA CZM needs to decide about how to spend the funding today. Thus there would not be time to put out a Request for Proposals.

Lewie Lawrence proposed and CPT agreed that the CZM staff should make the decision. Laura suggested that perhaps the best option would be to work on a project that could benefit all partners such as the Coastal GEMS updates and the updates of VEVA and its components. CPT agreed.

Section 309

Laura noted that Section 309 funding was cut some due to the NOAA Projects of Special Merit. This year VA CZM will have \$503K not \$520. VA CZM will accommodate that cut by reducing the Ocean Data Collection budget.

CSI Strategy has a stakeholder meeting scheduled for March 15 to develop projects for the FY 16 Draft Application.

Shep Moon reported that FY 16 Coastal Hazards projects will focus on both Community Resilience and Shoreline Resilience. An FY 15 community resilience project (reprogrammed funds) has already been submitted to NOAA for a pilot project with the Hampton Roads PDC to evaluate ways to integrate hazards-related planning efforts. Shoreline projects will include planning and training initiatives through VIMS.

Focal Area

Laura described the focal area concept and presented this slide on the history:

Focal Area Timeline 1999 - 2016

1999 – 2001	Oyster Heritage Program
2002 – 2004	Seaside Heritage Program
2005 – 2007	Seaside Heritage Program
2008 – 2010	Sustainable Coastal Communities
2011 – 2013	PDC Competitive /Seaside Restoration
2014 – 2016	PDC Competitive /Seaside Restoration

She asked the CPT to begin thinking about what they'd like the focal area to be for FY 17-19 and suggested that this could be a topic at the November 2016 Coastal Partners Workshop.

Coastal Partners' Workshop

Laura asked for topics and format suggestions.

- Joan Salvati suggested that VA CZM do an update on programmatic issues; something high-level presentations about the VA CZM program. She also suggested that the State programs provide updates.
- Curt Smith said the Planning District Commissions (PDCs) could give short presentations on how they are using their Technical Assistance grants.
- Lewie Lawrence suggested a topic of "How do we enhance rural economies?" and the policies that may go along with that subject.
- Lewie would also like an update on whether oysters as nitrogen removers are being considered as a BMP. Laura offered that in addition to this potentially being a workshop topic, we could provide an update at the September CPT meeting.

Lewie Lawrence and Joan Salvati volunteered to help with planning.

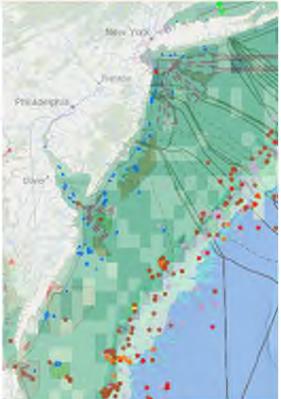
Program Change Updates

Shep Moon reminded the CPT that at their 9/29/15 meeting they had agreed that 1) the CZM Program should move toward narrative enforceable policies, starting with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 2) that FY 14 and FY15 funds (\$60K total) earmarked for program changes should be used to start work on this process, and 3) that the William and Mary Coastal Policy Center (CPC) should be contacted to discuss opportunities to help with this process. He said that since then, CZM staff had met with DEQ leadership and CPC staff about the initiative and that the CPC was working to draft scopes of work for the project. He also mentioned that federal consistency training provided by NOAA in January had provided helpful insights into the potential benefits of new narrative policies to improve understanding of Virginia's policies by both project proponents and state reviewers. There was some discussion of using a topic-based approach (like Maryland's) versus an agency-based system, which is how Virginia's policies are currently organized. It was decided to move ahead with the agency approach for now, since program change packages had already been developed for the Department of Game and Inland fisheries that could provide structure for further analysis. This was also supported by the CPT because of the importance of moving ahead with inclusion of state-listed threatened and endangered species. It was suggested that ways to ultimately organize the policies could be discussed at the Coastal

Partners' Workshop in November, 2016. Shep said that once scopes of work were finalized an advisory group would be formed (including DGIF, EIR, CZM, NOAA, the AG's office and others) and that they would review draft policies developed by the CPC in order to facilitate discussion.

