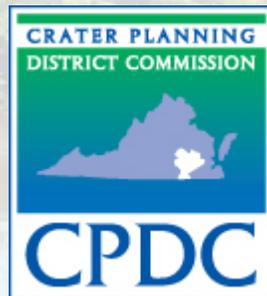


Virginia Coastal Zone Management Project

Final Deliverable Products Report
Task 42, Technical Assistance Program



Crater Planning District Commission

November 15, 2016



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant # NA14NOS419 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Final Project Summary

The Technical Assistance Program includes various activities coordinated and provided by Crater Planning District Commission staff. All work relating to the products listed in the 2015 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Grant is summarized below. Any additional environmental tasks completed during the past year have also been outlined.

Product #1 – Environmental Impact Reviews

Commission staff reviewed 40 Environmental Impact Reports during the past year. The projects were varied and included military applications, nuclear power plant discharge, interstate interchange reconstruction, energy pipelines, and grant funding applications. The Crater PDC also reviewed the FY2016 – FY2019 Chesapeake Bay Regulatory & Accountability Program (CBRAP) and offered the following comments:

1. Direct outreach to elected officials is proposed instead of going through planning district commissions (PDCs). We have no objection to that, but we would like to insure PDCs will remain on distribution lists for CBRAP matters.
2. The package states relevant databases will be created, including GIS databases. We would like to have access to this information, if possible.

Product #2 – Report on Coastal Meetings

Four (4) quarterly meetings were held during the past year (2015 - 2016): October 14, January 29, March 24, and July 12. In addition to local government and Crater PDC staff, representatives from the following entities attended at least once: Fort Lee, The Virginia Department of Transportation, The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR). The main focus of each meeting is outlined below.

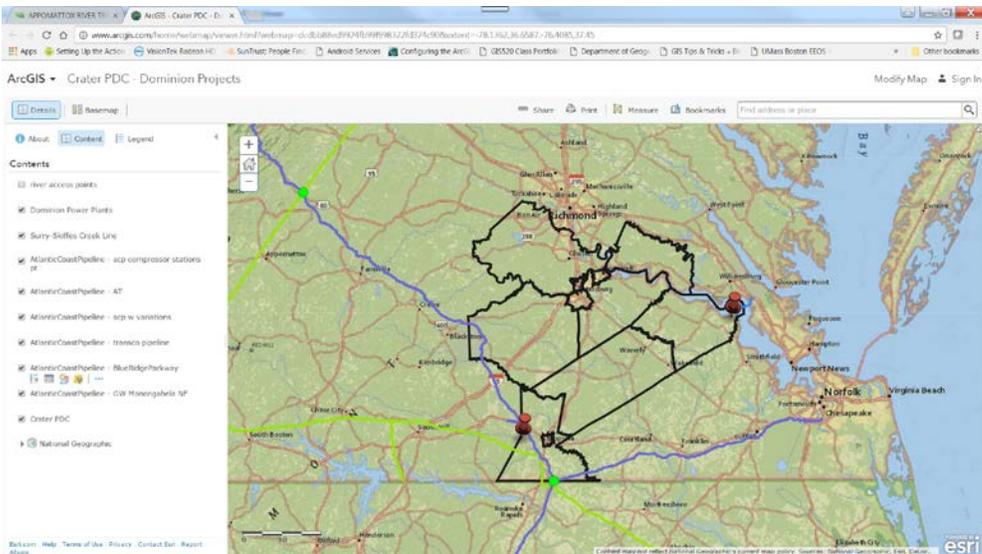
- October 14, 2015 – Virginia Outdoors Plan: Staff from Virginia DCR met with the Crater PDC to discuss annual updates to the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) for the Crater region. Trail connections and development were the biggest focus including the Appomattox River Trail, potential connection to the Virginia Capital Trail, and integration with the East Coast Greenway.



- January 29, 2016 – Dominion Virginia Power Projects Environmental Review: Several projects by Dominion Virginia Power within the Crater region are either proposed or under development:

- [Greenville Power Station](#)
- [Atlantic Coast Pipeline](#)
- [Surry-Skiffes Creek Transmission Line](#)
- [Surry Power Station Discharge Permit Reissuance](#)

Staff from Virginia DEQ briefed Crater PDC representatives on the environmental review of these projects and their potential environmental impact. Mitigation measures were also discussed. A [web mapping application](#) was also developed highlighting all of these projects.



