

**VA CZM Program Administration Progress Report -
October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008**

Reporting Date: October 5, 2007

Upcoming Major Operational Activities

- The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, administered by DEQ, will be cosponsoring the "International Submerged Lands Management Conference 2007" that will be held in Williamsburg from October 28 through November 2. The conference, hosted by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, will focus on issues surrounding the administration of submerged lands and adjacent uplands.
- Virginia CZM's Coastal Policy Team will meet at 1:00 on October 10 at the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The meeting will be attended by representatives from the network of agencies involved in coastal management and include topics such as dune and beach management and shellfish aquaculture.

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Virginia CZM staffed a display on the benefits of "living shorelines" at the State Fair on October 2. Living shorelines are environmentally friendly alternatives to conventional shoreline erosion control techniques such as bulkheads and rock revetments.
- Virginia CZM staff attended a monthly meeting of the York River Use Conflict Roundtable at VIMS on October 3. Jack Travelsted from the Marine Resources Commission discussed new and proposed aquaculture regulations with the group and solicited feedback. The group continued to categorize the spectrum of use conflict issues in Gloucester County and identified multi-jurisdictional overlaps as a first step toward the development of policy recommendations for the County.
- Virginia CZM staff attended a meeting of the Marina Technical Advisory Committee at VIMS on October 4. The Committee guides the work of the Virginia Clean Marina Program, which now has a full time staff position. Virginia CZM has provided grants to the Program for development of a strategic plan, a marketing plan and for general program support.

Reporting Date: October 12, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Virginia CZM's Coastal Policy Team met on October 10 to discuss a long list of coastal management issues. A presentation by VIMS researchers highlighted the need for expansion of the Coastal Primary Sand Dunes and Beaches Act to cover additional localities where these resources have been documented through CZM-funded research. A discussion of priorities for program changes to update the Virginia CZM Program included a suggestion for preparing for the potential impacts of off-shore oil and gas exploration and extraction. As a result, Virginia CZM will begin a process of evaluating the adequacy of current enforceable policies with regard to these activities. Staff also presented the current draft agenda for the Virginia Coastal Zone Partners Workshop to be held on December 6 & 7, 2007 in Portsmouth. The workshop will focus on impacts of climate change and population growth on Virginia's coastal resources and possible Virginia CZM Program partnership solutions to some of these challenges. Staff also presented a draft version of Virginia's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan (CELCP) which will soon be available for public comment and the second version of Coastal GEMS which will become available online by the end of October. Finally brief presentations were given by VMRC, DEQ/Water Division and the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission regarding actions they are pursuing to protect shellfish aquaculture and resolve use conflict issues. The next Coastal Policy Team meeting will be held in January or February.

- Virginia CZM provided a letter of support for a VIMS proposal for NOAA funding of a project entitled "Forecasting Stressor Impact at Sheltered Land-Water Interface in Chesapeake: Using Science and Modeling to Develop Effective Management Tools over Multiple Scales in the Landscape". If funded, the project will help support efforts by Virginia CZM to better manage shoreline erosion and riparian and nearshore coastal resources.
- On October 12, Virginia CZM staff and staff from the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, VA Institute of Marine Science, VA Marine Resources Commission, and Gloucester County visited several properties in Gloucester County to assess their potential for a wetlands mitigation bank.
- On October 12, Virginia CZM staff attended a meeting of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA). The PAA members adopted a code of conduct for public use of all PAA properties and the meeting included site visits to properties (Dragon Bridge, Jackson, Haworth, and Clay) recently acquired through funds provided by NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), which is administered by Virginia CZM Program.

Events/Agency Visits:

- CZM staff exhibited the Seaside Heritage Program at the 15th annual Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival on October 5-7. The program kept the official species checklist and 142 species of birds were sighted over the weekend. CZM staff led a boat trip for 20 festival attendees from Oyster Harbor out to Wreck Island to view the thriving eelgrass meadows and oyster reefs planted with CZM funds. American oystercatchers were abundant on the oyster reefs.
- CZM staff met with staff from the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay at their request to explore what areas of collaboration may exist. Two areas were identified: Living Shorelines and Shellfish Aquaculture. The Alliance would like to assist with education and community participation aspects for both issues and especially the potential designation on boating No Discharge Zones around shellfish aquaculture areas.
- Virginia CZM staff will participate with an exhibit in the 2007 Dragon Run Day, a community watershed festival, on Saturday, October 13 at the Thousand Trails Campground in Gloucester County. Dragon Run Day is an educational component of the Dragon Run Special Area Management Plan, funded by the Virginia CZM Program. The Dragon Run SAMP seeks to minimize the adverse impacts of approaching suburbanization on the natural resources of the Dragon by improving the range of tools available to Gloucester, Middlesex, King and Queen, and Essex Counties to control new development and protect the traditional uses of the watershed.

Reporting Date: October 19, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On October 17 the CZM Manager attended a Southern Tip Partners meeting on the Eastern Shore to discuss possible land acquisitions in southern Northampton County that would be suitable for migratory bird habitat. Two seaside parcels and their owners were noted as strong possibilities for CELCP (Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program) and CZM dollars and perhaps other federal funding sources. Dave Harris of The Nature Conservancy will be contacting the two landowners soon to see whether they would be interested in a combination of fee simple purchase of wetlands and attached buffers plus an easement on the rest of the upland. A third priority may be some parcels on the bayside, north of Kiptopeke State Park. Currently the CZM Program has \$200k available in CZM funds for this effort and can apply for CELCP funds next winter/spring for up to 3 projects each requesting \$3M for a total application of \$9M in CELCP funds which would have to be matched with the same amount in non-federal funds.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff attended a 2008 Chesapeake Club campaign strategy and planning meeting on October 17 with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, staff from Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover counties, the City of Richmond and Virginia Cooperative Extension. The Virginia Turf Council will also be a partner in the 2008 campaign. This will be the second campaign held in the Richmond and Hampton Roads Area following a successful media run in the spring of 2007 and two previous campaigns in the DC area. WQIF funds - \$250,000 - will be used primarily for media buy with ads appearing on television and in area papers in March 2008 encouraging homeowners to help improve water quality by waiting until fall to fertilize their lawns. At this meeting, partners received new T-shirts and posters recently produced with funds from the Virginia CZM Program which, along with coasters and door hangers, will help advertise the campaign at restaurants (waitstaff wear t-shirts) and local environmental events. The Virginia CZM Program also funded development of two Chesapeake Club exhibits, one of which will be displayed by the program at the upcoming Urbanna Oyster Festival, November 2nd and 3rd.
- The Virginia CZM Program Manager and Coastal Planner will present "Coastal GEMS: A Tool for Coordinated Coastal Planning and Education" on October 24, 2007 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Science Museum of Virginia as part of their Funsten Science Lecture Series.

Reporting Date: October 26, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- CZM, Finance and Pollution Prevention staff interviewed six candidates for the Coastal Grants Coordinator & Outreach Specialist on Oct 25. A top candidate has been identified and reference checks will be done next week. Five applicants for the Coastal Specialist (GIS Specialist) will be interviewed on November 8. That position is a VCU contractor.

Events/Agency Visits:

- The NOAA CSC Coastal Management Fellow met with staff from DGIF to discuss expanding Virginia's boating access database into a Virginia coastal zone public access database. The Fellow will collaborate with DGIF field wardens, law enforcement officials, local governments, the public, and CZM Program partners to enhance the database and develop it into a web application accessible to the public.
- The NOAA CSC Coastal Management Fellow attended the Fifth Annual Scenic Virginia Awards luncheon at the Kent-Valentine House on October 26th on behalf of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA). The PAA and its partners in the Dragon Run Watershed, including the CZM Program, were selected as Honorable Mention recipients of the 2007 Scenic Water Corridor Preservation Award for their project, "*Conserving the Habitat Corridor and Public Access Connectivity of the Dragon Run Watershed*". This award was created by Scenic Virginia specifically this year to honor the tremendous accomplishments of the PAA and its partners in the watershed. The award was presented to Ron Hachey, PAA Vice Chairman and King and Queen County Administrator, by Peter Hunt of the Scenic Virginia Inc. Board of Trustees.

