

# CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
1:00pm to 3:00pm  
Digital Meeting and Conference Call

### **MEETING MINUTES**

*In attendance (17):* Kit Friedman (Crater PDC); Ron Svejkovsky (Tri-Cities MPO); Gabi Kinney (Wetlands Watch); Mary Jacobs (DEQ); Michael Rae (City of Emporia); Kelly Davis (Hopewell); Darryl E. Walker, Reggie Tabor (City of Petersburg); Michael Poarch (Sussex County); Lorenzo Turner, Horace Wade (Surry County); Brett Meadows (Chesterfield County); Angela Blount (Prince George County); Justin Doyle (James River Association); Michael Zehner, Kate Jones, Luke Peters (The Berkley Group)

#### Meeting Summary:

The July meeting of the Environmental Resource Management Task Force (ERMTF) centered around discussing the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF), as well as a roundtable discussion regarding regional data collection amongst the ERMTF members.

#### **Regional News and Updates**

- Luke Peters shared that discussions regarding enhanced aquatic organism passages are ongoing. Justin Doyle of JRA asked to be included in those discussions.

#### **Community Flood Preparedness Fund**

- An overview of the Round 4 Draft manual was given, including topics of interest such as:

- Because it's a reimbursement grant, the locality applying must show that they can be fiscally responsible for the entire project cost, not just the match.
  - For low-income communities, up to 10% may be awarded up-front to help with initial costs. (This is a point of contention, as this is actually lower than previous rounds allowed, and is a serious obstacle)
- To receive lower match, a community must be designated as a "low-income geographic area" or, added for this round, "underserved". The state has not defined either of these, either the geography or political boundaries to be used or what they consider underserved.
- Petersburg will be applying for additional funds for Round 4.
  - Interested in studying structures in the regulatory floodway.
- Hopewell recently lost their stormwater manager, and may be interested in applying for funds to increase capacity.
- Chesterfield may be going after funds, but unsure.
  - The transportation program is applying for a PROTECT grant.
- Emporia would like to apply, especially considering that these are some of the few flood/water related grants available outside of the Bay watershed, but they are currently focused on working with USACE to get work done on the river due to the dam and erosion issues. There is a lack of capacity.
- Grants will be done through WebGrants now, which can be an arduous and confusing process.
- Wetlands Watch has excellent resources on their website devoted to understanding the CFPPF application. They are also planning on submitting comments related to the draft manual.
  - Namely, the requirement that all localities have a Certified Floodplain Manager is an undue burden. Might be better served at the PDC level or by third parties.
  - Localities will have to replace projects at their own expense if they fail, which is a non-zero likelihood for green infrastructure projects subject to the forces of nature.
  - Unclear what the purpose of letters of support are in scoring.
  - Wetlands Watch will request that LMI communities can get 50% of project funds upfront instead of 10%.
- It is not impossible to get resilience plans submitted to DCR for this round for localities interested in applying for project funds, but the Crater PDC Resilience Plan would need significant retooling. The PDC, however, is available to help create resilience plans or to apply for other funds.

## **Coastal Resilience Master Plan Phase II Project Database**

- Luke Peters shared the complicated DCR spreadsheet with the group again, and noted that Crater PDC will fill in as many projects as possible but will need locality support at some point.

## **Chesapeake Bay, Land Cover, WIP + CZM Data Needs**

- Luke Peters discussed the data spreadsheet again, and will work to collect as much data as possible. As is, it is too big a lift for the localities to dig into possible data sources.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45PM.

**Next meeting – August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 1:00pm**