



**VIRGINIA COASTAL
RESILIENCE
MASTER PLAN
2021**



**Northampton County Underserved Community Meeting
Summary Report**

Meeting Date: October 13, 2021
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Cape Charles Civic Center
Attendance: 14 in person; 11 via Zoom
Commonwealth Staff: Ellen Bolen

Overview: Ellen Bolen conducted a power point presentation. She addressed participants' questions. Participants made notes about flooding challenges on the maps and circled where they lived. There were questions and comments posted in the Zoom chat.

Participant Comments and Questions

- Stormwater causes a lot of the flooding
- Flooding concerns
 - Losing their home
 - Nor'easter more than hurricanes
 - Storms up bay instead of offshore more of a problem
 - More beach and ecostructure erosion
- Hurricane Sandy damaged apartment complex and caused more erosion
- Property along waterfront is private and affects coastal flooding coming in
- Bureacritic delays and poor agency coordination cause more damage and slow flooding mitigation
 - Local and state agencies need to work better and faster together
- Cemetery Road floods
- Seaside and Willis Wharf and other agricultural companies are on the waterfront
 - Employees park upland and walk down to work

- Boat ramps get flooded and hard to use –affects watermen’s boat launches
- Septic systems affected by flooding
 - Need to space when toilets are flushed
 - Don’t use dishwasher in the winter
 - Rising water table
 - Yard wet and pipes gurgle
- Road is higher than neighbor’s yard
 - Had to dig ditch to drain flood waters
 - Consider adding culvert
- Silver Beach is at the end of the Peninsula
 - Just one road in and out of the community that floods all the time
 - Impacts emergency vehicles, school and work travel
 - Flooding is mainly from storms
 - Fields are higher than road and water just sits there
- Roadside drains and fields are not open – ongoing problem
 - VDOT issue
- On Eastern Shore there is more wind impacts to consider
- Hospitals, schools, emergency shelter and other facilities are on higher ground along Highway 13
 - If cannot get out of community then cannot access those facilities
- Vulnerable infrastructure in Chincoteague and Wallops Island
- Should look at what is beyond just the 40-year forecasts
- Vehicles are built lower and closer to the ground
- Sewage treatment plant should be protected
- Most get their weather information from local radio station that stays on 24-7
 - When power is out there is no internet or mobile phone service
 - Not a lot of redundancy in the power grid – big storm knock out power for 24 hours or longer
 - Word-of-mouth and knowledge of flooding hazard areas are other means of communication and getting information
- Barriers to evacuation
 - Having pets and finding shelters that allow them
 - Communication
 - Confusion about the Zone system – doesn’t make sense
 - Hurricane Matthew came from inland and caused more damage than Hurricane Florence which caused far less damage
 - Caught many by surprise since they evacuated for Florence but not for Matthew

- As a peninsula region, gridlock happens very fast
 - Route 301 and Route 9 are there but still does not help much
- Many do not evacuate to protect their property
- It was confirmed that localities can apply for the Community Flood Fund more than once and for more than one locality within its region.