

NA16NOS4190171, Task 47

11/15/2017

**GWRC Coastal Zone
Management Technical
Assistance Program Report
FY2016**



**Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

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Product #1: Training and Coordination Summary

A. CZM Coordination Meetings

GWRC staff and their consultants participated in the following CZM-related meetings:

1. CZM Program Meeting – 10/19/2016
2. CZM Program Meeting – 5/24/2017

B. Regional Stormwater Manager Committee Meetings

These regularly scheduled meetings help assist regional staff to continue to develop useful regional initiatives to assist local governments to understand and comply with State stormwater management regulations. Among other topics, GWRC and the local governments spent considerable time discussing compliance with environmental regulations and areas of overlap between programs. The meetings also provided opportunities to discuss grant opportunities which could further other regional environmental initiatives.

C. Deliverables

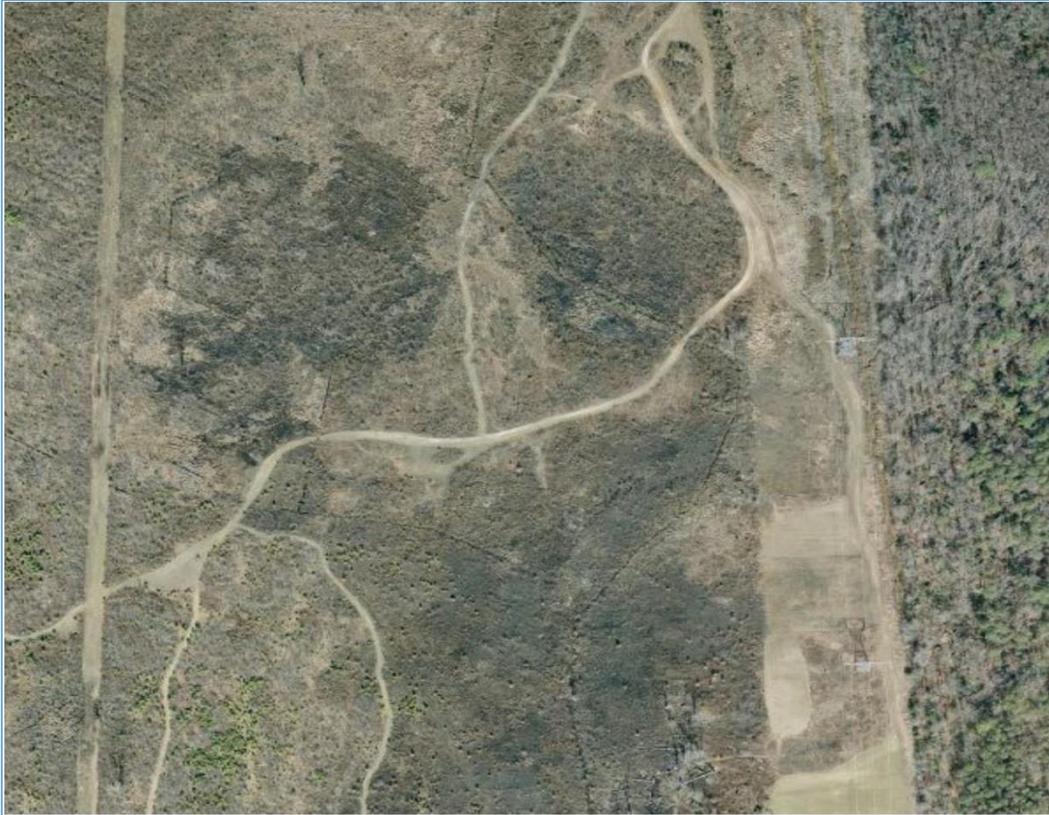
1. Stormwater Manager Meeting Summaries (Appendix A)

Product #2: Colonial Swamp Reclamation Infrastructure Data Layer

A. Project Summary:

The Mattaponi watershed is highlighted in the GWRC Regional Green Infrastructure Plan as a high-priority eco-corridor, with potential for supporting the preservation, protection, and enhancement of native species, natural habitats, and water quality. The Mattaponi River flows through farmlands which carries nonpoint source pollution downstream to the York River and Chesapeake Bay. Colonial swamp reclamation infrastructure within the watershed has resulted in a network of ditches carrying pollutants directly into the Mattaponi River. Enhancing the green infrastructure resources within the Mattaponi watershed through the guidance of the watershed implementation plan and associated restoration projects will help facilitate the restoration of the natural Mattaponi wetland, enhance farm productivity, reduce non-point source agricultural run-off and enhance natural lands for eco-tourism and recreation.

