



# Resilience Coordination Working Group

*Meeting Summary August 1, 2023*

## Opening remarks

Matthew Wells, Director, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

## Working Group Charge, workplan, and introduction to recommendations feedback process

Presented by the Center for Public Policy (CPP)

This Working Group is being established by the Chief Resilience Officer in furtherance of Governor Youngkin's goal of addressing challenges related to flooding and resilience, and in the spirit of engaging collaboratively with the General Assembly on this important issue. The Working Group will have the following purposes:

- To consider and assess strategies and policies for the Commonwealth to improve intergovernmental and interagency coordination; and
- To maximize the procurement of federal and private funding opportunities in planning for and implementing flood resilience throughout the Commonwealth.

Facilitators from CPP restated the working group scope of work and plan/schedule for the remaining work including opportunities for all members to review drafts of the report recommendations before it is finalized. It was highlighted that all proposed recommendations within the final report will continue to be developed and reviewed by the working group during monthly meetings. An additional meeting was added to the workplan to allow for continued recommendation and report review. This virtual meeting will take place on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Revised draft recommendations were sent to working group members in advance of this meeting. Also, working group members had the opportunity to share feedback on these revised recommendations in advance. The draft recommendations included feedback

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provided by the working group at the June meeting. The comments shared in advance by working group members were provided for the whole group to review.

### **Draft funding recommendations large group review**

Presented by CPP

Revised draft recommendations for supporting resilience funding efforts were presented for discussion. At a high level, the working group made the following decisions:

- The Office of the CRO may serve as Virginia's non-federal sponsor/applicant for federal funding programs, unless another agency is specifically required to be this sponsor or is better suited to be this sponsor.
- The Office should create a mechanism to identify federal, state, and private funding opportunities; communicate those opportunities; and serve a convenor/facilitator role to support collaboration and reduce barriers to access funding across industry, government, academia, and/or non-profits.
- The Office should establish a catalog of resilience projects and dedicate staff to maintaining and expanding this catalog over time.
- The Office should provide a holistic view of successful grant applications it has knowledge of to share success stories.
- The final report should include information on the importance of Virginia's unique position as a low water state and how this impacts resilience project implementation.

The working group agreed to save the following recommendation for further discussion at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- State funds should be distributed with appropriate oversight to ensure that projects and activities funded deliver meaningful results, perhaps via establishing a board.

### **Draft resilience coordinating structure recommendations large group review**

Presented by CPP

Revised draft recommendations for resilience coordinating structure were presented for discussion. At a high level, the working group made the following decisions:

- The Chief Resilience Officer is a distinct position from the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, and a non-cabinet appointee.

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- The definition of resilience provided in the final report will be the definition currently in the Code of Virginia.
- The Interagency Resilience Working Group would consist of Resilience Coordinators designated by state agencies which have a programmatic function for resilience. The list of state agencies will be provided for review at the next meeting. This group will meet no less than quarterly.
- A responsibility of the CRO will include making recommendations to the Executive Branch during the budgeting process for state agency resilience programs.
- Rather than create a clearinghouse to hold resilience data, the Office should maintain a webpage to provide resilience information to partners and the public.
- Edit the recommendation to incentivize cross-university collaboration for resilience to focus instead on the role of universities as advisors to the Office of the CRO and combine it with other existing recommendations.

The working group agreed to save the following topic for further discussion at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- More details on the anticipated duties and responsibilities of the staff of the Office.

### **All other draft recommendations large group review**

Presented by CPP

Additional revised draft recommendations were presented for discussion. At a high level, the working group made the following decisions:

- The Office should convene a data management working group of subject matter experts and end users to identify and address resilience data needs. This working group is distinct from the Interagency Resilience Working Group.
- The Office should establish a data mechanism for resilience planning.
- The recommendations should be separated into legislative recommendations for the General Assembly and non-legislative recommendations.
- The final report should communicate some level of prioritization of these recommendations.

Additional discussions are needed on the following topics:

- The potential development of a Statewide Resilience Plan that aligns with the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The potential increased support for state agencies by enabling them to participate in the Community Flood Preparedness Fund for resilience projects.

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### **Public Comment**

After the group discussions, there was an opportunity for public comment. No public comment was received.

### **Next Steps**

The next meeting will be on August 25<sup>th</sup> and held virtually. The group will receive the updated draft recommendations and draft report no later than August 9<sup>th</sup>. They are encouraged to submit comments on the draft recommendations before the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

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### Working Group Members and Alternates in Attendance

Organization	Representative	Alternate
Center for Coastal Studies	Wendy Stout	
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Adrienne Kotula	
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Jay Ford	
Clark Nexsen	Chris Stone	
Environmental Defense Foundation	Emily Steinhilber	Grace Tucker
Hampton Roads PDC	Whitney Katchmark	
Home Builders Association of Virginia		Speaker Pollard
Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience		Carol Considine
Institute for Engagement & Negotiation	Tanya Denckla Cobb	
Middle Peninsula PDC	Lewis Lawrence	
Old Dominion University ICAR	Jess Whitehead	Carol Considine
Port of Virginia		Scott Whitehurst
Soil and Water Conservation Board	Chuck Arnason	
Treasurer of Virginia	Brian Parker	
The Nature Conservancy	Nikki Rovner	
University of Virginia IEN	Tanya Denckla Cobb	
Virginia Agribusiness Council	Brad Copenhaver	
Virginia Association of Counties	Joe Lerch	
VA Association of Soil and Water Districts	Robert Pickett	
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Matthew Wells	
Virginia Department of Emergency Management		Robert Coates
Virginia Department of Energy	David Hawkins	
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	Sharon Baxter	
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	Bill Curtis	
Virginia Department of Transportation	Angel Deem	Chris Swanson
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources	Becky Gwynn	
Virginia Economic Development Partnership	Lindsay Akers	
Virginia Farm Bureau	Katelyn Jordan	
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Mark Luckenbach	
Virginia Marine Resources Commission		Rachael Peabody
Virginia Resources Authority	Shawn Crumlish	

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<b>Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Working Group Staff</b>	<b>VCU Performance Management Group Facilitators</b>
Darryl Glover	Gina Barber
Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro	Sarah Jackson
	Wheeler Wood

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