- March 24, 2016 – Funding & Environmental Review of Rural Transportation Projects: The method for funding transportation projects in Virginia is now subject to a prioritization process that includes environmental impact as a factor. Projects in rural areas usually create smaller environmental impacts than urban area transportation projects. The Water Quality Permits Manager from VDOT discussed how these impacts are determined during the prioritization process. Crater PDC rural locality representatives were briefed on how they might best prepare applications for funding their transportation projects.
- July 12, 2016 – Resilience Workshop: The Crater PDC partnered with the Richmond Regional PDC to conduct a [Resilience Workshop](#) aimed at planning, environmental, emergency management, transportation, and economic development professionals. The main goals were to understand resilience priorities at the local and regional level, and to make the case for resiliency projects to decision makers. The themes discussed aligned with the upcoming Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Crater PDC staff made notes for each locality present to prepare for the update process. A copy of the agenda is included in the appendix.

Product #3 – Coastal Training

The Commission sponsored several training sessions on the following topics: 1) Virginia Outdoors Plan Update, 2) Appomattox River Interpretive Guide, 3) Dominion Virginia Power Projects, 4) Rural Transportation Planning and Environmental Impacts, 5) Appomattox River Trail Master Plan, 6) Appomattox River Trail Branding and Signage Plan, and 7) Regional Resiliency. Details for most of these topics are in the previous section.

Product #4 – FOLAR (Friends of the Lower Appomattox River)

The Commission staff continued its ongoing support for FOLAR by providing financial administration, meeting facilitation, website maintenance (www.folar-va.org), participation in river events, map production, office space, and grants administration. It continued to employ permanent part-time staff to handle its administrative duties.



Highlights of FOLAR activities included the following:

- Performed five local river clean-ups.
- Held its 9th Annual Battle or Paddle.
- Secured approximately \$42,500 in grants from various sources.
- Held its 2nd Annual RiverFest and produced a [RiverFest Video](#).
- Maintained a [Facebook Page](#) of all FOLAR activities.



FOLAR also received a \$100,000 grant from the Cameron Foundation to produce an Appomattox River “Trail Master Plan” and a “Trail Brand Identity and Signage Master Plan”. The Lower Appomattox River is a major tributary of the James River that meanders 23 miles eastward through six Virginia localities. It begins at the Lake Chesdin Brasfield Dam in Chesterfield County, flows through Dinwiddie County, the Cities of Petersburg and Colonial Heights, Prince George County, and converges with the James River at historic City Point in the City of Hopewell.

FOLAR, the Crater PDC, and the six river localities partnered in the RFP process to hire firms to produce the plans. The goal was to establish a contiguous multiple-use trail along the entire 23 miles of the corridor and at the same time develop a brand identity and a wayfaring/interpretive signage plan to enhance the trail experience, reduce barriers to trail engagement, increase learning opportunities, and facilitate mapping and tourism communications. Several sections of trail presently exist, but gaps are significant. Signage is minimal and finding trail sections can be challenging for the general public.

Three firms applied to do the trail plan, five firms applied to do the signage plan, and two firms applied to do both plans. [Land Planning & Design Associates](#) (LPDA) was chosen to do the trail plan and [AB Design](#) was chosen for the signage plan. Field reconnaissance and public meetings were held to gather data and input. Draft documents were produced and, as of this writing, were awaiting final approval:

- [Appomattox River Trail Master Plan](#) – October 13, 2016
- Appomattox River Trail Draft Brand Identity, Logo Design and Signage Master Plan
 - [Part 1](#)
 - [Part 2](#)

Selected graphics from the Master Trail Plan are shown below. An overall trail map can be seen in the appendix.





Model showing potential improvements for Patton Park

The pedestrian trails in Patton Park will include a trail that takes people past the old Harvell Dam site and to a small park at the boat ramp and historic abutments just east of the Dominion Virginia Power substation (see photos at right). These abutments could be used for a pedestrian trail across the River, creating a convenient loop trail which would include the bridge abutments and both sides of the River.

