Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Subject	Project Evaluation Working Meeting Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework	Date	October 14, 2021
Facilitator	Rear Admiral Ann Phillips, US Navy (Ret.)	Time	2:30pm – 6:30pm
Location	ODU Campus, Innovation Research Park Building II (IRP2) 4211 Monarch Way, Norfolk, VA 23508 WebEx - https://governor.virginia.gov/i/fn7zd	Scribe	Connor Winstead

#	Invitees/Attendees		
#	Name	Organization/Role	Attended?
Technical Advisory Committee Members			
1.	Dr. Carl Hershner	Emeritus Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary	Y (V)
2.	Whitney Katchmark	Principal Water Resources Engineer, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Y
3.	Carol Considine	Program Head, Flooding and the Built Environment, Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience at Old Dominion University	Y
4.	Jill Bieri	Director of Virginia Coast Reserve, The Nature Conservancy	Y
5.	Normand Goulet	Director, Division of Environmental and Resiliency Planning, Northern Virginia Regional Commission	Y(V)
6.	Rachael Peabody	Senior Advisor for Coastal Adaptation and Ecosystem Restoration, Virginia Marine Resources Commission	Y
7.	CAPT Tom Crabbs, USCG (Ret.)	Military Liaison, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs	Y
8.	David Paylor	Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	Y (V)
9.	Dr. Jessica Whitehead	Director, Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience at Old Dominion University	N
10.	Kristin Owen	Floodplain & Dam Safety Manager, Henrico County	Y (V)
11.	Mary-Carson Stiff	Policy Director, Wetlands Watch	Y (V)
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
Scheduled Speakers			
16.			
Designated Alternates			
17.			
Subcommittee Advisors			
18.			
Other Participants			
19.	Ann Phillips	Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)—Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection	Y
20.	Matt Dalon	DCR	Y
21.	Connor Winstead	DCR	Y
22.	Matt Jones	Virginia Management Fellow	Y (Remote)
23.	Emily Steinhilber	EDF	Y
24.	Jay Ford	CBF	Y (Remote)
25.	Kyle Spencer	City of Norfolk	Y
26.	Scott Smith	City of Hampton	Y

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 **Invitees/Attendees**			
#	**Name**	**Organization/Role**	**Attended?**
27.	Toni Utterback	City of Virginia Beach	Y
28.	Susan Bates	TNC	Y (Remote)
29.	Markiella Moore	Community Member, Chesapeake	Y (Remote)
30.			
**Consultant Support**			
31.	Brian Batten	Dewberry	Y

**Agenda/Minutes**		
#	**Agenda Item**	**Minutes**
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Adm. Ann Phillips convened the meeting at 2:37pm and provided an introduction on how the meeting will proceed. Participants were advised to please contact Mr. Matt Jones at phone: 540-797-6795 with any connectivity issues.
2.	Roll Call and Quorum Affirmation	Adm. Phillips took roll and advised that a quorum was present.
3.	Meeting Overview	Adm. Phillips advised the purpose of the meeting was to come to consensus on how the project evaluation process would be discussed in the Master Plan, as well as how it could be expanded upon in the future. In addition, the group was asked to discuss the projects the Commonwealth would like to select as projects of merit in the Master Plan document. Adm. Phillips and Mr. Matt Dalon gave a presentation on the project review and screening process to date and next steps for consideration. Ms. Jill Bieri asked for an explanation on capacity building project submissions and why they were not evaluated as a part of the Master Plan process. Adm. Phillips answered that the decision was made not to consider capacity building as projects due to perceived conflicts with the Flood Fund, and noted that there is currently no extra credit given in the Flood Fund to projects included in the Master Plan database, but, that could be added to the grant manual for consideration and as an incentive in the future. Attendees discussed the varying perspectives and thoroughness of database entries, and the challenge of how best to consider additional project information fields. Some project owners had been asked for additional information, but there remain significant challenges to accurately evaluate and compare projects even with additional information provided. It was suggested that although additional information would be helpful in understanding, rather than score and prioritize projects with insufficient background, the Commonwealth should instead select exemplary projects based on determined class, type and sub type to be discussed in the Plan. The Commonwealth should also consider how further develop and expand the project database and collection process to be able to derive more detailed project information in the future, and to be able to use that information for comparison purposes. Attendees discussed the frequency of project submissions and database updates. Mr. Scott Smith asked if project submissions will this be an ongoing process, a yearly data call, or if this will be the only opportunity. Adm. Phillips answered that the intent is that the project database will be a living database, with entries continuing as localities and project owners desire to add them, and that there is an awareness that projects currently

