

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhbiSoiHN4Y>

**Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework  
Coastal Resilience Studies, Research, and Best Practices Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2021 – 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Virtual Public Meeting

The event began at 11:00 am. The meeting was held via Webex, recorded, and posted on the TAC website. In attendance were subcommittee chair Dr. Robert Weiss, vice-chair Emily Steinhilber, and other subcommittee members.

Dr. Weiss read the required language to conduct virtual meetings during COVID. Dr. Weiss started the roll call and made a motion to start the meeting. The subcommittee members present are: Dr. Carl Hershner, Whitney Katchmark, Dr. Mark Luckenbach, Cathy McGhee, Dr. Karen McGlathery, Ashley Montgomery, Mary-Carson Stiff, Skip Stiles, Dr. Rob Young, Emily Steinhilber, and Dr. Robert Weiss.

Dr. Robert Weiss requested the motion to start the meeting. The motion was seconded by the present members of the subcommittee.

Rear Admiral Phillips introduced Matt Dalon who will oversee the contract once the contract is awarded.

Dr. Weiss started his presentation at 11:14 am. The presentation slides can be found on the SNR website. The subcommittee members approved the meeting agenda and the meeting minutes from the subcommittee meeting on February 22, 2021.

Dr. Weiss proposed the subcommittee to form three working groups: Relocation Handbook; Natural and Nature-based Infrastructure; Socio-economic Equity. Dr. Weiss opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Rob Young suggested adding the topic of conducting vulnerability assessment and hazard assessment to either a working group Dr. Weiss proposed or a new working group. He stated that there is a tremendous amount of product for people to utilize and try to understand the hazards at any given location, and it would be helpful if some groups can evaluate these products for their rigor and provide recommendations. He said that he is not sure if the topic has already been covered by other TAC subcommittees.

Ashley Montgomery agreed with Dr. Young and stated that evaluating existing databases would be helpful in terms of both answering some questions the subcommittee has and informing the Project Evaluation subcommittee.

Dr. Carl Hershner stated that while he agrees that assessing existing resources would be helpful, the TAC's priority is to help move things forward for the Master Plan within the next nine months. He believed that for the first year of the process, the TAC will be moving with whatever

localities are currently using, and the initial iterations of the Master Plan will inform the question of existing protocols. Dr. Hershner said that while it's an important task, it is too much for the subcommittee to complete within the deadline.

Mary-Carson Stiff stated that it would be helpful for the state to weigh in on what kinds of models and data to use, and state consistency with some regional variability would be a goal at the current stage.

Dr. Mark Luckenbach asked Dr. Young to clarify that if he is proposing the subcommittee to make recommendations for how risk assessment will be done in the future or recommendations for what risk assessment tool the contractor will be using.

Dr. Young answered that he is envisioning the task to be a list of data sources and products. He added that if there is not enough time to do a full evaluation on every data source, at least the subcommittee can have an inventory that can be evaluated and can help guide the localities in the future.

Emily Steinhilber stated that considering the scope of the tasks, we can start establish a to-do list parking lot, and the subcommittee can further refine and reframe the questions as the contractor come on board.

Dr. Weiss read a comment from Mary-Carson Stiff in the chat. Ms. Stiff commented: (1) Using the state standard could be included as a requirement of what constitutes an adequate local flood risk plan under the Community Flood Fund. (2) I agree with Mark's comments - isn't this on the consultant to determine what models/tools should be used and that will hopefully create the 'state standard'?

Whitney Katchmark agreed with Ms. Stiff's comment.

Dr. Karen McGlathery also agreed with Ms. Stiff's comment that a state standard is necessary, and she also agreed with Dr. Hershner that there is not enough time to do a full analysis. She stated that it would be a good strategy if the subcommittee can start with a state recommendation and move from there.

Ms. Katchmark said that she is hoping for the state to establish some guidelines for what should be assessed without necessarily dictate a specific tool.

Cathy McGhee said that the subcommittee should at least make sure the Project Evaluation subcommittee is also considering the issue. She stated that it would be more challenging if there is no common starting point.

Dr. Hershner added that the Project Evaluation subcommittee also doesn't have the capacity to do a full assessment. He agreed with Ms. Katchmark that while localities would like to have guidance from the state, there is not enough time to change course given the timeline.

Dr. Luckenbach asked that instead of a recommendation, is it possible to ask the contractor to make a list of tools with their strength and weakness.

Dr. Hershner said that the Framework requires the TAC to look at critical infrastructures, which was not defined. He said that there will be a need for the subcommittees to be responsive to both the contractor and the localities that have identified critical infrastructure, and the subcommittee can consider risk assessment afterward.

Dr. Weiss concluded that it is not clear within the subcommittee what are the next steps. He believed that the subcommittee should wait until the contractor comes on board, and the subcommittee can work with the contractor to decide what is necessary.

Dr. Weiss made a motion to form three working groups.

Dr. Young asked to broaden the definition of the Natural and Nature-based Infrastructure working group to include solutions to coastal flooding and erosion. He stated that while the Plan is prioritizing green infrastructure, he wondered if the working group could draw the line between green infrastructure and gray infrastructure, including the benefit and drawbacks of each solution.

Ms. Katchmark agreed and stated that the subcommittee could have more input instead of relying entirely on the contractor.

Dr. Hershner concurred. He stated that the Project Evaluation subcommittee is also considering similar issues, and suggested that the subcommittee come up with some rationale for evaluating the temporal scale at which some strategies can provide meaningful production to critical infrastructure.

Dr. Weiss agreed with what Dr. Hershner said, and suggested that the working group rename itself as it forms. He said that the working group, together with both himself and Emily Steinhilber, can define what is the most important task next.

Dr. Weiss proceeded with a vote and the present subcommittee members agreed to form the working groups.

Dr. Weiss explained the structure of the working groups and opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. McGlathery asked Dr. Weiss to clarify how the working groups will interact with each other.

Dr. Weiss suggested that to comply with FOIA and COIA, the working groups could each have a point person who can reach out to either himself or other working groups. He added that otherwise, the working group can request to have a public meeting with the subcommittee when necessary.

Dr. McGlathery added that there can be a person who is in more than one working group to ensure awareness between working groups.

Dr. Weiss agreed and added that he would like to have at least 4 people per working group.

Ms. Stiff stated that it would be useful for the subcommittee to discuss what deliverables to produce.

Dr. Weiss concurred and stated that in his view, the subcommittee's responsibility is to provide advice for the commonwealth based on science. He said that for example, for the Natural and Nature-based Infrastructure working group, the deliverable would be recommendations on the basic conditions for nature-based infrastructures to be efficient over time; for the Relocation working group, a table of existing resources would be helpful for the Coastal Zone Management Program, who would write the Relocation Handbook from a policy perspective. He stated that he intended to bring those who would potentially be affected by the subcommittee's recommendations – planning districts, localities – to the subcommittee.

Dr. Young, Dr. Weiss, and Ms. Steinhilber discussed how to share documents without FOIA/COIA violation.

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.