Reporting Date: November 2, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- The Virginia CZM Program submitted 6 separate semi-annual reports to NOAA on time on October 30. Three of them were for open CZM grant awards (FY 04, '05 and '06), one for an FY 06 CELCP (land

acquisition) award, one on all partner agency activities and one on performance measurements (for government coordination, public access, habitat and water quality). The reports covered the time period of April 1 to September 30, 2007.

Events/Agency Visits:

- Virginia CZM staff attended the International Submerged Lands Management Conference in Williamsburg on October 31 and November 1. The Program Manager presented information on the history and development of Virginia CZM's Coastal GEMS (Geospatial and Educational Mapping System) and the Coastal Planner moderated a session on "Combining Land Use and Submerged Lands Management.
- The Virginia CZM Program exhibited at the 50th Annual Urbanna Oyster Festival on November 2 and 3. The exhibit focused on Living Shorelines, Coastal GEMS and Oyster Gardening. Attendance at this year's festival was estimated at approximately 100,000 people and the educational exhibit area drew hundreds of visitors. There was great interest in oyster gardening and in Living Shorelines with many people requesting information on contractors certified to install living shorelines.

Reporting Date: December 3, 2007

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Candidates were interviewed for two open positions with the Virginia CZM Program at DEQ. Interviews were completed on November 7 for the position of Grants Coordinator and Outreach Specialist and an offer was made last week. The two top candidates for the position were from out of state which caused some delay in the process. The other position, Coastal Specialist, (a GIS position) is open until filled as a contract position with VCU. Two candidates were interviewed for that position on November 8.
- The Virginia CZM Program began receiving final products for over 20 grants that ended Sept. 30, 2007. Staff has been working to approve these products so that the grants will be closed by year's end.
- The Virginia Coastal Zone Partners Workshop will be held on December 6 & 7 in Portsmouth at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center. The workshop will focus on climate change and population growth and their impacts to Virginia coastal zone, as well as on possible Virginia CZM Program solutions. Secretary Bryant will speak to an audience of just over 100 federal, state and local coastal resource managers, non-profits and other CZM partners on Friday, December 7, concerning Virginia's current and upcoming efforts to address climate change. On Thursday, December 6, Dr. Jay Gulledge, Senior Scientist with The Pew Center on Global Warming, will give an overview of climate change, beginning with an appraisal of the international effects of warming and ending with a focus on the impacts to the Chesapeake Bay region. Ann Regn, Director of Virginia's Office of Environmental Education, will lead the audience through an ecological footprint exercise to emphasize the impacts of our growing coastal population. Deputy Secretary Nikki Rovner will make a presentation on the status of the Governor Kaine's 400,000 acre goal and lead a panel discussion on land conservation efforts. Other sessions will discuss coastal hazards planning, sea level rise, ecosystem impacts of climate change, impacts of population growth on water quality and fisheries and waterfront access, and alternative energy options. A detailed workshop agenda is available on the Virginia CZM website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/workshopagenda.html>.

Events/Agency Visits:

- The CZM Program Manager gave a presentation on the Seaside Heritage Program on November 7 to a full room of about 50 people at the VIMS Wachapreague Laboratory. The talk was part of an ongoing seminar series that the lab offers to local residents. The audience, largely "come-here" retirees, expressed great concern about keeping water quality high and maintaining habitat quality for the seaside's rich and valuable resources.

- The CZM Program Manager attended the Northeast Regional CZM Managers' meeting in Providence Rhode Island November 13-15. Sessions focused on climate change, alternative energy produced from ocean resources and Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs). The Virginia CZM Manager gave a presentation on the Seaside SAMP.
- CZM staff participated in a meeting of the Coastal Planning District Commissions (PDCs) on November 16 at the offices of the Richmond Regional PDC. In addition to discussion of coastal resource management issues, the group discussed whether future meetings would be more productive if the structure of the group was changed from a formal committee of the Virginia Association of PDCs to a less formal workgroup of the Virginia CZM program. Discussion of the issue will continue with PDC staff representatives and executive directors. The PDCs also expressed interest in expanded representation on the Coastal Policy Team (CPT). Two PDCs (one urban and one rural) currently attend CPT meetings. Both of these issues will be discussed at the winter meeting of the CPT.

Reporting Date: January 17, 2008

Legislation:

- House Bill 1308, introduced by Delegate Morgan, amends the Coastal Primary Sand Dunes and Beaches Act to include all Tidewater localities and to add several plants to the list of species that help define a dune. The bill is based on recommendations from a report by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (Virginia CZM). Virginia CZM has worked in partnership with VIMS to identify dune and beach resources outside of the nine localities currently included in the Dunes & Beaches Act. Based on this research, it was determined that a significant number of these valuable coastal features were currently unprotected. The bill would allow additional localities to adopt a dune & beach ordinance. If the locality chooses not to adopt the ordinance, dune and beach resources would be regulated through the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Agency Matters/Operations:

- Coastal GEMS: On January 3, 2008, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program announced that a beta test site for the Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (Coastal GEMS) Version 2 is now available to the public from the CZM Program website (www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/coastalgems.html). Over the summer and fall of 2007, Worldview Solutions, Inc. and VCU helped the CZM Program to upgrade and redesign Coastal GEMS, taking advantage of advances in technology and availability of new coastal data. Version 2 contains many more data layers and allows the user to create a map, export it to a "pdf" file, and print it. This version of Coastal GEMS, while still beta test site, better achieves the CZM Program's vision of a "gateway" to Virginia's coastal resources.
- The Virginia CZM Program Outreach Coordinator is developing a social marketing campaign to increase native vegetation on Virginia's Eastern Shore. An increase in native vegetation will provide water quality benefits which are of critical importance to maintaining a potable water supply on the Shore and maintaining optimal water quality for Virginia's shellfish aquaculture industry. Native plants also provide critical habitat for the millions of migratory songbirds that visit the Shore each fall. This migration attracts birdwatchers from across the nation and overseas, and supports the Shore's growing ecotourism industry.

The campaign will target landowners in Accomack County and Northampton County and is a component of the Virginia CZM Program's Seaside Heritage Program. The Coordinator will work with a local committee to design and implement the campaign and has already identified opportunities to collaborate and stretch financial and human resources. The Coordinator is currently taking a class through Duke University titled "Environmental Communication for Behavior Change," and will be developing the campaign with guidance from an expert in the area of behavior change strategies.

- The Virginia CZM Program successfully closed out its Fiscal Year 2004 Coastal Zone Management Act grant with NOAA as of December 31, 2007. Work continues on grants under FY '05, '06 and '07 and preparations are underway for the draft FY '08 grant application, which is due to NOAA on April 15.
- On January 10, 2008, Diana Daley-Nash started as the new Grants Coordinator for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. Diana has prior experience working for the Georgia CZM Program. The CZM Program continues to interview for a Coastal GIS Specialist position, to be contracted through VCU, which is currently vacant.
- The CZM Manager nominated the Southern Tip Partnership (formalized through an MOU signed by DEQ/CZM, DCR, DGIF, USFWS, and The Nature Conservancy) for a Governors' Environmental Excellence Award in the new "Land Conservation" category. The nomination described this group of 5 partners efforts since 1990 to document the critical migratory bird stopover habitat on the southern tip of the Eastern Shore and proceed to protect through a series of land acquisitions.
- CZM staff participated on another national conference call of the CZMA Reauthorization Work Group of the Coastal States Organization. The group will be proposing reauthorization language that will both meet national priorities (focusing on 4 major topics: Sustainable, Livable Communities; Protect, Restore Coastal Habitats; Prepare for Coastal Hazards and Climate Change; and Coordination of Government Programs) and maintain "core" state CZM Program operations (e.g. program management, permitting, impact review, technical assistance, monitoring, education).

