



Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*Coastal Policy Team Meeting Agenda with **Notes in Blue** Wednesday, January 11, 2018*

10am-3:30pm

Location: DGIF, 7870 Villa Park Dr., Henrico, VA

10:00 *Welcome & Introductions*

10:05 *FY 2018 Annual Grant Application (McKay)*

- Draft application due to NOAA ~ ~~Friday Mar 16~~ late March or April; Final likely due in mid or late May
- Proposed schedule for continuing grant proposals:
 - Section **306** proposals due to CZM Friday Feb 9
 - Section **309** proposals due to CZM Friday Feb 16
 - **Focal area** proposals due to CZM Friday Feb 16
- Reminder about stricter NEPA-like review of proposals by NOAA

After discussion all agreed that Section 306 proposals will be due March 2 and Section 309 and Focal Area Proposals due March 9. Proposals that include land disturbance or field work (including monitoring) may trigger a NEPA review at NOAA. In order to minimize any delay that might occur because of this review, grantees were encouraged to include in their proposals specific details on the aspects of the project that might trigger the NEPA review and any NEPA-related reviews that had already been conducted such as historic resources or endangered species. Detailed information on methodology, timing and duration of activities, etc. should be included.

10:20 *Section 309 and Focal Area grants: FY 17 updates and FY 18 proposals*

NOTE to Grantees: – please come prepared to present a brief update on FY17 projects and your plans for FY18 focal area projects (no more than 10 minutes). For FY 18 309 projects, individual meetings may need to occur before plans can be shared. If you'd like to use PPT slides please email them to Nick.meade@deg.virginia.gov no later than Tuesday Jan 9

- 309 and Focal Area: Coastal Hazards
 - VIMS:** Project of Special Merit grant, *Implementing sustainable shoreline management in Virginia: assessing the need for an enforceable policy* is finishing up, with final product due February 15.
 - VIMS:** The *Targeted Living Shorelines for Virginia State Parks* project looks at 11 of the State Parks and ranks them. A GIS database and literature review has been done for each park. The project identifies structures that are already there, threatened structures, erosion in the park and the permits needed for each park to build living shorelines. Then plans are created for the chosen parks. Next year three or four parks will be selected and plans developed.

NVRC: In November 2016, *Northern Virginia's Roadmap to Resilience* project update. The Climate Resiliency Team for this project has met four times to identify predicted climate stressors and potential future conditions and to develop and review challenge statements from each participating agency. NVRC is working with Washington, DC and Maryland to see what shared resiliency goals are being included in resiliency plans. In addition, the project is looking at what sectors will deal with high consequence high likelihood events and what sectors are most at risk.

HRPDC: The *Development of First Floor Elevation Data for Use in Locality Vulnerability Assessments* project will help develop a cost-effective methodology for determining building elevations.

Wetlands Watch: *The Community Rating System (CRS): Driving Adaptation in Coastal Virginia* project evaluated the costs and benefits of local CRS participation. The project evaluated 21 Virginia localities and only showed two negative cost benefit ratios. A second grant to Wetlands Watch is helping to develop a marketing strategy for CRS, an evaluation of local CRS data needs, a description of financing options and regional positions, and opportunities for improving the program nationally.

Coastal Policy Center (CPC): *Refining the RAFT (Resiliency and Adaptation Feasibility Tool) For Broader Implementation.* The RAFT is a partnership between ODU, UVA, and W&M- CPC intended to assess local resiliency. After an initial evaluation, the partners hold a workshop with the community to develop a checklist of local actions to improve resiliency. The project includes refinement of the RAFT, development of a website, and an assessment of Eastern Shore localities.

- **309: Economics of Lower Chickahominy Land Conservation**

RRPDC: The project, *Leveraging Economic Benefits of the Natural Resources of the Lower Chickahominy River* established a steering committee, completed lower watershed base mapping, developed an RFP for a lower watershed socio-economic study and selected George Mason University (GMU) along with Urban Analytics as the contractor. DGIF, DCR-NH and VCU conducted field studies in the lower watershed.

DGIF: In a herpetological study, documented 64 species of reptiles and amphibians, nine of which were species of greatest conservation need.