GWRC used remote sensing to identify man-made colonial swamp reclamation structures within the region to determine potential future wetland restoration areas. This data collection improves the information available to allow for the development of a more effective watershed assessment and mitigation plan. This data will also assist with a future phase of the ongoing Healthy Watersheds project.



Example study area delineating drainage ditches

B. Deliverables

1. GIS data layer (Attachment 1)

Product #3: Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants

Description: CZM projects/tasks in previous years that have produced measurable benefits in subsequent years and/or have served as a foundation for additional projects.

During the FY15 CZM grant cycle, GWRC received funds to develop a campaign strategy for a native plants campaign for the GW region. GWRC received additional funds (FY 16 CZM competitive grant) to implement the “*Plant Central Rapp Natives*” campaign. The implementation phase included production of a full-color native plants guide, campaign launch event, outreach events, coordination with local native plant providers, and creation of a campaign website. Implementation of the campaign has been very successful. Members of the planning team have organized outreach efforts and distributed the native plants guide around the region. GWRC plans to install a native plant demo garden with a new 306A grant from CZM. The demo garden will help to further enhance the campaign.



Appendices

Appendix A: GWRC Stormwater Managers Committee Meeting Summaries

Appendix A: GWRC Stormwater Managers Committee Meeting Summaries

A. Attendance Record

<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>12/12/2016</i>	<i>2/14/2017</i>	<i>5/18/2017</i>	<i>8/29/2017</i>
Caroline County				
David Nunnally	x	x	x	x
Friends of the Rappahannock				
Bryan Hofman				
GWRC				
Darren Coffey		x	x	x
Shaina Schaffer	x	x	x	x
Tim Ware	x	x	x	x
King George County				
Heather Hall				
Jack Green		x		
City of Fredericksburg				
Kevin Utt	x	x		x
Stafford County				
Paul Santay	x			
Rishi Baral				x
Town of Port Royal				
Jim Heimbach	x			
Tri-County City SWCD				
Marta Perry			x	
Other Participants				
Eldon James - RRBC	x		x	
Drew Williams – The Berkley Group			x	
Denise Nelson – The Berkley Group			x	x
Total	7	6	8	7

B. Meeting Minutes



Stormwater Quarterly Regional Planning Meeting

December 12, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GWRC Conference Room

Notes

Tim Ware, GWRC Executive Director, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table. Shaina Schaffer, meeting facilitator, gave an overview on some regional planning activities including:

- A. Native Plants Campaign –GWRC received funding to implement the *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* campaign through the VA Coastal Zone Management competitive grant. During the previous fiscal year GWRC worked with a native plants planning team to research local awareness of native plants, perceptions, and barriers to use. The planning team then developed a campaign strategy based upon their research results. The *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* Campaign launch is scheduled to coincide with the City of Fredericksburg's Earth Day Festival. The planning team is currently working on the *Plant Central Rappahannock Native Plants* Guide which will need to be available at the campaign launch event.
- B. Healthy Watersheds – Eldon James gave an update on the Healthy Watersheds project. The Healthy Watersheds project focuses upon identifying and utilizing high value forests to achieve clean water goals for the Chesapeake Bay. Eldon noted that they are about 2/3 of the way through their public engagement efforts and have finished up meetings in the Lower Rappahannock River Basin.
- C. Forest Retention Data Gathering – This project is part of the CZM technical assistance grant for this fiscal year. The project focuses upon identifying colonial swamp reclamation structures (earthen berms, drainage ditches, dams) in relation to tax parcel boundaries to assess potential future wetland restoration projects. This data is an important component in initiating Phase II of the Healthy Watersheds project. David Nunnally also mentioned that there are property owners along the Mattaponi have expressed interest in conservation easements on their properties.

The group then had a round table discussion focused upon the 2016 Stormwater Bill report released by the Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC) and the Model Environmental Ordinance drafted during the previous CZM TA grant year. Shaina gave an overview of the Model Environmental Ordinance project, noting that its purpose was to streamline the various environmental programs and regulations into a single, environmental ordinance. The ordinance development process included identifying how the programs could better be consolidated and noting where the programs appeared to conflict. This work mirrors the analysis presented in the VCPC report. David noted that Delegate Hodges will likely submit new legislation. Eldon reminded the group that Delegate Hodges is working

to help people understand that the point of revising the stormwater regulations is not to limit regulations but to enable localities to manage them more efficiently.