Events/Agency Visits:

- On December 11 the CZM Program Manager participated in a Southern Tip Partners meeting on the Eastern Shore. Four different potential land acquisition sites in the southern tip of Northampton County were identified and funding strategies for their acquisition were developed. Both CZM and Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) land acquisition funds would be used in these strategies.
- On December 20 the CZM Program Manager gave a presentation on the Seaside Heritage Program to about 50 attendees at UVA's Seminar Series conducted monthly at the new Anhueser-Busch Coastal Research Center in Oyster, Virginia. The presentation lasted about an hour but discussion went on for an additional 1 ½ hours as attendees expressed their concern over protecting the seaside's vital, and truly unique, natural resources.
- On January 17 and 18, 2008 a Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Coastal Planner will attend a strategic planning session of the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission. The Commission plans to discuss current initiatives, prioritize emerging issues, and develop a work plan to achieve identified high priority goals. The role of the Coastal Planner in attending this meeting is to provide comments and relate Virginia experiences to Commission staff, gain knowledge for use by the CZM Program in developing a strategic plan for our next 3-year "focal area," and align or regionalize efforts with our neighboring state in addressing similar coastal management issues.
- On January 25, Virginia CZM staff will meet with staff from the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) about a potential review of the adequacy of Virginia's CZM program for managing the impacts of off-shore energy development. ELI has performed this type of analysis for other states, and NOAA is very interested in Virginia, and other states in the Mid-Atlantic, undertaking this review. The project would help Virginia prepare for anticipated oil/gas exploration and development, as well as development of other off-shore activities such as wind energy.
- A Coastal Policy Team meeting is being scheduled for mid-February. This meeting will focus on the CZM Program's FY 2008 application to NOAA. A draft application is due April 15 and a final on June 1. Grants would begin on October 1, 2008. Although NOAA has not yet released FY 2008 funding allocations for the states, the amount available for Section 306/306A/309 has dropped slightly at the

national level from \$66.15M in FY 07 to \$64.4M in FY 08. However last year there were no funds allocated nationally to the Coastal Nonpoint Program and for FY 08 there is \$3.9M available.

For FY 08 the CZM Program will be choosing a new “focal area” on which we will spend about \$400 - 500k per year for 3 years. Ideas generated from the December Coastal Partners Workshop are being summarized for the Coastal Policy Team and staff recommendations based on some of those ideas are also being formulated so that the Policy Team can discuss and vote on our next focal area. Primary topics included climate change, use conflicts, land use planning and ocean management.

Reporting Date: February 1, 2008

Agency Matters/Operations:

- On January 29 the CZM Program Manager convened its shellfish aquaculture workgroup to update members on progress of their CZM grants. There are about 8 different grants in progress under this strategy which began in October 2006, totaling about \$300,000. These grants are creating suitability/vulnerability models; creating shellfish aquaculture management options, creating BMPs for shellfish aquaculture and investigating economic costs and benefits of shellfish aquaculture. The group decided that funds remaining for the next 2 years (about \$126K) of this 4 year strategy should be dedicated to development of model local comprehensive plan and ordinance language aimed at protecting water quality so that shellfish aquaculture can continue to thrive (in the case of hard clams) and perhaps grow (in the case of oysters). The group concluded that sufficiently high water quality may be the greatest limiting factor in the future. Space may be limiting as well, but water quality was felt to be the higher priority.
- On Jan 29 the semiannual report to NOAA was submitted on the FY 2005 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program grant. The \$1 million for Dragon Run is all allocated and largely spent. One tract (the Clay tract) remains to be closed on. We are currently awaiting NOAA approval of the documentation for that tract. The \$3 million for Potomac Gorge remains difficult to spend. This award has been extended through June 30, 2008, but willing sellers have still not been found by the multiple agencies and NGOs working on this. It is highly likely that all but the \$200k for the Timblin easement (which has closed) will have to be returned to NOAA. There was no possibility of redirecting these funds which were in the federal budget as a Congressional earmark from Rep. Frank Wolf's Office.

Events/Agency Visits:

- On January 25 CZM and EIR staff meet with the DEQ Environmental Enhancement Division Director, the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources and staff from the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) to discuss the possibility of spending reprogrammed FY 2006 EIR CZM funds and FY 2007 Section 309 CZM funds to conduct an analysis of the strength of Virginia's currently incorporated enforceable policies to protect Virginia's coastal and ocean resources within 3 miles from potential negative impacts of offshore energy development. The decision was to proceed with a study immediately and hopefully complete it by mid-November 2008. The study will identify current Virginia laws that need to be incorporated into the CZM Program as well as new laws that may need to be adopted by the General Assembly and subsequently incorporated into the CZM Program in order to adequately protect coastal resources from offshore energy development impacts. This study should be completed in time for use in development of the Governor's legislative agenda for 2009.
- On January 25, CZM staff attended a meeting of the George Washington Regional Commission with planning and GIS staff from its five localities. This was the first local planners meeting that GWRC held under its technical assistance grant from the CZM Program. CZM staff gave an overview of the CZM Program and current initiatives, including a demo of the newly released version of Coastal GEMS. Attendees discussed a regional GIS visualization project that GWRC will complete this year, as well as topics for future local planners meeting, such as regional stormwater management.

Reporting Date: February 8, 2008

Agency Matters/Operations/Personnel:

- York River Use Conflict Policy Recommendation Committee meeting – CZM staff attended a monthly meeting of the York River Use Conflict Policy Recommendation Committee on January 30, 2008. The group is now beginning to articulate which use conflict issues they would like Gloucester County to address after many months of discussing and defining existing conflicts related to water-dependent activities such as shellfish aquaculture, viewsheds and recreational boating. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2008 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.
- Coastal Policy Team meeting – The Virginia CZM Program's Coastal Policy Team (CPT), consisting of representatives of the various coastal resource management agencies and institutions, will meet on February, 14. In addition to updates from CZM staff and agency representatives (including the Coastal Energy Research Consortium), the meeting will include a discussion and vote on the next CZM focal area. The focal area will receive approximately \$400,000/year to address a single topic. Potential topics include ocean management, climate change planning, sustainable community planning (blue-green infrastructure planning), and shoreline and water-based conflict resolution. As a result of a recent vote by the CPT, each of the eight coastal planning district commissions (PDCs) will now be represented on the CPT as opposed to the previous membership which included only two PDC representatives. This change was initiated because of the key role that local governments and PDCs play in implementing the goals and enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM program.

Events/Visits:

- Coastal GEMS presentation at State Agency GIS Users meeting – CZM staff presented the recently released second version of Coastal GEMS (Geospatial and Educational Mapping System) at the State Agency GIS Users meeting on January 31, 2008 at the Science Museum of Virginia. Agency GIS users were impressed with the customized mapping tools and resources Coastal GEMS offers on an Internet site. State agency staff may request a personalized Coastal GEMS training session from the CZM Program at any time. The CZM Program also seeks comments from state agency staff on the usefulness and functionality of this new version.
- Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority public meeting – CZM staff will attend a public meeting on February 12, 2008 at the King & Queen County Courthouse convened by the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority (PAA). The PAA is convening this meeting to discuss development of a land management plan for the Haworth Tract, a property recently acquired by the PAA with funds from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), which is administered through the Virginia CZM Program.
- Social Marketing Campaign to Increase Native Vegetation on Virginia's Eastern Shore – CZM staff will meet on February 21 with stakeholders to discuss development of a new campaign to increase the use of native plant species on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The campaign will differ from previous communication and education efforts by using behavior change strategies to address why landowners in Accomack and Northampton counties, many segments of whom are increasingly aware of the value of native vegetation, are still not using natives in their landscaping. The campaign is a component of the Virginia CZM Program's Seaside Heritage Program but will focus on the entire Shore – bayside and seaside. The Coordinator will work with a committee including representatives from DEQ, DCR, DGIF, TNC, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, UVA, NRCD, SWCD and the local community to design and implement the campaign. The campaign will begin in March with a series of focus groups to help determine the real and perceived barriers landowners face in planting natives.

Reporting Date: February 15, 2008

Agency Matters/Operations/Personnel:

- Coastal Policy Team meeting – The Virginia CZM Program's Coastal Policy Team (CPT), consisting of representatives of member state agencies and the 8 coastal Planning District Commissions met on February 14. In addition to updates from CZM staff and agency representatives (including the Coastal Energy Research Consortium), the meeting included a discussion and vote on the next CZM focal area. The focal area will receive approximately \$400,000/year to address a single topic. Potential topics included ocean management, climate change planning, sustainable community planning (blue-green infrastructure planning), and shoreline and water-based use conflict resolution. The result of the vote was 12 for sustainable community planning, 7 for climate change planning, 3 for use conflict resolution and 0 for ocean management. CPT members felt that the sustainable community planning focal area could include climate change and use conflict issues.
- Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority public meeting – CZM staff attended a public meeting on February 12, 2008 at the King & Queen County Courthouse convened by the Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority (PAA). The PAA convened this meeting of local residents and partner agencies to discuss development of a land management plan for the Haworth Tract, a property recently acquired by the PAA with funds from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), which is administered through the Virginia CZM Program. The attendees discussed uses they'd like to see on the tract, such as multi-use trails, and prohibited uses, such as camping and unrestricted hunting. A series of meetings will be held with stakeholders over the next couple of months to finalize the land management plan.

