



**Back Bay Restoration Foundation
Virginia Beach Watersheds Forum
FY2012**

**Prepared by: Mary Tilton, Executive Director
Back Bay Restoration Foundation**

This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through FY12 Grant # NA12NOS4190168, Task 2.01 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Product #1 Title: Forum Agenda and Program 15% Deliverables

VB Watersheds Forum Agenda

March 21, 2013 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, Hall D

8:15 -- Registration and Coffee

8:50 -- Welcome: Karen Forget, LRNow and Mary Tilton, BBRF

9:00-9:45 -- **Panel Presentation: Adapting to Sea Level Rise: What should we be doing?**
Dr. Joe Bouchard, Dr. Carl Hershner, VIMS, and Ben McFarlane, HRPDC

9:45-10:00 Break (displays, networking)

10:00-10:30 -- First Breakout Sessions

A. **Back Bay Fisheries Update** -- Chad Boyce, VDGIF

B. **What does your Stormwater Fee do?** -- Steve McLaughlin, VB Public Works

10:35-11:05 -- Second Breakout Sessions

A. **Back Bay Invasive Species: How the Historic Perspective Affects Current Management** -- David Bishop, USFWS

B. **Oyster Restoration Update** -- Laurie Sorabella, LRNow and Joe Scalf, LRNow

11:10-11:40 -- Third Breakout Sessions

A. **Recent Water Quality Conditions in Back Bay** -- Nathan Bowman, VA DEQ

B. **What is a Living Shoreline?** -- Marcia Berman, VIMS and Joe Scalf, LRNow

11:40 -- 12:15 -- Get lunch, network, displays

12:15-1:00 -- **Panel Presentation: Virginia Beach in 2040: Where do our Natural Resources Fit in the Plans?** -- Clay Bernick, VB Environment & Sustainability, Barry Frankenfield, VB Strategic Growth Areas, and Steve Herbert, Deputy City Manager

1:30-3:30 -- **Hands on workshops:**

Rain Barrels: Build your own rain barrel -- Mike's Rain Barrels

\$60 includes all materials; take the barrel home with you

Gardening with Natives -- Vicki Shufer

\$10 including information about natives for your landscape and a plant to take home for your garden

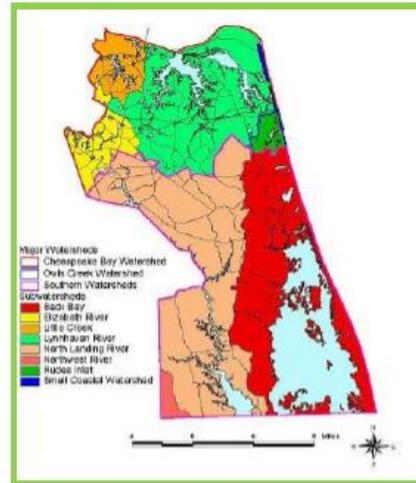
VB Watersheds Forum Program

*Much appreciation to our sponsors
for today's event*



This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA11NOS4190122 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

2013 Virginia Beach Watersheds Forum



Virginia Beach Convention Center
March 21, 2013

8:50 – Welcome

9:00-9:45 Panel Presentation – Room 1

Adapting to Sea Level Rise: What Should We Be Doing?

Dr. Joseph Bouchard, Governors Commission on Climate Change, JoeBouchard@aol.com
Dr. Carl Hershner, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Carl@VIMS.edu
Mr. Ben McFarlane, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, BMcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov

10:00-10:30 – First Breakout Sessions

Room 2 – Back Bay Fisheries Update

Mr. Chad Boyce, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries,

Room 3 – What Does Your Stormwater Fee Do?

Mr. Steve McLaughlin, Virginia Beach Public Works, SMclaugh@VBGov.com

10:35-11:05 – Second Breakout Sessions

Room 2 – Back Bay Invasive Species: How the Historic Perspective Affects Current Management

Mr. David Bishop, US Fish and Wildlife Service,

Room 3 – Oyster Restoration Update: How are We Doing?

