



2018 Virginia Coastal Partners Workshop

Exploring the Multiple Benefits of Coastal Conservation

November 14 & 15

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 3rd Floor

1111 East Main Street

Richmond, Virginia

Wednesday, November 14

9:00 **Coffee & Network**

10:00 **Welcome & Tribal Invocation**

10:00 – 10:10

Chief Stephen Adkins, Chief, Chickahominy Tribe

Opening Remarks: Multiple Benefits of Coastal Conservation

10:10 – 10:25 Keelin Kuipers, Deputy Director, Office for Coastal Management/NOAA

Goals of the Workshop

10:25 – 10:30 Laura McKay, Manager, Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program

10:30 **Economic Benefits of Conserved Land: Recent Analyses**

On Virginia's Eastern Shore concerns arose that conserved lands were hindering economic development. This session will examine the results of a Virginia CZM Program funded study by George Mason University on the economic impacts of both conservation easements and fee simple conservation acquisitions within the two Eastern Shore counties. How to incorporate the economic value of conserved lands in building resilience to coastal hazards will also be examined.

Moderator: Laura McKay, Manager, Virginia CZM Program

Presenters:

- *Fiscal and Socioeconomic Analysis of Conserved Land on Virginia's Eastern Shore and in the Lower Chickahominy*
Dr. Terry Clower, George Mason University
Dr. Dean Bellas, Urban Analytics
- *Economic Valuation of Green Infrastructure in Mitigating Coastal Hazards*
Dr. Michael Beck, Lead Marine Scientists, The Nature Conservancy (*skyping in from Texas*)

Discussion/Q&A Panel/Next Steps

12:00 **Lunch** (*Lunch is not provided and only 1 hour is allocated. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch or pre-order and pre-pay for lunch*)

12:40 **Opportunities for Funding Habitat Restoration Projects Addressing Water Quality**

Chris Burkett, Assistant Federal Aid Coordinator, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

1:00

Ecotourism Benefits of Conserved Land & Coastal Waters: Connecting Trails and Improving Interpretive Signage

Ecotourism is often regarded as a way to generate local revenues - especially in rural areas. Learn how the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck, Eastern Shore, Virginia Beach and Virginia CZM Program staff are working together on multi-year Virginia CZM Program grants to capitalize on our unique coastal assets and maximize the impact of ecotourism.

Moderator: Staci Martin, Virginia Tourism Corporation

Presenters:

- *Promoting Ecotourism in Rural Virginia: Connecting Land & Water Trails*
Shannon Alexander, Coastal Planner, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
- *Panel Discussion/Q&A*
Shannon Alexander, Coastal Planner, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
Lewis Lawrence, Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Lisa Hull, Tourism Coordinator, Northern Neck Planning District Commission and Sherri Smith, Director, Virginia Oyster Trail
- *Improving Ecotourism Signage at Virginia CZM Program Funded Sites*
Laura McKay and Beth Polak, Virginia CZM Program
- *Signage on Eastern Shore and Virginia Beach*
Alex Wilke, The Nature Conservancy and Mark Swingle, Virginia Aquarium

Discussion/Q&A/Next Steps

2:15

Ocean Issues: Data, Offshore Energy and Marine Debris

Although the 2010 National Ocean Policy Executive Order has been replaced with a new EO, work will continue in the Mid-Atlantic under the auspices of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). This session will address current ocean collaboration efforts, continued development of MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal, the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project and recent efforts to reduce marine debris.

Moderator: Laura McKay, Manager, Virginia CZM Program

Presenters:

- *The New Oceans Executive Order: Impacts for the Mid-Atlantic*
Kaity Goldsmith, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean
- *MARCO's Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal – a Tour*
Chris Bruce, The Nature Conservancy
- *Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project – First in Federal Waters*
Scott Lawton, Environmental Technical Advisor, Dominion Energy
- *Tackling Marine Debris in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic*
Katie Register, Director, Clean Virginia Waterways

3:15 – 3:30 Discussion/Q&A/Next Steps

3:30

Break POTLUCK SNACKS!

3:45

Strengthening Federal Consistency with Virginia's Coastal Policies

Virginia's federal consistency program is evolving with the drafting of new narrative enforceable policies and consideration of offshore fisheries issues. This session will describe our current program as well as efforts currently underway to strengthen it.

Moderator: Shep Moon, Coastal Planner, Virginia CZM Program

Presenters:

- *Federal Consistency as a Coastal Resource Management Tool*
Bettina Rayfield, EIR Program Manager, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- *The Virginia CZM Program's New and Improved, Narrative Enforceable Policies*
Elizabeth Andrews, Director, Coastal Policy Center, College of William & Mary
- *Developing a "Geographic Location Description" to Protect Offshore Fisheries*
Bettina Rayfield, EIR Program Manager, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Todd Janeski, Ocean Stakeholder Coordinator for Virginia CZM Program, Virginia Commonwealth University

Discussion/Q&A/Next Steps

5:00

Adjourn

Thursday, November 15

8:30

Coffee & Network

9:00

Shellfish Production Benefits of Conserved Land: Restoring Coastal Habitats, Promoting Aquaculture and Minimizing Use Conflicts

Without clean water Virginia's shellfish aquaculture industry could not thrive. Conserved lands, especially along our coasts play a major role in protecting water quality. This session will examine successes in eelgrass, bay scallop and oyster restoration and delve into the conflicts that can arise as shellfish aquaculture expands.