DCR-Natural Heritage: In a study to verify historic or nearing historic records in the lower watershed, identified five new natural communities, and updated three existing natural community records. Three existing rare plant records were confirmed, one of which (*Boltonia Ateroides*, var. *glastifolia*, Eastern Doll's Daisy) had not been seen in the Chickahominy watershed since the 1940's.

GMU: The Lower Chickahominy economic study by GMU and Urban Analytics will conduct research to better understand how land conservation practices in Virginia's Lower Chickahominy River Watershed effect local economic conditions. The GMU-UA team will also conduct an economic and fiscal analysis to measure and quantify the impact of conservation land on the bottom-line budgets of Charles City, James City and New Kent Counties.

- **Focal Area: Sustainable Industries: Ecotourism & Aquaculture**

VIMS: The *Expanding Virginia's Oyster Industry While Minimizing User Conflict* project is looking at productivity of public and private oyster grounds and the capacity for

expansion. The project will engage stakeholders in year 2 or 3 to help develop recommendations for minimizing use conflicts.

ANPDC: In the *Virginia Oyster & Water Trail Eco-Tourism Collaboration* project, ANPDC, NNPDC and MPPDC are collaborating on multiple fronts. A February meeting will focus on web design for the Oyster and Water Trails. MPPDC is working with localities to inventory access points and put them into Google Maps. ANPDC is offering the Eco-tour guide course and has 23 people registered. There is a wait list for next year. ANPDC is working to get a Public Access Authority (PAA) started on the Eastern Shore. CZM can now use the land in the MPPAA as match. NNPDC also has a PAA.

- ***Focal Area: Sustainable Industries: Public Access & Interpretive Signage***

Three grants are underway to update interpretive signage on the E. Shore and VA Beach:

TNC: The *Atlantic Coast Interpretive Signage: Seaside Eastern Shore* project is working with DCR, DGIF, USF&WS and TNC to create a website to encourage appropriate access to the barrier island lagoon system and update the Seaside Heritage Program kiosks with similar information and branding.

ANPDC: *Coast Interpretive Signage: New Eastern Shore Kiosks*. This project will install several new kiosks on seaside and bayside.

Virginia Aquarium: *Atlantic Coast Interpretive Signage: Virginia Beach*. This project will construct one or two kiosks similar to an existing one under their theme of “Brain Waves on the Beach” and will focus on ocean issues.

There is also a fourth grant:

DEQ/CZM: *Promoting Ecotourism: Inventory and Update of Virginia CZM Public Access and Land Acquisition Project Signage*. DEQ is creating an inventory of all CZM signage and its condition and will subsequently use funds in this task to replace missing or damaged signs. The PDCs were asked to assist in this inventory by sending photos of sites acquired or built with CZM funds.

- ***309: Working Waterfronts***

MPPDC: For the *Rural Chesapeake Bay/Seaside of Virginia Working Waterfront Language and Policies* project, Lewie Lawrence and Delegate Hodges Middle Peninsula region are submitting 11 pieces of legislation that promote different elements of the Virginia Working Waterfronts Master Plan including a waterway maintenance fund and grant program.

- ***309: Ocean Planning***

VCU: The *Ocean Stakeholder Coordination* grant continues ocean planning work, particularly serving as a liaison with the fishing community. Commercial fishermen continue to have concerns about BOEM and the wind energy areas. Virginia is back on track to have two test turbines deployed off Virginia Beach by 2020. All Mid-Atlantic governors have expressed opposition to offshore oil and gas drilling. The final word, however, will come from the Secretary of the Interior.

MARCO: *Identifying and Assessing Ecologically Rich Areas (ERAs)* is a project to help fund ongoing efforts – particularly the development of fact sheets on each of the 5 components of ERAs (productivity, biodiversity, abundance, rarity and vulnerability) as well as assisting with calls, webinars and workshops on the topic for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body.

