



Crater PDC Environmental Resource Management Task Force

FY22 CZM & FY23 WIP Phase III

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

1:00pm to 3:00pm

Digital Meeting and Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance (16): Matt Culbreath (Emporia), Brandi Payne (Colonial Heights); Reginald Tabor, Darryl E. Walker (Petersburg); Gary Mitchell (Charles City County); Horace Wade (Surry County); Michael Poarch (Sussex County); Gabi Kinney (Wetlands Watch); **Heather Mackey** (DEQ); Toinette Waldon (VDH); Jay Ruffa (Crater PDC); Ron Svejksky (Tri-Cities MPO); Michael Zehner, **Luke Peters**, and Nadya Syazsa (Berkley Group); Chris Ward (Hopewell)

Meeting Summary:

The January meeting of the Environmental Resource Management Task Force (ERMTF) includes an overview of the FY22 CZM and FY23 WIP programs and a presentation on current Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act regulatory updates.

Introduction to FY22 CZM and FY23 WIP Phase III – Luke Peters (BG)

- **FY22 CZM Program (Oct. 2022 – Sep. 2023)**
 - Environmental Impact Reviews
 - Assuring that projects in the region, especially those that might have effect intra-regionally, are meeting CZM goals.
 - Will not seek to sandbag potential economically beneficial projects.
 - Quarterly Meetings and Trainings
 - Somewhat strict requirements – must be targeted toward educating the group on specific CZM topic and involve discussion.
 - As long as it tangentially addresses water quality or resilience, trainings can be on any topic the group wants. Grant trainings are a given.
 - Technical Assistance – Plans + Ordinances (Environmental), Data Collection/Updates
 - Determining how Crater PDC can be a repository for regional data
 - Any localities who want assistance with environmental language in comp plans, ordinances, or other long-range plans can ask for assistance.

- FOLAR
 - FOLAR grew from Crater PDC initiatives but have become their own standalone organization, and now we want to align deliverables to help with their mission
 - Will seek to add to their Land Conservation Analysis Tool
 - Crater PDC could play a role in expanding partnerships between FOLAR and localities
- Benefits Accrued
 - Need to report on any activities that were funded by CZM and are still having an impact – PDC would benefit from updates from localities on such programs
- Resiliency Needs + CZM Database Projects
 - Have spent the last few years creating resilience definition and exploring needs – now there is a focus on inputting projects into the Coastal Resilience Master Plan database
- **FY 23 WIP Program (Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023)**
 - Direct BMP Implementation
 - SWCDs and Yards of Tomorrow – either an educational exercise or actual pilot with rainbarrels and bioswales.
 - Heat Island & Tree Planting – building off of recent heat island initiatives and getting the co-benefit of increased water quality
 - Heavy emphasis on implementation in FY23; even if the PDC needs to pick up a shovel and plant a tree outside the office themselves.
 - Obtaining grants to install BMPs will be key.
 - Maintain Grants Database
 - Updating Crater website to show current and upcoming grant opportunities and hopefully provide application templates for localities to use.
 - Environmental Justice
 - Continuing conversation from previous year, even though DEQ’s EJScreen+ Tool covers many topics the Task Force was interested in
 - In addition to centering vulnerable populations in our work, information is also applicable for wide variety of grant programs.
 - GIS Tool for Riparian Buffers and Stream Litter Prevention (at stream outfalls)
 - In collaboration with FOLAR; but also reaching out to a larger/regional organization to monitor sites between Hopewell to Petersburg
 - WIP meetings
 - Not as strict as CZM trainings, and likewise can include any topics localities are interested in exploring related to water quality.
- **Where Crater PDC (and BG) Can Provide Assistance:**
 - Comp Plans and Ordinances

- Berkley Group is adept at plan and ordinance review and can offer assistance through CZM/WIP
- Grant Applications and Information, especially:
 - CFPF Round 4
 - Septic repair grants
 - Other larger intra-regional grants?
- BMPs – e.g., planning assistance, tree planting, bioswales, etc.
- GIS and Data Needs

On-going activities in the Crater Region:

- City of Petersburg:
 - Currently updating City’s Comp Plan – BG currently assisting
 - 12 to 18 month process
 - Current phase:
 - Focus groups, workshops – Final Workshop = January 26, 2023
 - Community Survey: <https://www.petersburgvanext.com/public-input-survey>
 - Website: <https://www.petersburgvanext.com/>
- Surry County
 - Completed a compliance review for the Town of Surry and Claremont; with CBPA assistance from Heather Mackey (DEQ)
- City of Emporia
 - Not in Chesapeake Bay watershed nor CZM/WIP Zones
 - Study conducted on river – related to flooding; USACE leading
 - Meherrin River goes through the City – will need assistance in the future

CZM Training: Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Regulatory Updates – Heather Mackey (DEQ)

- *CZM Goal 10* – To promote informed decision-making by maximizing the availability of up-to-date education information, technical advice, and scientific data including the use of new tools
- 2020 – Coastal Resiliency and Mature Trees
 - Resiliency Assessment
 - To incorporate resiliency assessments as part of the plan of development or project review process; consider effect of sea level rise upon period of 30 years, or lifespan of project
 - Effective: 9/29/2021

- To be based on model or forecast used or developed by or on behalf of the Commonwealth, such as:
 - AdaptVA:
 - Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS)
- Scope of Impacts
 - Sea Level Rise (AdaptVA)
 - Storm Surge (NOAA SLOSH Model)
 - Flooding (VFRIS)
- Results
 - Potential impacts in light of proposed development on buffer function
 - Can be by the applicant or the locality in which the project takes place
 - Can be a standalone document or implemented into the Water Quality Impact Assessment (WQIA)
- Adaptation Measure + Shoreline Erosion Control
- Mature Trees
 - DEQ to develop criteria enabling local governments to encourage and promote the “preservation of mature trees or planting of trees as a water quality protection tool and as a means of providing other nature resource benefits” through the Bay Act program
 - Effective: 9/29/2021
 - Extra resources – DCR has VA Solar Site Native Plan Finder
 - <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/solar-site-native-plants-finder>
 - Question/Comments:
 - Jay – When will the tree list be available?
 - Not until they finish the entire public comment period – Spring 2023
 - Jay – If DEQ is re-codifying the regulations, and a new code number is made, how will people be notified?
 - Check the Legislative Information System (LIS) every now and then
 - *Charles City Co.* has an out-of-print document from DCR on VA native trees and shrubs
- 2022 – Local Bay Act Program Website
 - Local government in Tidewater, Virginia (Surry County – Claremont, Town of Surry) to publish on its website “the elements and criteria adopted to implement its local plan as required”
 - Provides information on local Bay Act program – including access to the local RPA/RMA map, comp plan, ordinances, and plan of development process
 - Effective: 8/31/2022
 - Guidance: <https://townhall.virginia.gov/l/ViewGDoc.cfm?gdid=7382>
- Implementation Timetable + Next Steps:

Implementation Timetable & Next Steps

Coastal Resiliency guidance developed by DEQ, William & Mary Coastal Policy Center (CPC) and VIMS Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM)

- Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) meeting to review of draft guidance – Spring 2022
- Additional public comment periods to be scheduled:
 - 2nd Informal Public Comment Period - Spring 2023
 - Formal APA Comment Period – Spring 2023
- Model Training / User Guide
 - Under development by VIMS CCRM staff
 - Virtual training event (recorded) - Spring 2023
 - In-person training event at VIMS - Summer 2023

Buffer Manual update to address Mature Trees amendment – Spring 2023

- SAG meeting to review of draft guidance – Spring 2022
- Schedule public comment periods:
 - Informal Public Comment Period – Spring 2023
 - Formal APA Comment Period – Summer 2023

Website guidance is final and posted on the Virginia Town Hall:

- <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewGDoc.cfm?gdid=7382>

Model ordinance language to address all amendments currently under development

15

Locality and Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion:

- Gary (Charles City Co.): AICP Credits for the training session?
 - Requires a somewhat steep per-credit fee and speakers on certain topics would need to be AICP certified for the CM credit to count; however Luke will look into this.
- Reggie + Darryl (Petersburg): prefer 4th Wednesday of the month or 3rd Wednesday of the month in the AM.
- Discussions will need to involve non-Bay/CZM localities –
 - focus on riverine flooding (will accelerate with CRMP Phase II TACs, which Crater PDC attends to advocate for localities west of I-95),
 - other topics such as air quality, renewable energy, and erosion & sediment control still relevant,
 - localities can adopt strict CBPA rules if they want – counties such as Albemarle and Roanoke have adopted measures to protect development along their rivers.

2:30 Adjourn

Next meeting – February 15th (morning) or February 22nd