Ms. Laurie Sorabella, Lynnhaven River NOW and Oyster Reef Keepers of Virginia, Laurie@LRNow.org
Mr. Joe Scalf, Lynnhaven River NOW, Joe@LRNow.org

11:10-11:40 – Third Breakout Sessions

Room 2 – Recent Water Quality Changes in Back Bay Mr. Nathan Bowman, VA Department of Environmental Quality,

Room 3 – What is a Living Shoreline? New Tools

Ms. Marcia Berman, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Marcia@vims.edu
Mr. Joe Scalf, Lynnhaven River NOW, Joe@LRNow.org

11:40-12:15 – Pick up your lunch, network, look at Displays

12:15-1:00 Panel Presentation – Room 1

Virginia Beach in 2040: Where Do Our Natural Resources Fit in the Plans?

Mr. Clay Bernick, Virginia Beach Environment and Sustainability Office, CBernick@VBGov.com
Mr. Steve Herbert, Virginia Beach Deputy City Manager, SHerbert@VBGov.com
Mr. Barry Frankenfield, Virginia Beach Strategic Growth Areas Office, BFranken@VBGov.com

1:30-3:30 Hands-On Sessions

Room 2 – Native Plants

Ms. Vickie Shufer, False Cape State Park, wildfood@cox.net

Room 3 – Build Your Own Rain Barrel

Mr. Michael Minor, Mike's Rain Barrels, MikesRainBarrels@gmail.com

Product #2 Title: CD of the 2013 VB Watersheds Forum Presentations 15% Deliverables

Two copies of CDs with all presentations at the 2013 VB Watersheds Forum are included within the Final Deliverables package.

Product #3 Title: Action Plan 55% Deliverables

Back Bay Restoration Foundation Action Plan
(Follow up actions to the VB Watersheds Forum 2013)

The Action Plan for the restoration and protection of the Back Bay watershed focuses upon items gleaned from comment forms provided by Forum attendees and through discussion with BBRF Board of Directors after the Forum. Specific Action Items include the following:

1. Encourage networking with related interest groups

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to coordinate efforts with local watershed and wildlife groups as well as local, state and federal government entities in an effort to share contacts and resources, ensure coordination of projects and proposals, garner support for efforts, and facilitate the widest dissemination of information relating to pertinent environmental initiatives.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to provide and solicit speakers on relevant topics, particularly on topics of interest as identified in the Forum Feedback Forms, for future forums and BBRF membership meetings.
- c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation (BBRF) will staff informational booths at local events (Farmer's Markets, the City of Virginia Beach's Earth Day Event, Master Gardener Festival, Lynnhaven River NOW's Fall Festival, as examples), in addition to our future Forums. This effort provides an additional outlet for distribution of information and the opportunity to advertise/present BBRF's mission to a varied subset of individuals.
- d. BBRF will continue to offer informational table space for other non-profit organizations and local, state, and federal government agencies, at future Back Bay Forums. Positive participant feedback about the displays (4.4 out of 5) suggests that participants enjoyed a diversity of interests represented at the 2013 VB Watersheds Forum.

2. Become involved in restoration activities

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation plans to resume and expand restoration activities, such as riparian plantings, native plantings, and rain garden creation. The City of Virginia Beach has expressed an interest to support these efforts. BBRF will coordinate with the City via attendance at the monthly Clean Water Task Force meetings and other meetings with the City's Environment and Sustainability Office.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will work closely with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, False Cape State Park, and Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area to identify restoration activities that will further our mission to improve Back Bay and its watershed. BBRF will work with and assist these entities when practical and possible.

3. Continue and expand pollution prevention programs

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation staff, members and volunteers will continue efforts to clean our watershed with the guidance of the City of Virginia Beach Clean Community Coalition. This effort will specifically include continuation of existing roadway and waterway cleanups efforts.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will collaborate with other groups such as Lynnhaven River NOW, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, False Cape State Park, Chesapeake Bay

- Foundation, the City of Virginia Beach, Clean Virginia Waterways, and others, to engage volunteers in cleanups that directly improve the health of the Back Bay, and neighboring, watersheds.
- c. Pollution prevention and cleanup efforts will be published in bi-monthly newsletters, on the Back Bay Facebook page, and on the BBRF website. BBRF also informs BBRF members of volunteer opportunities with other watershed groups in Hampton Roads.
 - d. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to garner volunteers and cultivate these relationships. BBRF will also educate members about pollution prevention efforts and the importance of such work.
 - e. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to participate in City Storm Water Management Program storm water drain marking program within the Back Bay Watershed. All necessary equipment is available to BBRF from the City Storm Water Management department.