- **309: Marine Debris**
Clean VA Waterways & CZM: Currently implementing Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan (10 year horizon)-
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/MarineDebris.aspx>. First project focused on the use of community-based social marketing, with reduction of balloon release and debris as the targeted behavior of a campaign, Joyful Send-off -
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/MarineDebris/MarineDebris-Balloons.aspx>. More detail on this project is provided later in this summary. A Marine Debris Summit is planned in early 2019. A Virginia Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide, written by NOAA with input from Virginia stakeholders is available on-line at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/reports/virginia-marine-debris-emergency-response-guide>. The purpose of this document is to improve preparedness for response and recovery operations following an acute waterway debris incident in Virginia. This document outlines existing response structures at the local, state, and federal levels to facilitate a coordinated, well-managed and immediate response to waterway debris incidents impacting coastal areas in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

11:30 *Policy Team Proposal Review Process for 309 and Focal Area Projects*

- Need process for resolution and adequate time when policy team members have concerns with individual proposals
- CZM staff recommends: Grantees should coordinate with any affected CZM network entities and share copies of their draft proposals with them; Proposals should document support received from affected CZM entities. If issues of concern cannot be resolved by the grant applicant and affected CPT entity, a meeting should be called of all affected parties. If this process prevents meeting the draft application deadline, the issues could be resolved between draft and final applications to allow more time to address concerns.
- Section 309 Project of Special Merit proposals are generally due Dec/Jan. – we need to set an earlier deadline each year – perhaps in October.

The CPT agreed to staff recommendation. In addition it was agreed that Projects of Special Merit, applicants should contact Virginia CZM by October [Note: CZM staff is reconsidering to change this to September] to begin developing proposals since they are typically due in late December or early January. CZM will need to have an internal competition if there are more than two projects submitted.

11:50 *Update on Narrative Policies development (Moon and Andrews)*

Draft narrative enforceable policies have been developed for fisheries, endangered species, dunes and beaches, subaqueous lands, and tidal and non-tidal wetlands (DGIF, VDACS, VMRC and DEQ-Wetlands). Under the current grant to the Coastal Policy Center, policies are being drafted for point and non-point source water pollution, point source air pollution, coastal lands and shoreline sanitation (DEQ and VDH). A meeting will be held on January 24 to provide background on the narrative policies initiative and to discuss draft Bay Act enforceable policies. After all the narrative enforceable policies are drafted, they will be reviewed for consistency then presented to the Coastal Policy Team. After this they will be

sent to NOAA for final approval

12:00 *Lunch (Please bring your lunch. There are no lunch places within walking distance.)*

1:00 *Update and Q & A on Coastal GEMS and new Virginia Ecological Value Assessment (Meade)*
Coastal VEVA partners updated component layers and the final synthesis. Coastal VEVA update utilized same methodology (max value) as previous synthesis. All partners agreed to retain current 30m resolution of 2017 Coastal VEVA instead of 100m used in previous version. Coastal VEVA partner component layers and factors driving change in 2017 updates are listed below:

DGIF - Priority Wildlife Diversity Conservation Areas: Inclusion of new NALCC Terrestrial and Aquatic Potential Habitats data (which has extensive coverage) caused most perceptible changes

DCR-DNH - Conservation Sites & Natural Land Network: Also included new NALCC data as well as much more extensive fragmentation layers (roads and structures) which fragmented many larger cores causing an increase of small high priority cores, including many associated with rivers

VCU - Aquatic Resource Integrity Layer: VCU samples 100-200 sites each year with the majority being new sites (currently 2900 across state) causing the data density of this layer to constantly increase

VIMS - Aquatic Priority Conservation Areas: Included updated data for SAV, Shellfish Vulnerability, and Sea Turtle and the addition of VIMS oyster reef dataset for the seaside of the eastern shore

Coastal VEVA Next Steps: Outreach, targeted to localities and ENGO's, to be completed by VCU will include a webinar and/or recorded video presentation of Coastal VEVA and how it can be incorporated into local planning. VCU will also present Coastal VEVA at the 2018 VAMLIS Conference and complete Coastal VEVA story maps for Coastal GEMS. It was noted during the CPT meeting that a story map should be created about the changes seen from the old to the new Coastal VEVA model.