Reporting Date: February 29, 2008

Agency Matters/Operations/Personnel:

- York River Use Conflict Policy Recommendation Committee meeting – CZM staff attended a monthly meeting of the York River Use Conflict Policy Recommendation Committee on February 26, 2008. The committee discussed Gloucester County's jurisdiction over certain areas of conflict through an ordinance adopted June 7, 1983 entitled "Chapter 21 Watercraft and Water Safety" and began to discuss which conflicts local government could remedy through enforceable policies and which conflicts fall under state agency jurisdiction. Staff will begin to develop recommendations for the Gloucester Board of Supervisors based on the meeting discussions. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2008 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.
- Northampton County Sustainable Technologies Industrial Park (STIP) Sale. Thanks in large part to the efforts of a newly elected County Supervisor who has worked with the Virginia CZM Program for many years, the County has agreed to honor a CZM grant agreement made by the County. In 1997 the CZM Program gave the County a \$47k grant to create a wetland and two boardwalks over the wetland on the grounds of the STIP. The County is now selling the property and must, according to the grant agreement, either maintain public access to the boardwalks and wetland or return the grant funds. Initially the County Attorney intended to ignore the situation and let the sale proceed without returning the funds or ensuring continued public access. After the CZM Manager informed the Supervisor of the situation, the Cape Charles Supervisor prevailed on the full Board of Supervisors to honor the grant agreement. The result is that through continued efforts among the CZM Office, NOAA, the AG's Office, Supervisor Burden and the County Attorney, a license agreement is being signed between the County and the new owner of the STIP property to maintain public access to the boardwalks and wetland.
- FY 2008 Award Amounts. Virginia CZM received its notice of award levels for grants that will begin on October 1, 2008. Section 306/306A Program Implementation grants will receive \$1,967,000 (same as this year); Section 309 Enhancement grants will receive \$536,000 (same as this year). In addition, we will

receive \$68,000 for Coastal Non-point grants. There was no funding of Coastal Nonpoint for FY 2007. A draft application is due to NOAA by April 15 and the final application will be due May 20.

Events/Visits:

- Clean Water Partners meeting – CZM staff attended a meeting of the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners on February 19, 2008 at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Twelve localities and two authorities (Fairfax Water and Loudoun Water) now participate in this partnership to promote regional stormwater education, along with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The partners discussed the 2008 media strategy with Deborah Cover-Lewis of Media Vision (this year's media buyer), including taglines for the spring radio advertisements, ad flight schedule, selected radio stations, target demographics, and the resident pre- and post- surveys. The partners also discussed ideas for moving this year's issue message – motor oil recycling. This year marks the fourth year of the media strategy to create awareness of pollution prevention with Northern Virginia residents in the target demographic who engage in lawn care, dog walking or oil changing. Listen for this year's radio ads April 7 – 20 and May 5 – 18. For more information on the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners visit www.onlyrain.org.
- Coastal States Organization meeting. The CZM Program Manager represented Virginia at the annual CSO meeting in Washington DC on Feb 25. The CSO endorsed a new "framework" for reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act. This framework refines the focus of CZM activities to four areas:
 1. Support healthy communities and economies;
 2. Protect and restore coastal ecosystems, habitats, and unique resources;
 3. Prepare for impacts of climate change on the nation's coasts;
 4. Ensure that local, state, regional and federal coastal programs are coordinated and integrated at all appropriate scales.Although several bills are circulating within Congress now about CZMA reauthorization, expectations are that a comprehensive reauthorization bill won't really be taken up until the 2009 Congress and that now is the time for familiarizing our Congressional delegations with this CSO-approved framework. The new framework also calls for a significant increase in funding for CZM and Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) from the current levels of about \$65M for CZM and \$8-50M for CELCP to about \$400M for these programs.
- National Program Managers' Meeting. The CZM Manager attended this meeting on Feb 26-27. Discussions continued about CZMA reauthorization and also focused on area-based and ecosystem-based management. This led to discussions about regional ocean governance and the lack thereof in the mid-Atlantic and southeast regions. All other areas of the US have regional ocean governance structures. The Virginia CZM Manager attended a meeting called by The Nature Conservancy and Monmouth University to discuss the possibility of holding a mid-Atlantic regional forum on ocean issues this June in Baltimore.
- Benefit Concert. Singer/songwriter James Taylor is doing a benefit concert on behalf of the Virginia CZM Program's efforts to protect migratory songbird habitat on the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore. The concert is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at the Virginia Beach Verizon Amphitheater. Proceeds will go toward acquisition of land on the southern tip.

Reporting Date: March 7, 2008

Agency Matters/Operations/Personnel:

- NOAA Coastal Management Fellows Meeting – The NOAA Coastal Services Center Coastal Management Fellow attended the 2008 Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC, February 19-22, 2008 on behalf of the Virginia CZM Program and the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA). The Fellow made a presentation about the development of the MPCBPAA and its work to provide and enhance public water access opportunities in the Middle Peninsula to NOAA Coastal Services Center employees, current and former Fellows, and representatives from Earth Resources Technology (ERT) - the

Fellowship's contractor. Additional presentations/topics discussed at the meeting included the progression of other current Fellows' projects, different training opportunities and geospatial products and services offered by the NOAA Coastal Services Center, and effective techniques to manage conflict situations in governmental and public meetings.

- Middle Peninsula Public Access Authority public meeting – On March 5, 2008, CZM staff attended the second in a series of public meetings at the King & Queen County Courts and Administration Building. The meeting was convened by the NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, on behalf of the MPCBPAA, to continue discussions surrounding the development of a land management plan for the Haworth Tract. Haworth was acquired by the PAA in September 2007 with funds from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), administered through the Virginia CZM Program. Stakeholders present included local residents and representatives from partner agencies and non-governmental organizations. Participants interacted with maps of the property to discuss the general location of uses they would like to see (ex. walking, fishing, picnicking, paddling, bicycling, hunting, forest and habitat management, water quality monitoring, and educational opportunities on a multi-use trail system) or not see (camping, use of off-road motorized vehicles, and unrestricted hunting) on the parcel. The next meeting for the Haworth Tract Land Management Plan is scheduled tentatively for March 25, 2008 at the King and Queen County Courts and Administration Building.

Reporting Date: March 21, 2008

Agency Matters/Operations/Personnel:

- New Focal Area on Sustainable Communities: The Virginia CZM Program held a meeting on March 7 to discuss options for refining the Program's "Sustainable Community Planning" focal area. The focal area was chosen by the Coastal Policy Team, and approximately \$385,000 per year will be available for each of the next three years to fund approved projects. About 30 representatives of coastal planning district commissions, state agencies and institutions attended the meeting, which was held at the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission. Priorities identified included conservation corridor and blue/green infrastructure planning as well as climate change adaptation planning and addressing issues related to the use of alternative septic systems. These priorities are still being refined and individual projects are still under development. A draft application for NOAA funding will be sent on April 15.
- Back Bay Forum: The Virginia CZM Program helped support the 2008 Back Bay Forum, which was held on March 13. The Forum, sponsored by the Back Bay Restoration Foundation, included a number of presentations on coastal resource issues in the Back Bay region and was attended by approximately 100 participants. The Virginia CZM Program provided a grant for \$3,000 to support various parts of the Forum and CZM staff attended the meeting and manned a display about CZM activities.
- Southern Tip Partners Meeting: The CZM Manager met with Southern Tip partners (DCR, DGIF, Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and Virginia CZM) to review plans for the next southern tip land acquisition. Several possibilities for using FY 2007 and FY 2008 Section 306A CZM funds (\$400,000) were identified but the group decided to wait until the fall meeting to make a final decision as to which parcel to go after. The FY 2007 award is open through March 2009 and the FY 2008 award will be open from October 1 2008 through March 2010.
- Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan & Funding Notice: The CZM Program will release a draft Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Plan for public comment in mid-April. This comment period is open for 30 days, commencing on April 14 when notice is published in the Virginia Register. The Virginia CELCP Plan identifies priority areas for conservation in the coastal zone and serves as a guidance document for potential applicants and project evaluators. The Plan is required by NOAA in order for Virginia to participate annually in the national competitive funding opportunity. The FFY 2009 CELCP notice of funding opportunity will be released early-mid May, 2008. The deadline for applications is June 4, 2008, to be submitted to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program who, as the lead agency for Virginia's CELC Program, is responsible for the state-level evaluation and submission of proposals into

the national funding competition. Three proposals may be submitted from Virginia in any given year. Applicants may request up to \$3 million in federal funds, to be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds.