The group then discussed the next application rounds for the CZM technical assistance and competitive grants. David recommended an on-line environmental forum which could be used to discuss local environmental challenges and questions about regulations. The group decided it would be best to have some more time to think about potential projects and that it would be good to meet in February to further discuss this topic.

Kevin Utt informed the group that DEQ has just released information on the BMP Clearinghouse related to manufactured treatment devices.

The next meeting will be in February 2017. A date for that meeting will be selected closer to that time.



Stormwater Quarterly Regional Planning Meeting

February 14, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GWRC Conference Room

Notes

Tim Ware, GWRC Executive Director, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table. Shaina Schaffer, meeting facilitator, gave an overview on some regional planning activities including:

- A. Native Plants Campaign –GWRC received funding to implement the *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* campaign through the VA Coastal Zone Management competitive grant. During the previous fiscal year GWRC worked with a native plants planning team to research local awareness of native plants, perceptions, and barriers to use. The planning team then developed a campaign strategy based upon their research results. The *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* Campaign launch is scheduled to coincide with the City of Fredericksburg's Earth Day Festival. The planning team is currently working on the *Plant Central Rappahannock Native Plants* Guide which will need to be available at the campaign launch event.
- B. Healthy Watersheds – Darren Coffey gave an update on the Healthy Watersheds project. The Healthy Watersheds project focuses upon identifying and utilizing high value forests to achieve clean water goals for the Chesapeake Bay. Eldon James is working on the public engagement meetings in the Upper Rappahannock Basin.
- C. Forest Retention Data Gathering – This project is part of the CZM technical assistance grant for this fiscal year. The project focuses upon identifying colonial swamp reclamation structures (earthen berms, drainage ditches, dams) in relation to tax parcel boundaries to assess potential future wetland restoration projects. This data is an important component in initiating Phase III of the Healthy Watersheds project. David Nunnally noted there are property owners along the Mattaponi that have expressed interest in conservation easements on their properties. Jack Green asked if UMW could also identify areas where CBPA buffers are missing.
- D. FY 17 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant – GWRC submitted a proposal for the next round of CZM TA funds. The FY CZM TA grant will continue the quarterly stormwater meetings and will also design signage for BMPs in public access areas. The BMP sign designs will be made available to the GW localities.

The group then discussed project ideas for the next round of CZM competitive grants. Darren suggested using the grant to implement the public outreach component of the GWRC Hazard Mitigation Plan. Such a project would fall could include a survey of existing preparedness, emergency contacts, recommendations for preparing your family/property/business, a printed preparedness guide, website containing resources and recommendations, and promotion of hazard emergency

preparedness at local events. David suggested setting up native plant demos in each of the GW localities. He mentioned that he's interested in having a demo garden outside of the Caroline County Planning Department. Kevin Utt suggested planting an oyster bed at Old Mill Park or evaluating opportunities to use funding towards components of the Community Rating System (CRS) for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Tim noted that GWRC can submit multiple applications. Applications will be due by 3/24. Shaina will send out more information to the group regarding proposal content.

A doodle poll will be sent out to select a date for the next meeting which will be in May or June 2017.



Stormwater Quarterly Regional Planning Meeting

May 18, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GWRC Conference Room

Notes

Tim Ware, GWRC Executive Director, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table. Shaina Schaffer gave an overview on some regional planning activities including:

- A. Native Plants Campaign –GWRC received funding to implement the *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* campaign through the VA Coastal Zone Management competitive grant. During the previous fiscal year GWRC worked with a native plants planning team to research local awareness of native plants, perceptions, and barriers to use. The planning team then developed a campaign strategy based upon their research results. The *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* campaign officially launched on April 22nd at the City of Fredericksburg's Earth Day Festival. The *Plant Central Rapp Native Plants* guides were distributed to the group.
- B. Forest Retention Data Gathering – This project is part of the CZM technical assistance grant for this fiscal year. The project focuses upon identifying colonial swamp reclamation structures (earthen berms, drainage ditches, dams) in relation to tax parcel boundaries to assess potential future wetland restoration projects. This data is an important component in initiating Phase III of the Healthy Watersheds project.
- C. FY 17 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant –The FY CZM TA grant will continue the quarterly stormwater meetings and will also design signage for BMPs in public access areas. The BMP sign designs will be made available to the GW localities.