Moderator: Tony Watkinson, Chief, Habitat Management Division, Marine Resources Commission

Presenters:

- *Eelgrass and Bay Scallop Restoration Successes on Seaside Eastern Shore*
Dr. Robert Orth, Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- *Restoring Natural Oyster Reefs in the Lynnhaven and Piankatank*
Andrew Button, Virginia Marine Resources Commission (*invited*); Todd Janeski, Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling Program
- *Analysis of Current Oyster Industry and Future Needs*
Dr. Jim Wesson, Contractor, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- *The Governor's Oyster Aquaculture Work Group*
Anne Jennings, Deputy Secretary Natural Resources

Discussion/ Q&A/Next Steps

10:30

Break

10:45

Cultural Benefits of Conserved Land – Engaging Tribes and Local Governments in Stimulating a Nature-Based Economy for the Lower Chickahominy Watershed

Highlighting cultural aspects of regional land-use planning. This session takes a deeper look at the tribal elements of land conservation and how Virginia CZM Program projects will assist Coastal Virginia in finding answers to new questions surrounding federal tribal recognition.

Moderator: Beth Polak, Coastal Planner, Virginia CZM Program

Presenters:

- *Leveraging Land Conservation Benefits of the Lower Chickahominy*
Sarah Stewart, Senior Planner, Richmond Regional PDC
- *History of Coastal Virginia Tribes and Benefits of Conserved Land to Tribal Living*
Chief Stephen Adkins and Assistant Chief Wayne Adkins, Chickahominy Tribe
- *Exploring the Environmental Policy Implications of Federal Recognition for Virginia Tribes*
Elizabeth Andrews, Director, Coastal Policy Center, College of William & Mary

Discussion/Q&A/Next Steps

12:00 **Lunch** *(Lunch is not provided, but pre-ordering/paying instructions are available in the agenda on Wednesday, Nov. 14)*

1:00 **Habitat Benefits of Conserved Lands: The Value of Native Plant Use on State Owned and Other Large Land Holdings**

Virginia is promoting native plant use to sustain biodiversity on all properties, large, small, public and private. From home gardeners to industrial sites, we can all make a significant contribution by using native plants to provide a welcoming environment for wildlife and people. This session will focus on entities leading by example and supporting policies to increase both native plant use and one of the largest barriers to increased use - availability.

Moderator: Virginia Witmer, Outreach Coordinator, Virginia CZM Program

Presenters:

- *Restoring Native Vegetation on State Owned and Managed Properties*
Dot Field, Eastern Shore Natural Area Steward, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- *Recognizing the Value of Native Plants in Local Ordinances and Planning*
Corey Miles, Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- *Availability of Natives in Virginia's Plant Industry*
Brent Hunsinger, Vice-President, Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association
- *Planting for Pollinators on Solar Facilities: An Opportunity for Growth Takes Flight*
Sharon Baxter, Director, Environmental Enhancement Division, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

1:50 – 2:15 Q&A Panel/Next Steps

Other panel speakers: Beth Major, DEQ; Carol Heiser, VDGIF; Chris Burkett, VDGIF

2:15 **Break**

2:30 **Multiple Benefits of Planning for Climate Resiliency**

Virginia faces a number of challenges as it strives to become more resilient in the face of a changing climate. This session will highlight initiatives and opportunities to build both natural and community resilience in ways that also address other important coastal resource management issues.

Moderator: Shep Moon, Coastal Planner, Virginia CZM Program

Presenters:

- *Governor Northam's Climate Resilience Initiatives*
Josh Saks, Deputy Secretary Natural Resources (*invited*)

- *The Community Rating System and Identifying Resilience Project Opportunities*
Mary-Carson Stiff, Director of Policy, Wetlands Watch
- *Hazards Planning and FEMA Funding Opportunities*
Debbie Messmer, Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- *Marsh Resilience: Marsh Migration and Marsh Building*
Molly Mitchell, Marine Scientist, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- *Beneficial Use of Dredged Material for Resilience*
Lewis Lawrence, Director, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

3:45 – 4:00 Discussion/ Q&A/Next Steps

4:00

Multiple Benefits of Watershed Implementation Plans

Virginia is in the process of developing Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans, including detailed pollutant reduction strategies. This session will provide a panel discussion of the potential multiple coastal resource benefits of these strategies and explore opportunities for coordination with Virginia CZM Program priorities and initiatives.

Moderator: Joan Salvati, Local Government Assistance Program Manager, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Panelists (TBD):

- Coastal Planning District Commission representatives
- State TMDL / WIP representatives

Discussion/Q&A/Next Steps

5:00

Adjourn