- Delmarva Atlantic Watershed Network (DAWN): Under the auspices of DAWN and CZM funding, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission will hold a public forum on land use and zoning that draws from the "CommunityViz" analysis recently completed through DAWN. The event will be in early June at the E. Shore Community College.
- New Coastal GIS Coordinator: Nick Meade joined the Virginia CZM program on March 10th. He came to us from CZM partner agency, the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Nick's primary responsibility will be to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of CZM's Coastal GEMS application and other responsibilities will include organizing Coastal GEMS training programs, supporting the CZM program's staff and its partners with any GIS related needs, and representing the CZM program in Virginia's GIS community.

Events/Visits:

- Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee meeting: The CZM Program Coastal Planner attended the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee meeting on March 14, 2008. The Committee was given an update on the accomplishments of the Forest Stewardship Program and Forest Land Enhancement Program in 2007, the FY 2008 operating budgets, and ramifications of the federal and state budget shortfalls for these programs. The Committee received a demo of the DOF's new information management system, IFRIS, and received an update on the revision of the Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need. The Virginia CZM Program provided geographic data to the DOF to assist in the identification and prioritization of Forest Legacy Program "target areas" for future funding eligibility.

NA07NOS4190178- Task 1
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Compilation of Weekly Reports for the Period April 1, 2008 – September 30, 2008

Reporting Period: April 4, 2008

Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Plan & Funding Notice: The CZM Program released a draft CELCP Plan for partner agency review on April 3. The 70 page document combines CZM and partner agencies and organizations priorities to create a land acquisition prioritization plan for the coastal zone. The plan also lays out the process by which proposals will be submitted and reviewed for submission to NOAA for federal CELCP funding. The plan may be viewed at: [ftp://www.deq.virginia.gov/pub/coastal/Virginia_CELCP_Plan - DRAFT 4-2-08_LM.doc](ftp://www.deq.virginia.gov/pub/coastal/Virginia_CELCP_Plan_-_DRAFT_4-2-08_LM.doc). On April 14 the plan will be made available for public comment through the Virginia Register and formally submitted to NOAA. FY 2009 applications are due to the CZM Program by June 4, 2008.

Environment Virginia 2008 Symposium: CZM Program staff attended the Environment Virginia 2008 Symposium at the Virginia Military Institute, April 1-3, 2008. The focus of the symposium was “Accelerating Solutions in a Rapidly Changing Virginia”. Sessions at the symposium centered on eight main issues: (1) recent changes to the state and federal laws and regulations and new initiatives administered by DEQ, (2) environmental management of air- and water-borne chemicals, especially greenhouse gas emissions; (3) energy development and resource extraction; (4) stormwater management; (5) planning for growth in localities; (6) advancing land and resource conservation throughout the Commonwealth; (7) the technology, management, and regulations for applying decentralized wastewater solutions to address current and future wastewater management needs; and (8) community-based solutions for ecosystem health. Plenary speakers included Nella Barkley (President and Co-founder, Crystal-Barkley Corporation), the Honorable L. Preston Bryant (VA Secretary of Natural Resources), Virginia Burkett (Chief Scientist for Global Change Research, US Geological Survey), Douglas Oberhelman (Group President, Caterpillar Inc.), Tad Davis (Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army), John Luke (Chief Executive Officer, MeadWestVaco Corporation), Gerald McCarthy (Executive Director, Virginia Environmental Endowment), and John Ikerd (University of Missouri, renowned author). A Governor’s Gold Environmental Excellence Award also was presented to the Southern Tip Partnership, of which the CZM Program is a major partner, for its land conservation work on the Eastern Shore to conserve hundreds of acres of open space.

Reporting Period: April 11, 2008

Preparation for Apr 24 Shellfish Aquaculture TAC meeting: The CZM GIS Coordinator is preparing wall size maps of data layers relevant to shellfish aquaculture on the Eastern Shore in preparation for the April 24 Shellfish Aquaculture Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Cheriton. The CZM Manager will attend the meeting and give an online demonstration of Coastal GEMS data layers used to make the maps: e.g. clam aquaculture suitability model,

impaired waters, shellfish condemnation areas, public oyster grounds, private leased grounds, SAV, conserved lands, etc.

Eastern Shore Social Marketing Campaign: On April 9, the Outreach Coordinator and Program Manager held a conference call with members of a multi-partner, locally-based, planning team formed to help develop a social marketing campaign to increase native vegetation. The goal of this campaign is to remove the barriers landowners perceive to buying and planting natives on their property. The campaign will be funded through an existing CZM Seaside Heritage Program grant. The team discussed the first phase: an assessment of private and public landowners, suppliers and growers to identify the attitudes, perceptions and barriers to use of natives as well as the messages that will resonate with these audiences and lead to a change in behavior. The assessment will be conducted this summer through focus groups, interviews and written surveys with the assistance of a facilitator from Virginia Tech. The planning team also agreed to produce a color guide to native plants on the Shore. A guide specific to the region does not exist. The team will write a letter to the editor of local publications to let the public know that the campaign is being developed and to generate interest in the summer focal groups.

Coastal GEMS development partners meeting: The CZM Coastal Planner and GIS Coordinator planned and attended a meeting with Coastal GEMS partners, Virginia Commonwealth University and WorldView Solutions Inc., on April 9. They reviewed the status for Coastal GEMS Version 2 and grant reporting schedules, discussed future workflow regarding maintenance of the Coastal GEMS application, and shared ideas about marketing the now available 2nd version of the application.

Reporting Period: April 18, 2008

FY 2008 Draft Annual CZM Grant Application: The draft application for \$2,571,000 in federal funds was submitted to NOAA on the April 15 deadline. Funds will be used to continue to pay CZM staff 100% as well as portions of DEQ's Environmental Impact Review and Environmental Education staff. The funds also cover staff salaries in whole or in part at the Marine Resources Commission, DCR's Natural Heritage and Soil & Water Divisions and VIMS' Wetlands Advisory Program. The funds are also used for ongoing projects such as SAV mapping, land acquisition, PDC technical assistance to Tidewater localities. About \$385,000 will be used by state agencies and Coastal PDCs for developing sustainable community plans that address climate change/sea level rise and/or blue-green infrastructure planning. Section 309 funds under this award will continue our Coastal Zone Enhancement Strategies: Shellfish Aquaculture Policy, Intergovernmental Decision-making, Shoreline Management – Living Shorelines; Special Area Management Plans for Dragon Run and the Seaside of the Eastern Shore; and addressing cumulative & secondary development impacts through conservation corridor planning in Hampton Roads and an inventory and policy analysis regarding non-traditional on-site sewage disposal systems.

Virginia Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan: The CZM Program released a draft of Virginia's CELCP Plan for public comment on April 14, 2008. Notice of this open comment period was placed in the Virginia Register and Town Hall, and an email notice was sent to state, federal, local, and NGO land conservation partners. The CZM Program will receive

comments on the Plan until close of business on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. The Plan is available to download from www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/pubnotice.html.

Reporting Period: April 25, 2008

Coastal Energy Research Consortium (CERC) Board Meeting: The CZM Program Manager has been asked to attend the May 2 CERC Board meeting in Richmond. They are interested in having representation from the CZM Program and are interested in the Manager's prior experience with the New York Sea Grant Institute in managing a program to cultivate seaweed in Long Island Sound and the New York Bight for methane production. Further CERC is interested in having the CZM Program's Coastal GEMS website host data relevant to coastal energy production.

GIS Steering Committee meeting: The CZM Program Coastal Planner and new GIS Coordinator attended the April 29 DEQ GIS Steering Committee meeting. An update of Coastal GEMS Version 2 was provided for the group and the GIS Coordinator briefly discussed the Coastal GEMS training plan and marketing plan. The GIS Coordinator will continue to serve on this committee, replacing the Coastal Planner, and will continue to be involved in DEQ's GIS issues and services.