4. Expand Education and Outreach Programs

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation membership meetings and newsletter articles feature information about projects and issues in the watershed as well as practical information for homeowners. The BBRF Board President have developed a series of articles focusing on the Back Bay watershed, its natural and cultural history.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue providing information to local schools and area civic groups relating to issues concerning the Back Bay watershed. The goals include raising awareness, securing a volunteer database, and educating the public about ways in which residents can have a positive impact on water quality.
- c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to host workshops, such as rain barrel workshops, that educate residents about stewardship and conservation. BBRF will seek to host additional relevant workshops that pertain to our mission to improve Back Bay, such as native gardening, pollinator workshops, and invasive species management.
- d. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will work closely with staff at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to educate visitors about the unique ecosystem in Back Bay, the wildlife and flora here, and the challenges to protect this system.
- e. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to evaluate the successes and challenges of previous Forums and use this information as BBRF plans the 2014 VB Watersheds Forum.

Product #4 Title: Website link for Forum 2013

15% Deliverables

<http://www.bbrf.org/annual-events/vb-watersheds-forum/forum-presentation-archive/>

All presentations from the 2013 (and previous) VB Watershed Forums and Back Bay Forum are available for download via this link in PDF format. The webpage also includes the CZMP logos. The presentations are also available on the Lynnhaven River NOW website (www.lynnhavenrivernow.org).

Product #5 Title: Survey and comment form

10% Deliverables

156 participants (speakers, volunteers, and attendees) were provided the Forum Feedback Form. 55 surveys returned complete. A sample survey form and the compiled information follow below.



2013 VB Watersheds Forum Feedback

Please leave this form on the registration table as you leave or mail it to
BBRF, 3022 New Bridge Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Rate overall effectiveness of these aspects of the Forum on a scale from 1-5 (1 lowest and 5 highest).

Length of the Forum	1	2	3	4	5
Number of presentations	1	2	3	4	5
Content and relevance of the presentations	1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge of the presenters	1	2	3	4	5
Format of the Forum	1	2	3	4	5
Number, type and quality of table displays	1	2	3	4	5
Catering services	1	2	3	4	5
Venue	1	2	3	4	5
Registration fee	1	2	3	4	5

1. If you ranked any of the above aspects of the Forum a 1 or a 2, please describe why and/or how we can improve.
2. Are there other topics you would like to see covered in future Forums?
3. Did this Forum affect or change your understanding of Virginia Beach's watersheds?
4. What new initiatives would you suggest that would have a direct and positive impact on the health of Virginia Beach's watersheds?
5. Please provide any additional suggestions for future Forums. (Use reverse as needed)

Please provide the following information (optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA11NOS4190122 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.



2013 VB Watersheds Forum Evaluation: Results and Feedback

Criteria	Average (out of 5, n=55)
Length of Forum	4.5 (<i>up from 4.4 in 2012</i>)
Number of presentations	4.5 (<i>up from 4.3 in 2012</i>)
Content and relevance of presentations	4.6 (<i>unchanged from 2012</i>)
Knowledge of presenters	4.8 (<i>unchanged from 2012</i>)
Format of Forum	4.8 (<i>up from 4.6 in 2012</i>)
Number, type, and quality of table displays	4.4 (<i>up from 4.3 in 2012</i>)
Catering	4.1 (<i>down from 4.5 in 2012</i>)
Venue	4.6 (<i>down from 4.7 in 2012</i>)
Registration fee	4.6 (<i>down from 4.8 in 2012</i>)

COMMENTS:

Presentations:

- For the short breakout presentations, only have one person involved, or make them 10 minutes longer. Just having one speaker would be better, because the overall length of the Forum was appropriate. I talked to a number of people who needed to jet off after it to get back to work. If it went until 2, it would consume a full work day.
- The lineup of speakers and the order they presented in flowed very well.
- Put lunch at the end so there isn't an extra 30 minute break. Some people grabbed lunch and left before the last panel presentation.
- Make breakout sessions about concrete ways that homeowners can make a difference. The people who come to the Forum are already interested in the health of the river and would appreciate learning some specific things they can do in their houses, yards, etc.
- The panel discussions were wonderful. The talks in the break-out sessions were great too. I'd love to see even more talks.
- I thought that the time for the entire program was great. I liked ending early afternoon.
- We should invite speakers from various watersheds or entities (government, orgs) who can talk about individual projects/programs (similar to our oyster restoration discussion). Ensure some of them are geared toward things they can do, either in their back yard or in their respective orgs. There's no way we're going to cover all the relevant subjects every year.
- Maybe one large plenary session is enough, not two. If the format is appropriate for a topic, think about whether it's necessary to have it be plenary or concurrent.
- Shorter sessions were better than longer (people were antsy), however it is tricky to fit two speakers into 30 minute sessions and have time for questions. Maybe add one more short session after lunch?
- Use "guards" (volunteers) at the doors to make the entrances and exits at least a bit quieter!
- Quicker way to round people up in the morning to get started, or make a louder announcement?
- Next year, along with new content, people may want updates on things that were discussed this year, but not want much repetition for repeat participants--eg. Oysters, SGAs, invasives, etc. Heard people wishing that they could have attended concurrent sessions--can't really think of a solution to fit into a reasonable amount of time.

Heard someone suggest a "biologist" track - but this may prevent non-biologists from learning about an area they aren't familiar with.

Lunch:

- The food was mediocre, the breakfast breads were pitiful--20 pieces of bread total (although they rolled away a lot of them at the end of breakfast?). Lunch was fine, but the food choices were not great--tuna is not a good choice environmentally, and we need to remember to order extra vegetarian meals.
- We should order more vegetarian boxes in anticipation of a vegetable-loving crowd.
- No tuna for lunch unless we can tell people it's sustainably sourced.
- The containers were waxed and non-recyclable, yet there were recycling bins overflowing with the boxes—there were not enough trash or recycle bins to hold all boxes. Participants were confused as to what to do with waste.
- There are never enough veggie options - especially at environment oriented events. Either place a sign that says "Please only take one if you do not eat meat, so that those who do not will be able to eat" (guilt method) or over order.

Location:

- The location was great, assuming there isn't a better place that wouldn't make us pay for every chair we use, each minute of Wi-Fi, etc.
- Ensure there is an aisle on each side, in addition to a central aisle, so people can enter and exit rows from both sides, instead of just one.
- If the large room is used again, make more than one central aisle and/or put aisles on the end of the rows.
- The location was central and the conference spaces upstairs are very nice. Not one tech debacle the entire day, which is impressive. Also, free parking is good.
- Standing room only in Room 3 for some of the breakout sessions.
- Use larger numbers on doors or use convention center numbers. People figured out the room numbers, but there was some confusion!

Misc:

- Find ways to broaden our audience, as there were many of the same old faces. Think of ideas to attract new people.
- Attempting to bring different watershed orgs together is a good thing. We have more to gain by listening to each other and helping each other than we do by being competitive or us vs. them. Unfortunately in the non-profit world, not everyone agrees with that philosophy.

Executive Summary:

The 2013 Virginia Beach Watersheds Forum was a success on many fronts. The combined efforts of two local Virginia Beach watershed groups, Back Bay Restoration Foundation and Lynnhaven River NOW, along with support by Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and NOAA, produced an educational, informative, and useful day for 156 attendees from a variety of backgrounds from homeowners to nonprofit and government employees. A total of eight presentations on a variety of issues that affect Virginia Beach watersheds and the residents within the watersheds were given by local experts and were well received based on evaluation of the Feedback Forms. The Forum is an important annual event to provide citizens with updates and education on relevant topics that affect Virginia Beach's waterways.