

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Crater PDC Environmental Resource Management Task Force FY22 CZM & FY23 WIP Phase III

Wednesday, June 28, 2023
1:00pm to 3:00pm
Digital Meeting and Conference Call

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance (22): Jay Ellington, Hannah Woehrle (Crater PDC); Ron Svejkovsky (Tri-Cities MPO); Nicole Keller, Eli Podyma (PlanRVA); Gabi Kinney (Wetlands Watch); Toinette Waldon (VDH); Mary Jacobs (DEQ); Heather Barrar (FOLAR); Prarthana Rao (City of Colonial Heights); Michael Rae (City of Emporia); Darryl E. Walker, Reggie Tabor (City of Petersburg); Beverly Walkup (Sussex County); Lorenzo Turner (Surry County); Lin Pope (Greensville County); Jess Robison, Brett Meadows (Chesterfield County); Michael Zehner, Luke Peters, Lindsay Edwards, Nadya Syazsa (The Berkley Group)

Meeting Summary:

The June meeting of the Environmental Resource Management Task Force (ERMTF) includes an overview of upcoming rounds of grants and funding opportunities, an update from the Resilience TAC meeting, as well as a roundtable discussion regarding regional data collection amongst the ERMTF members.

Regional News and Updates

- Grant and other funding opportunities – relating to open space and land conservation, stormwater management, etc.
 - USDA Rural Development Grants – [PACE Grant](#)
 - \$1MM minimum loan (with 20-40% forgiveness depending on whom it's serving) with 3.5% interest rate;
 - Renewable energy facilities on municipal buildings (e.g., community solar);
 - Federal standards like Davis-Bacon required.

- Wetlands Watch – [Coastal Resilience and Trees Fund](#) Summer Round
- [DEQ Nonpoint Source Grants](#) – for BMPs and wastewater treatment plants, particularly for individual impaired watersheds – check [map](#) in email for eligibility. If eligible, excellent source of money for variety of BMPs.
- [Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Grant](#) (DCR) – through **Aug. 18**
 - Several categories, including farmland, forestland, and historical properties.
- Enhanced Aquatic Organism Passages (i.e. culverts) Grants
 - Working with VMRC, USFWS, VDOT, Tri-Cities MPO, and others, hopefully with VDOT to administer.
 - BIL-funded grants available to update and fix fish passages and culverts/bridges where roads cross streams – meaning we need to find the intersection of impeded streams and roads that need maintenance.
 - All partners are interested, but VDOT in particular has noted that there will need to be momentum from interested localities.
 - *Michael Rae (Emporia)*: There may be interest from the City’s Department of Public Works; will forward the information to them
 - *Heather Barrar (FOLAR)*: JRA and Timmons Group are looking at culverts and fish passages for trails; FOLAR will continue to observe these in future trail development
- *EJScreen 2.2* developed by EPA – new version published
 - A training session will be held soon by DEQ
 - CDC also recently established a new Environmental Justice Index – need to determine the difference between it, EPA’s EJScreen, and DEQ’s EJScreen+, which the group determined was a good fit for the region’s EJ mapping needs.

Resilience TAC Updates

- Coastal Resilience Master Plan Phase II currently underway
 - Using [MARISA](#) to bridge the gap between Atlas 14 and Virginia’s Atlas 15 release in 2026
- Virginia Flood Resilience Master Plan
 - Separate effort that will take from CRMP but look at flooding in the entire state.
- VDOT [Resilience Improvement Plan](#) for PROTECT funds
 - Gets you 10% off your federal cost share
 - Coordinating with CRMP Phase II

- Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF)
 - <https://wetlandswatch.org/community-flood-preparedness-fund>
 - Manuals will be released next week, with a month to review
 - Will be changed into an **annual** program
 - Awards should be disbursed by **September**
 - 2 separate funding:
 - **CFPF** – focused on grants and primarily for localities and regional bodies; and
 - \$50MM in grants
 - \$30MM in loans – 25 million for resilience projects (awards do NOT require match); 5 million for short-term loans (for upfront costs)
 - **Resilience VA Revolving Fund** – low-interest loans; for local projects and maintenance developed by private entities and localities, primarily property-scale projects (\$18.5MM in loans, \$5MM grants)
 - **Project prioritization** – does not require projects to be entered into the CRMP database for funding *yet*; though this may become a requirement in future rounds.
 - Project input spreadsheet is cumbersome, and any help is welcomed.

Chesapeake Bay, Land Cover, WIP + CZM Data Needs

- Crater PDC GIS Data Needs Spreadsheet Demonstration – for the Chesapeake Land Cover Project Database
 - Locality to share what data they currently have and/or need – such as land cover, current land use (e.g., cropland, turf), updated parcels, BMP locations, green infrastructure
 - “Deadline” – September (if possible); though it would still depend on what each locality actually wants/needs
 - *Heather Barrar (FOLAR)* – may require other stakeholders that may not be part of the ERMTEF
 - *Beverly Walkup (Sussex Co)* – Is the matrix also available for non-coastal localities?
 - Yes, it will be available for all localities in the Crater PDC region.

Roundtable Discussion

- *Heather Barrar (FOLAR)*

- FOLAR will be applying for a Land Conservation/Acquisition grant from DCR
- *Beverly Walkup (Sussex County)*
 - Conservation sites recorded – within the wildlife corridor project; also observed and studied for solar projects

Next meeting – July 26th, 2023 at 1:00pm