NOAA semi-annual reporting: The CZM Program successfully submitted all semi-annual reports to NOAA on April 30, 2008. Submitted were three Section A semi-annual progress reports and final products for closed grants (for grant years 2005, 2006 and 2007), a Section B semi-annual progress report, a 2006 CELCP award semi-annual progress report and final products, and the annual financial performance measures (October 2006 – September 2007) which clarify CZM Program spending in the areas of government coordination and decision making, public access, coastal habitat, coastal water quality, coastal hazards, and coastal dependent uses and community development.

Reporting Period: May 2, 2008

Crow's Nest Dedication: The CZM Program Manager and Coastal Planner attended the May 1 Phase I Crow's Nest dedication ceremony in Stafford County. The CZM Program anticipates that DCR and The Nature Conservancy will be submitting an application in June for FY09 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funds. If awarded, up to \$3 million in federal funds could be used by the state to help acquire Phase II of the Crow's Nest property (currently valued at \$16 million).

Coastal Energy Research Consortium (CERC) Board Meeting: The CZM Program Manager attended the May 2 CERC Board meeting in Richmond. CERC is interested in having representation from the CZM Program and is interested in the Manager's prior experience with the New York Sea Grant Institute in managing a program to cultivate seaweed in Long Island Sound and the New York Bight for methane production. Further CERC is interested in having the CZM Program's Coastal GEMS website host data relevant to coastal energy production.

2008 Final Annual CZM Grant Application: Minimal comments were received from NOAA on the draft application for \$2,571,000 in federal CZM funds. Comments have now been addressed and changes are being made to the application in NOAA's CAMMP application system. The final files will be delivered to DEQ's fiscal office by May 15 so that DEQ can formally submit the final application through Grants.gov by the May 20 deadline.

Interpretive Signage for Seaside Heritage Program: The CZM Manager and Outreach Coordinator visited four of the five sites on the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore where they will be installing informational kiosks this summer/fall that describe the unique ecological and economic value of the seaside's coastal resources. Representatives of Accomack-Northampton PDC, DCR and the US Fish & Wildlife Service met with them on location at Wachapreague, Willis Wharf, Oyster and the E. Shore of VA National Wildlife Refuge.

Reporting Period: May 9, 2008

Virginia Sea Grant Strategy Session: The CZM Manager participated in a strategic planning session facilitated by Bitsy Waters for the Virginia Sea Grant Program in Williamsburg on May 8. Virginia Sea Grant has moved its headquarters from UVA to VIMS and a new Sea Grant Director has been hired who will begin work in September. In the meantime Sea Grant staff was asked by NOAA to convene sister NOAA programs such as CZM and the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve as well as scientists from the marine science consortium's educational institution members to help set priorities for the coming years. Virginia Sea Grant will most likely continue its focus on seafood issues and educational activities however, many additional ideas for collaboration were discussed including the Virginia CZM Program's new focal area on planning for sustainable communities with an emphasis on preparing for climate change/sea level rise and preserving blue and green infrastructure.

Eastern Shore Ecotourism Media Tour: The CZM Manager participated in a May 12-13 "media tour" with DGIF and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission to pitch stories to writers from the Washington Post, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Virginian-Pilot and others about the tremendous ecotourism opportunities on the Eastern Shore. The CZM Program supplied information on its efforts to protect migratory bird habitat on the southern tip, including the annual E. Shore Birding Festival and the May 22 James Taylor benefit concert as well as the many ecotourism improvements created through the Seaside Heritage program including the Seaside Water Trail, 4 floating docks, the Willis Wharf wildlife observation deck and the upcoming Ecotour guide certification classes at the Eastern Shore Community College.

The CZM GIS Coordinator participated in a conference call with research staff and partners of the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium regarding the preliminary mapping of offshore areas suitable for wind power development. The group discussed the data layers that should be incorporated in the initial mapping effort as well as the format of the initial report. One objective of the group is to have the offshore energy suitability data being developed available as an interactive layer on the Coastal GEMS site.

FY 2009 CELCP Funding Announcement: The Federal Register notice announcing the FY 2009 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funding competition was published on May 23, 2008. The full funding opportunity notice, which contains the full details of the competition, along with project narrative and budget templates and the CELCP checklist, are already posted on the Funding Opportunities page of NOAA's CELCP website, www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html and will soon appear on the CZM Program's CELCP website, www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/celcp.html. Proposals for the FY 2009 competition must be received by the CZM Program by close of business Wednesday, June 4, 2008.

Reporting Period: May 23, 2008

Dragon Run SAMP Steering Committee Annual Picnic: On May 21, 2008 the Coastal Planner and NOAA Fellow attended the Dragon Run Special Area Management Plan Steering Committee annual picnic at Stormont in Middlesex County. Ms. Cornelia Christian from Conservation Partners, LLC gave a presentation to the Committee on conservation estate planning. In the coming year, workshops will be held in the Middle Peninsula for estate planners and family attorneys to learn more about conservation estate planning. Delegate Harvey Morgan also attended the event.

The NOAA Fellow convened the second Thurston-Haworth Recreation Area (formerly the Haworth Tract) Land Management Plan Project Steering Committee meeting at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission on May 27, 2008. The 167-acre Thurston-Haworth Recreation Area was acquired by the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority in September 2007, using FY 2005 CELCP funding administered through the CZM Program. Steering committee members evaluated the second draft of the land management plan and all associated draft maps of the property and provided feedback for the third draft of the plan, which will be available to the public on or about June 13, 2008.

FY 08 Final Application Submitted: The Final application for funding for \$2.571M in federal funding from NOAA for the Virginia CZM Program was submitted on time and the NOAA Program Specialist has already approved it and passed it on to NOAA's Grants Management Division. An award is expected before the October 1, 2008 start date.

Reporting Period: June 6, 2008

James Taylor Migratory Bird Benefit Concert: On May 20 James Taylor and the CZM Program Manager held a 2 hour press event at Verizon wireless amphitheater in Virginia Beach to discuss the importance of migratory songbird stopover habitat on the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore and to announce the May 22 Benefit Concert by Mr. Taylor. About 25 members of the media (newspaper, radio and television) attended. Resulting coverage was excellent. Mr. Taylor expects to donate about \$200,000 in concert proceeds for additional land acquisition by the Southern Tip Partnership. The funds will flow to The Nature Conservancy and be used as match against CZM dollars. A reception and "meet and greet" with Mr. Taylor for the Southern Tip

partners (US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, VA CZM Program/DEQ, DCR and DGIF) was held before the concert. Mr. Taylor was presented with a framed “thank you” photo collage of Virginia’s Eastern Shore and some of the neotropical songbirds that depend upon it. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have previously donated \$45,000 to this same cause.

Virginia Seaside Heritage Program Media Field Trip – Coastal staff led a media visit to the seaside of Virginia’s Eastern Shore with Patrick Lynch, Daily Press reporter, on Tuesday, June 3. Lynch was particularly interested in learning more about the ecotourism efforts of the Virginia Seaside Heritage Program (VSHP), especially the Virginia Seaside Water Trail, as well as the Program’s clam aquaculture projects. Dave Burden, the Eastern Shorekeeper (funded by Virginia CZM) and owner of Southeast Expeditions, guided a kayak trip on a trail loop through the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge. And a trip on the Shorekeeper boat to Mockhorn Island where an outer loop of the trail circles around the island. Burden, a certified ecotour guide, mapped out the trail and is now working with the Virginia CZM to develop a new ecotour guide curriculum at the Eastern Shore Community College. The visit also included a stop in Willis Wharf, site of a new VSHP floating dock and observation deck, and home of Walker Seafood, where Tom Walker gave Lynch a tour of his aquaculture facility. In Oyster, staff highlighted the Program’s efforts to help these small seaside villages maintain their traditional working waterfront. Lynch plans to run a spread in the Lifestyle Section of the paper showcasing the trail and highlighting the restoration efforts of the Seaside Heritage Program. Regretfully, the winds and rough water on Tuesday hindered a plan to boat out to the site of a seagrass seed collection effort near Wreck Island as well as a Royal Tern colony on the north end of the island however, Lynch planned to visit those sites on Friday, June 6. Lynch plans to run a separate article on the CZM-funded seagrass restoration efforts, which have been incredibly successful compared to attempts in the Bay.