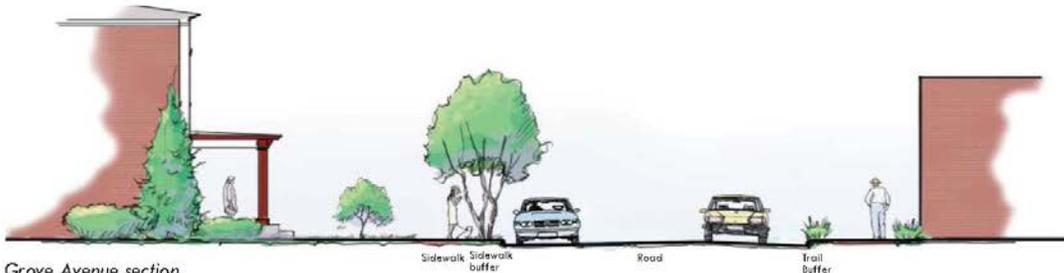


Existing conditions along edge of river

East of these bridge abutments, the trail would cross the railroad tracks into historic downtown Petersburg and continue east along Grove Avenue to the historic Peter Jones Trading Post (see section below). At this point, the trail will move over to Pike Street/River Street, a picturesque cobblestone street with ample opportunities for additional commercial ventures such as cafes, galleries, and gift shops. The trail along River Street continues east under Boulevard, past the train depot, and across the tracks at the 3rd street crossing.



Rendering showing potential improvements along river



Grove Avenue section
2016

Sidewalk Sidewalk buffer

Road

Trail buffer

The chosen signage design is shown here:



Product #5 – Benefits Accrued From Prior CZM Grants

Commission staff maintained our Appomattox River Interpretive guide and online application: <http://www.craterpdc.org/webmaps/arig/>.

Additional Environmental Matters

Commission staff participated in several other environmental activities including the Richmond Area Environmental Education Network, Chesapeake Bay TMDL Planning, solid waste reporting, the Albemarle-Chowan Roundtable, the Middle James Roundtable, the Chesapeake Conservancy, floodplain analysis, and the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail. The Crater PDC attended the following environmental meetings:

- May 3, 2016 – Coastal PDCs at the Hampton Roads PDC
- May 17, 2016 – Albemarle-Chowan Watershed Roundtable
- May 18, 2016 – Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals Annual Meeting

- September 14, 2016 – Middle James Roundtable
- September 20, 2016 – CZM Policy Team

Appendix

- Resilience Workshop Agenda
- Appomattox River Trail Master Plan



FEMA

Richmond Regional PDC + Crater PDC Resilience Workshop July 12, 2016 Preliminary Agenda

8:30 AM: Registration and Sign In

9:00 AM: Welcome and Introductions

9:30 AM: Resilience Roundtable

A presentation and group discussion to identify resilience priorities and existing resources.

10:30 AM: Break

10:45 AM: Making the Case for Mitigation – How do you express the value of mitigation or monetize action?

A facilitated discussion including an overview of valuation of actions and benefits, as well as how communities can capture the cumulative effects of mitigation actions.

11:45 AM: Lunch

12:30 PM: Open House Information Sharing

Federal, State, and local agencies are invited to bring information to share data and tools to support community resilience, funding opportunities, and other resources. Agencies may include:

Federal Emergency Management Agency	Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Virginia Department of Health
U.S Environmental Protection Agency	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Virginia Department of Transportation
Richmond Regional PDC	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Crater PDC	Virginia Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security

1:45 PM: Break

2:00 PM: Taking Action Based on Resilience Priorities

Participants will break out into small groups to identify short-, medium-, and long-term actions to determine policy and projects. Groups will reconvene to wrap-up and identify next steps.

4:00 PM: Adjourn

Appomattox River Trail

Draft Master Plan



- LEGEND**
- Trail Access Point
 - River Access Point
 - E Existing
 - P Proposed
 - N Neighborhood
 - Park
 - Existing Trail
 - Proposed Trail
 - Sidewalk
 - Primary Route
 - Secondary Route

DRAFT