Coastal GEMS updates: VCU is working to complete mapping application software and user interface updates, including updates to allow users to display multiple years of VBMP imagery, display additional base maps, and load map services from outside sources. VCU is also working to create a new Coastal GEMS landing page with information about the Coastal GEMS application, data and partners, and links to map stories incorporating Coastal GEMS data

1:30 *Ocean Management*

- Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body's Ocean Action Plan (McKay)
 - Implementation Highlights
 - Identifying ecologically rich areas (ERAs);
 - Ocean acidification monitoring network
 - Developing healthy ocean ecosystem indicators
 - Non-consumptive recreation

January 23-24 is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body' (RPB's)s in-person meeting. Next steps on ERAs and Healthy Ocean Indicators are to be discussed. A semi-annual report on progress and work plans for Jan – Jul 2018 is available at: <https://www.boem.gov/Semi-Annual-Work-Plan-and-Progress-Report/> . The Marine Life Data Team at Duke has

synthesized over 6,000 data layers for marine mammals, seabirds and fish into about 100 layers. All 6000 layers are available on the MAROC Ocean Data Portal through its “Marine Life Library”. Data are also being organized into the 5 components of ecological richness. The Team is also creating a tool to allow users to classify and then overlay data layers to see where various levels of ecological richness occur.

The RPB’s Healthy Ocean Indicators Work Group is creating an Ocean Health Indicator’s Dashboard. MACAN (Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network) was created and serves as the RPB’s work group to develop an ocean acidification monitoring network. The Non-consumptive Recreation Workgroup will soon publish a report on recreational needs and use conflicts in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean. The Marine Debris Work Group prepared a regional grant application to expand Virginia’s Balloon Release Reduction social marketing campaign to the full Mid-Atlantic region.

- **Marine Debris (Witmer)**

Balloons and balloon attachments were recognized as one of the top 5 more deadly marine debris items in the Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan, and use of social marketing to target this source of debris was identified as a top priority and next step in implementing the recommendations in the plan. Virginia CZM and Clean Virginia Waterways published a report on research conducted between 2015-2017 on mass balloon releases and development and design of the Joyful Send-off campaign, which uses a social marketing approach to reduce balloon releases at weddings. The report was submitted as final grant product to the NOAA Marine Debris Program in November 2017 and is downloadable from:

(<http://deq.state.va.us/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/MarineDebris/MarineDebris-Balloons.aspx>) and (<http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/publications.html>).

1:50 *November 14-15, 2018 Biennial Coastal Partners Workshop*

- Location
- Themes

The date of the workshop will be November 14-15, 2018. The Virginia Coastal Policy Center’s workshop will be held two weeks before the CZM workshop. Virginia CZM and the CPC will work to coordinate topics. Possible topics and structure for the CZM workshop suggested include: Panel discussions; Federal responsibility for dredging; Localities managing marine spatial assets; How tidal area markers are managed; Aquaculture and what can be learned from other communities; Offshore aquaculture; Solar facilities; Pollinator friendly plants

2:10 *Updating of Executive Order for Northam Administration*

CPT did not suggest any changes to the history or description sections. CZM will update recent accomplishments. Need to highlight resiliency and move governor’s priorities to the top of the list in the accomplishments section. Focus on stormwater, Public Access Authorities, ecotourism, marine debris, economics of land conservation, break out economics impact of climate, Coastal GEMS. Specific changes to goal statement are listed below. Words in quotes are to be added.

Goal 1: Restore coastal “river, bay” and ocean “waters of Virginia”. These include, but are not limited to “groundwater”

Goal 2: quality “and quantity”, coastal “river, bay” and ocean

Goal 3: How air quality ties into ocean water quality. Add text about air deposition of CO2 contributing to ocean acidity and nitrogen

Goal 7: Federal government is in the driver's seat in Federal waters. "and community planning" (at the end of the Goal).

Goal 8: Add text about coastal community resilience (for natural systems, the human built environment and economic resilience)

2:20 *Reprogramming of FY15 and 16 funds (at least \$60k is likely to be available)*

Requests received for:

- Colonial Water Bird Survey (conducted every 10 years) \$10,000
- GWRC Native Plants Demo Garden \$24,716

The CPT agreed with staff recommendation to approve both requests. Some discussion ensued about whether CPT could be given notice when reprogrammed funds become available. The CZM Manager agreed to attempt to do that but noted that there is a standing notice on the website that requests for reprogrammed funds can be submitted at any time and proposals are kept "on the shelf" should funds become available. There is usually not time to run a truly competitive process for allocating reprogrammed funds and the amount is often too small to warrant a competitive scoring process.