FY2009 CELCP Proposals Received: The CZM Program received four proposals on June 9, 2008 for FY2009 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funding:

1. *Crow’s Nest Phase II* - DCR Division of Natural Heritage submitted an application for \$3 million to protect a portion of the 1,100 acre tract in Stafford County.
2. *Blackwater River Old Growth Forest* – Isle of Wight County and TNC submitted an application for \$600,000 to protect a 2,500 acre tract (CELCP funds would protect a 500-acre old growth swamp forest) along the Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County.
3. *North Landing River Conservation Corridor* – The Cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission submitted an application for about \$517,000 to protect 5 parcels totaling 448 acres along the North Landing River in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake.
4. *Southern Tip of Virginia’s Eastern Shore* – DCR Division of Natural Heritage and TNC submitted an application for \$1.5 million to protect a 50-acre tract on the Southern Tip of the Eastern Shore in Northampton County.

The CZM Program has initiated its state level evaluation process, as described in the draft *Virginia CELCP Plan*. Three of the four proposals will be selected by the CELCP

Evaluation Committee to be submitted to NOAA on July 23, 2008 for the national funding competition.

DAWN Community Forum: The CZM Manager attended the June 11 Delmarva Atlantic Watershed Network (DAWN) Community Forum. The CZM Program funded the forum as well as training on CommunityViz software for 2 county planners through a \$13,000 grant to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. At the forum, PG Ross of VIMS presented the results of a \$109,000 CZM-funded grant which documented a strong correlation between increasing impervious cover and increasing fecal coliform in receiving waters. That final report will be available soon on the CZM web pages. Many County Supervisors and Planning Commissioners were in attendance. The CommunityViz software also demonstrated that evening shows that given current zoning, the allowable build-out in these counties would amount to a tripling of dwelling units. Northampton County has been working on changes to their zoning to decrease the amount but seemed disappointed at the small size of the resulting decrease when the new ordinance numbers were run through CommunityViz. This software is proving to be a powerful tool in helping localities understand the implications of their zoning ordinances.

Reporting Period: June 20, 2008

Seaside Eelgrass Restoration: The CZM Manager visited the eelgrass restoration site it has funded for the past 8 years on the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore in South Bay, west of Wreck Island. The restoration has been a phenomenal success. The 190 acres that we have planted has spread to 1400 acres. The eelgrass is so dense that you cannot see the bottom, nor feel it when you jump overboard into the waist deep water. Seahorses and other wildlife have already moved into this area that had been practically barren for the past 75 years.

Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum: The CZM Programs from New York through Virginia, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Delaware are considering holding a mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum next December in Baltimore. Informal discussions to date have revolved around holding a forum to share ideas and policy directions about creating a mid-Atlantic Ocean Governance Structure and sharing what each state has in terms of data layers for offshore resources.

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority meeting: The Coastal Planner attended the MPCBPAA meeting on June 20, 2008. The third version of the Thurston-Haworth Land Management Plan was presented to the Authority by the NOAA Coastal Services Center Coastal Management Fellow who has been jointly working with the CZM Program and the Middle Peninsula PDC over the last two years. The Haworth tract, located in King and Queen County, was recently purchased through Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funds. The NOAA Fellow has held public meetings since February and convened a steering committee of local stakeholders to develop the Land Management Plan. The Authority also reviewed a "Discussion Document of the Principles for Establishing a Tidal Wetlands Bank" in the Middle Peninsula and the FY09 annual work plan.

Reporting Period: June 27, 2008

Coastal PDC quarterly meeting: CZM Program staff participated in a meeting of the Coastal Planning District Commissions (PDCs) held at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge on June 24, 2008. CZM staff led a discussion of the Sustainable Communities focal area scheduled to begin in October, 2008. PDCs are currently revising proposals addressing blue-green infrastructure and adaptation to climate change. The focal area will provide approximately \$385,000/year for the next 3 years to PDCs and state agencies to address these issues.

National Climate Service discussion: CZM Program staff participated in a national discussion on creation of a National Climate Service division within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on June 27, 2008. The National Climate Service would mirror the National Weather Service, providing a clearinghouse for climate-related research, data and community assistance.

Thurston-Haworth Land Management Plan: The CZM Program NOAA Coastal Fellow convened the final public meeting on development of a land management plan for the Thurston-Haworth Recreational Area in King and Queen County on June 26, 2008. The final Plan will be completed within the next few weeks and brought before the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority for approval.

Reporting Period: July 4, 2008

Two articles appeared recently in the Daily Press highlighting Virginia CZM work on the Eastern Shore through the Virginia Seaside Heritage Program (VSHP). The first article, published on June 22, featured the Virginia Seaside Water Trail – an ecotourism project completed through the VSHP - http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/southofjames/dp-gl_kayak_0622jun22,0,4010610.story. The article appeared as a result of a media trip coordinated by Virginia CZM staff to the Shore with the Daily Press reporter, Patrick Lynch. The second article published June 29, highlighted eelgrass restoration on the seaside by VIMS - http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-local_seagrass_0629jun29,0,6199524.story. This restoration effort is a major component of the Virginia Seaside Heritage Program and primarily funded with CZM grant monies.

Reporting Period: July 11, 2008

Top 3 Proposals Selected for FY09 CELCP Funding Competition: CZM Program staff convened a meeting of the Virginia Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Evaluation Committee on July 8, 2008. Prior to the meeting, the 10-member Committee reviewed and scored four CELCP proposals received by the CZM Program on June 9, 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the ranking of the four proposals received and the Committee's experience using the scoring criteria defined in the *Virginia CELCP Plan* to score the proposals. The CZM Program can submit only three proposals to NOAA for the

national CELCP funding competition. The Evaluation Committee selected the following three proposals to submit:

- *Crow's Nest*: \$3 million to conserve a portion of the 1,100-acre Phase II property in Stafford County, submitted by the DCR Division of Natural Heritage.
- *Southern Tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore*: \$1.5 million to acquire 50 acres near Pond Drain and so it can revert to migratory songbird stopover habitat in Northampton County, submitted by the DCR Division of Natural Heritage.
- *Blackwater River*: \$600,000 to conserve 2,500 acres of bottomland hardwood swamp and upland forest along the Blackwater River in Isle of Wight County, submitted by TNC and Isle of Wight County.

The proposals will be submitted to NOAA by July 23, 2008.

Assessment of Off-shore Energy Development Impact Readiness: Staff from the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) are meeting with various state agency representatives as part of a CZM program grant to help 1) determine the potential impacts to coastal resources from various types of off-shore energy development (oil, gas, wind, waves, etc.), 2) evaluate the current law and policy framework in place to manage these impacts, and 3) develop recommendations for improving this framework, either through additional management programs or improved use of existing programs. ELI and CZM staff met with Steve Walz of DMME on July 11 to discuss potential energy development. ELI's report will be available by November 15, 2008 and they are planning on providing a briefing on preliminary recommendations in late August or early September.

Reporting Period: August 8, 2008

Staffing Issues: The CZM Program interviewed 9 candidates for the Grants Coordinator & Outreach Specialist on August 4 and 5. References are being checked on the top three candidates and they may be brought in for 2nd interviews during the week of Aug 11. One of the two Coastal Planners, Kelly Price, will be leaving the program to return to North Carolina on August 29.

Eastern Shore Native Plant Social Marketing Campaign: As part of the CZM Program's Seaside Heritage Program and Special Area Management Plan, a series of focus group meetings is being held on the Eastern Shore this week and next (August 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, & 16) with private and public landowners and native plant suppliers and growers to assess attitudes, perceptions and barriers to use of native plants on the Shore. The focus groups are the first phase in developing a new social marketing campaign on the Shore to increase native vegetation in order to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. Virginia CZM staff is working with a locally-based team to develop a campaign that will help remove barriers landowners perceive to buying and planting natives on their property. These meetings, along with interviews and written surveys to be conducted in late summer and early fall, will inform which marketing messages will resonate with residents and lead to a change in behavior. The campaign and a companion color guide to native plants on the Shore are being funded through a current CZM Seaside Heritage Program grant. A guide specific to that region currently does not exist.