Denise Nelson, Environmental Engineer for The Berkley Group, gave an overview of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's (ISI) Envision rating system. The Envision program considers sustainability options for infrastructure projects. Unlike the LEED program, Envision takes a holistic evaluation of the project's sustainability rather than looking solely at the sustainability of the site's buildings. Dave Nunnally expressed interest in learning more about the Envision program.

The group then discussed future meeting topics/activities. Darren expressed the need to further engage members of the group and ensure relevant future meeting content. Eldon suggested that it might be a good idea to have discussions with each member of the group regarding areas their locality has been struggling in, areas of success and future concerns.

The group then had a roundtable discussion. Dave shared a map with the group which highlighted a large parcel with an agriculture zoning. The site has some designated RPA areas along with some areas that are potential RPA and would require a site-specific determination. Dave asked the group if they knew how to

regulate clearing of land for agricultural purposes near potential RPA areas. The group was unsure if there were any provisions in place to require a buffer around such features.

Dave then shared another map showing a site with a proposed driveway crossing a stream. This area does not have any designated wetlands and is not in the RPA. He was unsure if the Virginia Water Protection (VWP) permit regulations would apply to this site, but upon investigation he was told that those regulations covered any impact to a stream. The group was unsure what conditions were applicable to the VWP permit and thought it would be best to review the regulations.

The next meeting will be held in August. A doodle poll will be issued later in the summer to select the date and time.



Stormwater Quarterly Regional Planning Meeting

August 29, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GWRC Conference Room

Notes

Tim Ware, GWRC Executive Director, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table. Shaina Schaffer gave an overview on some regional planning activities including:

- A. Native Plants Campaign –GWRC received funding to implement the *Plant Central Rappahannock Natives* campaign through the VA Coastal Zone Management competitive grant. During the previous fiscal year GWRC worked with a native plants planning team to research local awareness of native plants, perceptions, and barriers to use. The planning team then developed a campaign strategy based upon their research results. The *Plant Central Rapp Native Plants* guides were distributed to the group. The group discussed the opportunity to extend the grant for the campaign which would support the establishment of demonstration gardens. The group noted that quality of the project was more important than size as well as a long-term maintenance agreement. The group was tasked with providing suggestions for demo sites.
- B. Forest Retention Data Gathering – This project is part of the CZM technical assistance grant for this fiscal year. The project focuses upon identifying colonial swamp reclamation structures (earthen berms, drainage ditches, dams) in relation to tax parcel boundaries to assess potential future wetland restoration projects. This data is an important component in initiating Phase III (or another future phase) of the Healthy Watersheds project.
- C. FY 17 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant –The FY 17 CZM TA grant will continue the quarterly stormwater meetings and will also design signage for BMPs in public access areas. The BMP sign designs will be made available to the GW localities. The group was tasked with beginning to think of sites for these signs.

Rishi Baral from Stafford County then gave an overview of the County's experiences with the Community Rating System (CRS) program. He noted that within Virginia, there are 283 communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Across the U.S., only 5% of all NFIP communities participate in the CRS. Stafford began its CRS program in 2011. The County is currently a level 8 community which provides a 5% flood insurance premium discount to policyholders and a community-wide savings of \$25,000. The County will be moving to a level 7 in October which will increase the flood insurance premium discount to 10%.

Denise Nelson, Environmental Engineer for The Berkley Group, gave an overview of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's (ISI) Envision rating system and how it is related to the CRS program.

The Envision program considers sustainability options for infrastructure projects. Unlike the LEED program, Envision takes a holistic evaluation of the project's sustainability rather than looking solely at the sustainability of the site's buildings. Additionally, there are credits in the Envision Rating system that overlap with the activities associated with CRS. For example, Envision includes a credit associated with preserving floodplain functions which would correspond to activities for CRS. The group noted that other environmental requirements/programs, such as EMS, likely overlap with Envision credits.

The group then discussed future meeting topics/activities. The group wanted Denise to come to the next meeting to give a presentation on Envision. Kevin also noted that he would like to discuss incorporating non-regulatory programs/initiatives into local requirements. Dave also noted that Elizabeth Andrews is leading the HB 1774 Stormwater Workgroup which is working on drafting a legislative proposal. He suggested that she may be able to come to the next meeting to discuss further.

The next meeting will be held in November. A doodle poll will be issued to select the date and time.