

# CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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## Crater PDC Environmental Resource Management Task Force

FY22 CZM & FY23 WIP Phase III

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

1:00pm to 3:00pm

Digital Meeting and Conference Call

### MEETING MINUTES

*In attendance (17):* Angela Blount, Julie Walton (Prince George County); Kelly Davis (City of Hopewell); Brandi Payne, Prarthana Rao (City of Colonial Heights); Matt Culbreath (City of Emporia); Darryl E. Walker, Reginald Tabor (City of Petersburg); Beverly Walkup, Lorenzo Turner (Sussex County); Lin Pope (Greensville County); Robert Wilson (ARWA); Gabi Kinney (Wetlands Watch); **Jay Ruffa** (Crater PDC); **Luke Peters**, Lindsay Edwards, Nadya Syazsa (Berkley Group)

#### Meeting Summary:

The March meeting of the Environmental Resource Management Task Force (ERMTF) includes an overview of available grants and funding opportunities as well as a roundtable discussion with the ERMTF members on projects in the region.

#### **Welcome/Regional News and Updates**

Grants and Other Funding Opportunities:

- EPA/DEQ – Last Minute Call for shovel-ready projects (Deadline: **March 31st**)
  - Urban tree canopy, forested river buffers, wetland restoration between \$100-300k with no match.
- FEMA Revolving Fund - \$5.1 million for VA, loans for projects
  - Simplified application process (no cost-benefit analysis, etc.), tons of money funneled through state revolving loan funds, can be used as match for other FEMA grants that typically require non-federal match. VDEM looking into interest.
- EPA – EJ Grants (deadline extended); have to partner with nonprofit/community based organizations; to increase environmental and/or health outcomes
  - E.g., Petersburg – may want pursue the EJ grants (already linked with JRA)

- Greenville County and others could use to build partnerships
- USDA – Rural renewable/electrification and efficiency retrofitting grants & loans for rural and agricultural areas.
- Wetlands Watch – *Coastal Resilience/Trees Fund* (Deadline: **April 4**)
  - 5 applications submitted as of March 22 – FOLAR working on one

Statewide Plans and Initiatives; update from Coastal Resilience TAC:

- VDOT – Developed a Statewide Resilience Plan
  - Looks at risk due to climate change, installing flood barriers and early warning devices, and uses authoritative data.
  - Housed under the federal BIL-funded “Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation” (PROTECT) program.
  - Link to the Plan: ([PDF](#))
- VA Coastal Resilience Master Plan Phase II:
  - Currently being developed. Will include pluvial and riverine flooding throughout the entire state (not just SLR and wave energy at the coast).
  - Highly detailed – 63 simulations per the 12 basins and their 5-10 sub-basins using new topographical maps, all of which will hopefully become publicly available.
  - Another round of community outreach and a new Community Outreach and Education Plan, which is based on better principles and should produce better turnout than Phase I.
  - Data produced should be very useful as a one-stop-shop for grant applications.
  - Crater PDC is the liaison for the state if localities have any questions about the process.
- Community Flood Preparedness Fund Round 4
  - Will be a primary source of funding for flood resilience for localities that are not coastal or within the Bay watershed.
  - Petersburg – received funding for stormwater infrastructure from Rounds 2 and 3
  - Date has been pushed back several times – expect later this summer, be ready to apply.

**Previous CZM Grants ‘Benefits Accrued’, Resilience Project Database, Crater Updates**

- Resilience project database – will be fed into the CRMP Phase II, will eventually be used in some way as criteria for state funding.
  - e.g., BMPs that are underway or in need of funding
  - Will be important for showing there are hot spots in the Crater region, too, once the statewide map of projects is developed.
- CZM benefits accrued – any CZM-funded project that is still showing positive benefits
- Jay Ruffa has accepted a new position at Colonial Heights; new PDC director early April

**Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.**

The next ERMTF meeting is set for **April 26, 2023.**