2:40 *Possible Topics:*

- State Pollinator Protection Strategy

The 2016 Session of the Virginia General Assembly enacted the Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy (Strategy) (VA Code § 3.2-108.1), which requires the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to establish and maintain a Virginia Pollinator Protection Strategy to promote the health of and mitigate the risks to all pollinator species and ensure a robust agriculture economy and apiary industry for honey bees and other managed pollinators. The Strategy is to include a plan for the protection of managed pollinators that provides voluntary best management practices for pesticide users, beekeepers, landowners, and agricultural producers. The strategy includes an outreach and education component. Virginia CZM's efforts on native plant marketing efforts (regional campaigns and Virginia Native Plant Marketing Partnership) will be highlighted in the strategy as a resource for continued public education on the pollinator habitat value of natives plants. An interagency/NGO committee, led by VDACS, and including many CPT member agencies, is currently developing the strategy, which must be submitted to the GA no later than July 1, 2018.

- Permit by Rule Solar facilities in the Coastal Avian Protection Zones – permit funds accruing and project proposal review process

Currently there are 300MW (megawatts) of operational solar facilities. There are 83 proposed projects on 32,000 acres with 3,200MW. 16 have been permitted and six are in the Coastal Zone. If projects are sited in the Coastal Avian Protection Zone (CAPZ), the developer has to pay \$1,000 per MW into a fund held at DEQ. As impacts increase due to the number of solar facilities, it may be necessary re-open the Permit by Rule (PBR) regulations. The fee from 100MW to 150MW has not gone up. Some localities questioned why, if they received fees from natural resource extraction, they were not getting fees from solar "extraction." This could be a topic for W&M Coastal Policy Center to research. DCR-NH is developing a native plants list specifically for solar developers. A statewide infrastructure of native plant seed and native plants is needed to meet the great demand from both solar and pipeline projects.

- Outdoor Plan? No report.
- VA/NC Offshore Wind Task Force Meeting Update
 DEQ, CZM and VCU staff attended the December meeting in VA Beach. Plans for moving ahead with the two test turbines off Virginia Beach were discussed and the meeting presented an excellent opportunity for staff to meet reps of the developers (Orsted and Dominion). Availability of the MARCO Ocean Data Portal was mentioned several times as was the CZM project on “Collaborative Fisheries Planning for Virginia’s Offshore Wind Energy Area.”

3:15 *Other Partner Updates*

DOF stated the Trees for Clean Water Grants are out now. They range from \$1K - \$10K in size. Since it is Federal pass through money, CZM can’t use it as match.

3:30 (or 4:00 depending on final agenda) *Adjourn*

Attendees

Shannon Alexander – ANPDC
 Elizabeth Andrews – Wm & M/VA CPC
 April Bahen - CZM
 John Bateman- NNPDC
 Sharon Baxter – DEQ
 Steve Begg – VDOT
 Dean Bellas – GMU
 Mark Bittner – Crater PDC
 Jason Bulluck – DCR-NH
 Lance Gregory – VDH
 Todd Grubbs – VDH
 Becky Gwynn – DGIF
 Scott Hardaway – VIMS
 Todd Janeski – VCU/DCR-NH
 Andrew Larkin – NOAA
 Terry Lasher – DOF
 Billy Lassiter – DMME
 Lewie Lawrence – MPPDC
 Beth Major – DEQ
 Pam Mason – VIMS

Ben McFarlane - HRPDC
 Laura McKay - CZM
 Nick Meade - CZM
 Corey Miles - NVRC
 Shep Moon - CZM
 Alicia Nelson - VMRC
 Beth Polak - CZM
 Meghann Quinn – DEQ
 Willy Reay - CBNERRVA
 Katie Register – LU/CVW
 Phil Riggan – RRPDC
 David Spears - DMME
 Sarah Stewart - RRPDC
 Mary Carson Stiff – Wetlands Watch
 Tina Sullivan - DEQ
 Lyle Varnell - VIMS
 Tim Ware - GWRC
 Joe Weber - DCR
 Virginia Witmer - CZM