Ocean Action Plan Review Schedule

Laura reviewed the schedule for the Ocean Action Plan and provided the following two slides:

Mar 8	Draft Action Plan components released for public review	<p>Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy Ocean Ecosystem 2. Sustainable Human Uses <p>1 of the 5 HOE actions the RPB is considering is to identify ecologically rich areas and region-wide features as well as areas of human use in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overlay human use map on ecologically rich areas/regional features map • Understand what activities occur in those areas and which agencies manage those uses • Develop in-depth assessment of health of the area with input from scientists and stakeholders <p>MDA & HUDS also useful for other OAP actions</p>	
Mar 22-24	Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Meeting in Baltimore		
Mar/Apr	Scientific expert vetting of MDAT analysis		
Jun	Public release of Draft Ocean Action Plan		
Jun/Jul	Public Listening Sessions and 45 day public comment period		
Sep	Mid-Atlantic RPB Meeting		
Sep/Oct	Submit Ocean Action Plan to National Ocean Council		

In May, State agencies and the Secretary of Natural Resources will review the Draft Ocean Action Plan before its public release in mid June. The Actions in the plan are not regulatory. The plan focuses mainly on improved interagency coordination and data collection & analysis.

DCR Floodplain Management Program

Charley Banks presented a PowerPoint on the DCR Floodplain Management Program and suggested that DCR team up with PDCs to work on floodplain management. The National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) is voluntary for localities. He said that a community that chooses to join sets up a contract between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and that 290 communities in Virginia have already joined. The communities must comply with the regulations in 44 CFR 60.3 and manage their floodplains properly.

The NFIP is made up of three sections: Know Your Risk – Mapping Flood Hazards; Insure Your Risk – Insurance and Outreach; Reduce Your Risk – Regulations and Mitigation Practices. There is no state-level floodplain regulation, only federal and local regulation. DCR helps localities stay in compliance and assists them with maps and ordinances.

DCR is coming up with a budget for 2016 that includes funds for PDC staff time. The PDCs could structure their grants the same way as they do for VA CZM Technical Assistance grants if DCR can get the funding from FEMA. Charley will provide a scope of work for the PDCs to bring to the PDC boards to get approval for the project, with a line item in the budget for the PDCs' staff time. The FEMA money will be awarded in September 2016.

Shep Moon stated there needs to be better integration of flood management programs, e.g. the Community Rating System and comprehensive planning. He noted there is a nexus between DCR and these programs. Also, Maryland's narrative enforceable policies have a floodplain section and perhaps Virginia should have one in theirs.

Announcements

- Native Plant Forum Feb 24 at Germanna Community College, Culpepper
- Marine Debris Summit March 7-9 at VIMS, Gloucester Point
- First Lady's Garden Day (Native Plants & Honey) Apr 29 at Governor's Mansion, Richmond
- USDA Grant Opportunity for Market-based Wetland Protection Systems
<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDANRCS/bulletins/1344262>
- 2016 is DCR Natural Heritage Program's 30th Anniversary
- DCR Natural Heritage has kicked off "RareQuest" where Master Naturalists conduct field assessments and surveys
- 2016 marks DGIF's 100th Anniversary
- VA CZM Program marks its 30th Anniversary.
- Tracey Harmon is now the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Coordinator. She will remain on the CPT.
- A portion of CZM's FY15 ocean planning funds have gone to VCU to study electromagnetic field effects on sturgeon. The study was requested by fishermen concerned about potential effects from the cable that would bring electricity from offshore wind turbines to shore.

Attendees:

Shannon Alexander – A-NPDC
Elizabeth Andrews – DEQ
April Bahen – VA CZM
Alli Baird – DCR
Charley Banks – DCR
Sharon Baxter – DEQ
Mark Bittner – Crater PDC
Dave Davis – DEQ
Greg Evans – VDOF
Ray Fernald – DGIF
Lewis Gillingham – VMRC
Tracey Harmon – VDOT
Todd Janeski – VCU/DCR
John Kuriawa – NOAA
Lewie Lawrence – MPPDC
Laura McKay – VA CZM
Stuart McKenzie – NNPDC
Nick Meade – VA CZM

Donna Milligan – VIMS
Corey Miles – NVRC
Shep Moon – VA CZM
Beth Polak – VA CZM
Danette Poole – DCR
Meghann Quinn – DEQ
Dan Salkovitz – DEQ
Joan Salvati – DEQ
Mark Slauter – VDEM
Curt Smith – A-NPDC
Tom Smith – DCR
David Spears – DMME
Sarah Stewart – RRPDC
Bettina Sullivan – DEQ
Lyle Varnell – VIMS
Tim Ware – GWRC
Tony Watkinson – VMRC
Jim Wesson – VMRC
Virginia Witmer – VA CZM