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		exist in PDCs/localities that do not have the capacity to enter them. The discussion of how frequently the database will be updated will be considered in the future. Attendees discussed including levels of support, including training on data entry for localities and project owners, as an additional priority for project evaluation in future iterations.
4.	Project Discussion	Dr. Hershner was invited to discuss his recommendations and those of the Project Evaluation Subcommittee. He said that much of the content of his recommendations had been covered in the discussion thus far and suggested that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the top 12 or so projects that are exemplary of the goals of the Master Plan, and that capacity building is important to consider as a future concern. Dr. Hershner presented his recommendations for top projects, stating that the ones that scored highest for him were ones that involved natural and nature-based features and provided long-term risk reduction for fairly large areas. He split the coastal hazard projects evaluated into two categories: ones that seemed to be good, and ones that sounded good but needed more specificity. Attendees discussed the merits of evaluating projects and asking localities for their own prioritized lists. Ms. Whitney Katchmark asked if the TAC can ask localities for their own prioritized lists and noted that there is a need to deliver this product within the next two weeks. Mr. Kyle Spencer stated that there is a concern if the state does not prioritize projects that the federal government already has prioritized. Ms. Rachael Peabody noted that there is also a concern if the federal government has not prioritized projects that the state has as priorities. Mr. Spencer stated that there will be a need for structural projects in an urban center, and that besides wetlands, these projects should check other boxes. Ms. Peabody asked if there is a way to organize priority based on green, gray, and hybrid. Dr. Hershner said the points being made are valid and that long term, the localities must move towards being able to prioritize based on social, economic, etc. as well, as a building block for regional resilience development. Mr. Spencer stated that there is a need to prioritize the projects that buy the time needed to figure out how to tackle the longer-term problems—flood warning systems, etc. Dr. Brian Batten responded that the framework document highlights both long-term and short-term priorities. Ms. Kristin Owen stated that the problem is that the localities don't have the capacity to provide that prioritized list and that the state needs to help localities that are lacking. Dr. Batten responded that to get to that point would be a decade away from where the data is right now, and that it takes a lot of discussion and work to get there. Dr. Hershner stated that with the list of projects before us we recognize that we lack the information needed for evaluation. Because projects are not selected out of this does not mean they are bad projects. Adm. Phillips responded in agreement that capacity building is probably the most important part. Ms. Susan Bates offered a solution for the problem

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		of lack of information or underrepresented regions by providing examples of various types of projects. Mr. Dalon asked if the attendees were prioritizing projects or selecting example projects and stated the need for clarity. Adm. Phillips stated that the group has the ability to provide a recommendation on how to present projects and that the document can show examples of projects that are priorities for the state. Mr. Dalon stated that the group could pick projects by class and type and noted that the previous intention was to pick exemplary examples from each region. Ms. Carol Considine suggested that providing examples can help show other localities what projects should look like. Ms. Owen responded in agreement that in future iterations of the plan, once there is more information, then projects can start to be prioritized. Ms. Bates stated that providing examples in this way seems more inclusive than prioritizing which seems exclusive. Attendees then discussed and selected exemplary project examples based on class and type. Projects were selected based on project status (at least designed and permitted) and partnership with a locality (shown below by PDC/RC, not project owner) Note: Attendees will review these selections and more may be added: Natural and Nature-Based (Natural Features, exclusive of hybrid projects) • Wachapreague Reef Restoration (A-NPDC) • Cedar Island Implementation (A-NPDC) • Back Bay Marsh Terrace (HRPDC) Natural and Nature-Based (Nature-based Features, exclusive of hybrid projects) • Grandy Village Living Shoreline (HRPDC) Natural and Nature-Based (Conservation and Adaption, exclusive of hybrid projects) • Land and Easement Acquisition ESVA (A-NPDC) Structural (Flood Risk Reduction Structures, exclusive of hybrid projects) • Olde Towne Stormwater Pump Station (HRPDC) • Coliseum Lake Weir Replacement (HRPDC) Structural (Structural Shoreline Stabilization, inclusive of hybrid projects) • No project selected Structural (Community Infrastructure, exclusive of hybrid projects) • Kimberly Bridge (HRPDC) Hybrid • St. Paul's Storm Water Improvements (HRPDC) • Princess Anne Plaza Golf Course Conversion (HRPDC) • Armistead Avenue North Improvements/Lake Hampton (HRPDC) • NDR Ohio Creek Project (HRPDC) • Appomattox River Trail (CraterPDC)

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	Ms. Steinhilber suggested that highlighting these example projects presents an opportunity to reference the various funding and finance mechanisms for similar projects.	
		Attendees discussed capacity building projects, with the suggestion to categorize submissions based on purpose and need, as collated in the data submission process, as well as asking attendees to consider what needs to be done to get to submitting better projects.
		Dr. Batten stated that the current presentation model for this information in the master plan is to complement the capacity building information submitted with centralized survey responses.
5.	Future Improvements to Project Evaluation Process	Mr. Dalon asked the attendees to consider what other data is needed to improve the evaluation process.
		Dr. Batten noted that the project benefit area is a key component to the evaluation process that needs improvement.
		Ms. Steinhilber suggested that the Commonwealth could provide a training or manual to help with project entry QA/QC.
		Adm. Phillips stated there will also be a need to consider how the project database will be updated over time.
6.	Discussion and Comments	Adm. Phillips said there was not a need to meet again tomorrow to discuss the long-term considerations.
		Mr. Dalon stated he would send the list of selected projects for review to the attendees.
7.	Public Comment Period	Adm. Phillips asked for any public comments. No comments were offered.
8.	Adjourn	Adm. Phillips asked for any final comments from the members. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

Action Items			
#	**Action Item**	**Owner (Organization)**	**Due Date**
1.	Mr. Dalon to distribute example project list	Mr. Dalon - DCR	10/15/2021