Blue Infrastructure Mapping meeting: During the week of August 11 CZM staff is meeting with staff from VCU, VIMS and The Nature Conservancy to discuss Coastal GEMS data layers that will depict “blue infrastructure” in the freshwater tidal, estuarine and offshore marine areas of Virginia. Prior grants to VCU have already lead to mapping of instream blue infrastructure and a current grant is underway with TNC to map blue infrastructure or “ecological marine units” in Virginia’s offshore waters. We are considering contracting with VIMS to map blue infrastructure within Chesapeake Bay, Back Bay and the Seaside of the E. Shore by overlaying existing layers of known resources such as SAV, oysters, crab sanctuaries, etc. The goal is to create a continuous map of important coastal resources within all of Virginia’s tidal waters out to the bottom of the continental slope.

Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners meeting: The CZM Program Coastal Planner attended a July 24, 2008 meeting of the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners at Loudon Water in Ashburn, VA. The work of the Partners is coordinated by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) through funds from a CZM Program Technical Assistance grant to the Commission. Twelve localities in Northern Virginia, Loudon Water, Fairfax Water, the NVRC, and the Virginia CZM Program partner in the effort. The purpose of the meeting was to recap the 2008 Regional Stormwater Education Campaign, an effort initiated in 2003 to assist localities in promoting stormwater education messages for fertilizer and pesticide use, pet waste disposal, and motor oil recycling. The 2008 campaign, which helps localities satisfy MS4 Phase I and Phase II requirements for stormwater education, was successful in reaching out to approximately 740,000 individuals through radio ads aired on eight radio stations in the region. One thousand Northern Virginia residents were surveyed via telephone to determine the effectiveness of the ad, note changes in behavior, and aid in directing the future efforts of the campaign. The Clean Water Partners used survey information to allocate remaining 2008 budget funds for additional outreach materials and generate ideas for the 2009 campaign.

Dragon Run Conservation Forum: The CZM Program Coastal Planner attended a July 31, 2008 meeting of the Dragon Run Conservation Forum at the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission. As part of the Dragon Run Special Area Management Plan, conservation organizations working within the Dragon Run Watershed have come together to create an estate planning network – a coordinated effort to educate landowners along the Dragon Run mainstem, their family attorneys and CPAs, about conservation easements and their state/federal tax benefits. The group plans to provide workshops within the region beginning in 2009.

Congressional Delegation to Visit NOAA Programs at VIMS: The CZM Manager received a call on Aug 8 inviting her to present NOAA-funded CZM activities to a Congressional delegation that will be visiting VIMS on Aug 21. She will have about 15 minutes to present highlights such as the recent land acquisitions in Dragon Run and the Southern Tip of E. Shore, the remarkable eelgrass restoration success on the seaside of the E. Shore and the ongoing development of Coastal GEMS, CZM’s internet mapping system which is expanding to include offshore ocean resources. It is expected that primarily staffers from Rob Wittman’s, Thelma Drake’s, and possibly Mark Warner’s campaign office, will be attending this meeting.

Interagency meeting on Seaside Oyster Sanctuaries and Poaching Issues: The CZM Manager will be meeting on August 28 with staff and the Commissioner of MRC and the Director and

staff from the Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to discuss recent investments in oyster restoration on the seaside of Virginia's E. Shore, enforcement of those sanctuary areas, and solutions to the current poaching problem on those oyster reefs. It is hoped that stricter anti-poaching policies and enforcement could be achieved through interagency MOU's or perhaps through development of new policies through the current Seaside Special Area Management Plan funded at about \$75K per year by Virginia CZM through 2011.

Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival: The Virginia CZM Program has created and funded posters and table tents for restaurants to advertise the festival. An art contest was held throughout Eastern Shore high schools for the poster artwork. The winning art is featured on the posters and the table tents. Virginia CZM is also sponsoring the keynote speaker for the festival, renowned birder, author and New York Times-designated "Bard of Birding," Pete Dunne. The festival will be held September 18 -21. On Friday Sep. 19 at 3:30 pm, there will be a dedication of the Willis Wharf Wildlife Observation Deck which is the result of a recent CZM grant to DGIF and Northampton County as part of the Seaside Heritage Program. Native plants will be on the deck to help bring attention to the upcoming CZM-sponsored Eastern Shore Native Plant Social Marketing Campaign.

Reporting Period: August 15

Congressional Delegation to Visit NOAA Programs at VIMS: This meeting has been postponed indefinitely due to busy Congressional schedules.

Final York River Use Conflict Committee meeting held: The Virginia CZM Program Coastal Planner attended the final meeting of the York River Use Conflict Committee at VIMS on August 13, 2008. The Committee reviewed the final set of recommendations which will be presented to the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors to help them address various use conflicts along the County's waterfront. The Committee unanimously agreed on six of the recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Develop and adopt a "Coastal Living Policy" to educate and inform County residents.

Recommendation 3: Take no action for now regarding aquaculture within the County's jurisdiction.

Recommendation 4: Develop and adopt a policy for the protection of working waterfronts.

Recommendation 5: Develop and adopt a "Waterfront Outdoor Lighting Ordinance."

Recommendation 6: Develop and adopt a policy restricting floating homes within the County.

Recommendation 7: Develop and implement a master plan for public access infrastructure to ensure safe and equal water access for all user groups to the waterways within the County.

Comments were received from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation regarding the legality of Recommendation 2, to "denote the County's land, air, and water jurisdictional boundaries in the County's Comprehensive Plan and supporting maps." Many on the Committee felt that Recommendation 2 is the cornerstone for all other recommendations and is necessary to resolving future use conflict issues within the County. The CBF attorney and an attorney on the

Committee plan to meet to resolve the issue with the language in Recommendation Once resolved, the Committee plans to sign a resolution requesting the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors adopt and enact the final recommendations of the Committee.

Reporting Period: September 5, 2008

Personnel Changes: Kelly Price has left her position with the CZM Program as of September 5, 2008. The Program Manager is putting through a request to fill this position. Shannon Girouard will begin her position as the new Grants Coordinator on September 10, 2008.

Coastal GEMS presented at Richmond Regional PDC meeting: The CZM Program Coastal GIS Coordinator and Coastal Planner presented a demo of the Coastal GEMS online mapping application at a meeting of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission's Environmental Technical Advisory Committee on August 26, 2008. Attendees hope to use the site for regional trails/greenways planning and in the development of regional conservation corridors.

Coastal GEMS presented at Northern Neck PDC meeting: The CZM Program Coastal GIS Coordinator and Coastal Planner presented a demo of the Coastal GEMS online mapping application at a meeting of local land use administrator's at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission on August 27, 2008. Attendees hope to use the site for comprehensive plan updates, regional development of conservation corridors, and identification of valuable lands for acquisition.

CZM Manager meets with Marine Resources Commission and The Nature Conservancy regarding oyster sanctuary reefs: On August 28 the CZM Manager met with Commissioner Bowman and his staff and the Director and staff of The Nature Conservancy to discuss how to better protect our investment in oyster sanctuary reefs on the seaside of the Eastern Shore. The CZM Manager and TNC Director suggested buffers around the sanctuaries to create greater distance between sanctuary reefs and public grounds. Although MRC staff did not agree with the term "buffers," they did ultimately suggest that TNC could propose a "box" around the reefs that they own. The box could be placed on top of state-owned "unassigned" bottom. TNC will be preparing a proposal for the Commission's consideration. MRC staff did not recommend the same treatment for the CZM funded reefs which are built on public Baylor Ground. It may be that any future reefs should not be built on public oyster ground, but rather "unassigned" ground so that they can be afforded greater protection. The CZM reefs were deliberately built on public ground in hopes that they would become broodstock sanctuaries that would "feed" public grounds. The group visited reefs just outside of Oyster Harbor on the seaside of Northampton County. An agreement was reached as to where to draw the box around the TNC reefs. When visiting a CZM-funded reef, it was clear that it is quite close to public harvestable reefs making enforcement of the "no trespass – no harvest" signs difficult because a poacher can quickly move from a sanctuary to legal harvest area before a patrol officer could reach him. The \$50,000 CZM reef was full of market size oysters. The CZM Manager suggested an upper size limit for seaside oysters similar to what was recently instituted for the lower Rappahannock River. MRC staff said that was not feasible because seaside oysters grow faster and longer than Bay oysters.