



**Quarterly Crater Region Environmental Stewardship Team (CREST) Meeting**  
**Agenda**

**Location:** [Virtual via MS Teams](#)

**Date:** February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 12pm-2pm

**Attendees:**

Andrew Franzysen, CPDC

Kit Friedman, CPDC

Raed EL-Farhan, Weston & Sampson

Erin Herock, Weston & Sampson

Erin Mehard, Weston & Sampson

Bella Prudy, Weston & Sampson

Elise Neuscheler, FOLAR

Heather Barrar, FOLAR

Darryl Walker, Petersburg

David Conmy, Sussex

Mary Jacobs, DEQ

Jeffery Davis, Emporia

Josh Sementelli, Hopewell

Kelly Davis, Hopewell

Mark Bittner, PlanRVA

Michael Poarch, Sussex

Eli Podyma, PlanRVA

Meghan Mulroy-Goldman, DOF

Melvin Prince, Emporia

Prarthana Rao, Colonial Heights

Tyler Jackson, Petersburg

Katy Riley, James River Association

Toinette Waldon, Crater Health District

Jared Crews, Petersburg

Caleb Rivera, DOF

Savannah Newbern, Berkley Group

Steven Edwards, Dinwiddie

Elise Turrietta, DEQ CZM

Lucas Manweiler, DEQ CZM

Naomi Siodmok, Petersburg

Kathryn Miller, DEQ

**12:00-12:15pm:** Crater PDC Environment & Resilience Updates

- New Transportation staff: Zakari Mumuni, Assistant transportation director for CPDC & Tri-Cities Area MPO
- Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional certification sponsorship—participants of hybrid sessions already attended first class
  - Participants share experience:
  - 15% Off Registration Discount Code for future CBLP training: CRATER
- Second Southern Rivers Roundtable meeting-- ~35 attendees
  - Presenting at Southern Watersheds Symposium on April 11<sup>th</sup>



- Please let Kit know if you want to be included in Roundtable meetings or know someone who may be interested
- Coastal Policy Team Meeting tomorrow—CZM
- Grant Updates
  - CFPF Application to Round 5: Emporia Stormwater Study
  - NOAA Fish Passage Grant Application Assistance: Emporia Dam Removal Feasibility Study
  - FY24 IJA: City of Petersburg East Washington Street Beautification Project—master planning, utility surveys, and demonstration project
  - Reach out to Kit if you want/need grant assistance for any environmental/resilience projects-can be anything!
  - Updates on BIL from Lucas:

**12:15-1:15pm:** Regional Resilience Plan Steering Committee Presentation & Group Discussion; Weston & Sampson

Link to Presentation:

- Spring: Steering Committee Knowledge Sharing/Workshop

Discussion Questions:

- What are you hoping to achieve with the Crater PDC regional resilience plan?
  - Naomi: How can we differentiate CPRG from Regional Resilience Plan
  - Darryl: Potential updates to existing resilience plan approved by DCR
    - Bella (W/S): Creating synergy between documents, regional and local strategies to maximize impact rather than duplicate efforts
  - Kelly: Locally adopted resilience plan, not one that was approved by DCR. Hoping to have the plan serve as the adopted and approved guide, plus local projects that can be shared/transparent to community
    - Bella: Graphics, language, communication tools to adequately relay the plan
  - Elise (FOLAR): Would love to see native plants in public parks and public education
    - Bella: Nature-based solutions are scored higher in CFPF, especially native plants
- Do these goals align with your community and/or is there anything else you would like to see?



- Darryl: Green Infrastructure Center work on tree planting to combat urban heat island issues in Petersburg neighborhoods; tree planting & stormwater benefits
- Naomi: taking equity into consideration—where people are in need and where they are experiencing the most impact
- Kit: Dinwiddie & Prince George—newly minted MS4 localities
- Heather Barrar: Forest health, climate change mitigation work; invasive species removal as driver of forest health on the Appomattox river. Land protection that can be used for public open space. Efforts can be modeled to other parts of the region
- What is a primary challenge for your locality in terms of preparing for extreme weather events and climate impacts?
  - Naomi: Aging infrastructure and maintenance of existing stormwater infrastructure leads to major flooding throughout the city, as well as water line breaks
  - Kelly: Echo Naomi, plus general staff capacity; a lot of time is spent managing crises instead of planning/preparing. Only 2 people serving as EOCs.
  - Heather: Competing community needs - education, crime, food insecurity - and frequent change in staff/leadership at a regional scale
  - David Conmy: Echo comment on staff/operational capacity
  - Stephen Edwards: Staffing & operational capacity
- What types of natural hazard events or impacts has your locality experience in the last several years?
  - Heather Barrar: Inland & riverine flooding; strong, isolated storms
  - Chris Ward: Ice storms, hurricanes
  - David Conmy: flooding—Wakefield, tornadoes—Waverly
  - Kit & Naomi: sinkholes in Dinwiddie, Petersburg, and Prince George
- How do you hope to utilize the Regional Resilience Plan?
  - Naomi: Leveraging more funding; CRS participation
  - Darryl: All of the above
  - David: leveraging more funding and enhancing our existing plans to be more harmonious with the resilience plan
  - Parthana: Leveraging more funding and also prioritizing projects
  - Chris Ward: All of the above
  - Bella: Project prioritization matrix can include aspects of CRS participation



- Would you be interested in joining the Steering Committee/know anyone who might be interested?
  - o Kit: One participant from each locality (at least)
  - o Chris Ward: Robern Williams, Hopewell Emergency Manager
  - o David Conmy: Nick Sheffield, Public Safety Chief for Sussex County: [nsheffield@sussexcountyva.gov](mailto:nsheffield@sussexcountyva.gov)
  - o Kelly: Public engagement—joining other events that have already been scheduled (Naomi agrees)
  - o Elise (FOLAR) : Is there a date for the spring workshop mentioned in the presentation?
  - o Kelly: Please have a webpage set up on Crater website to direct public to it

**1:15-2:00pm:** Roundtable Discussion—Floodplain Administration/Management

- [44 CFR 60.3 Regulations Crosswalk - Copy 2025-01-15.xlsx](#)
- Questions about floodplain administration
  - o Challenges communities are facing regarding floodplain administration/flood resilience & how they are being addressed
  - o Actively pursuing FPA hiring in Petersburg—initially funded through CFPF Round 2. Position is on city’s website. DCR has required city to procure external CFM to conduct reviews and permitting through Timmons
- CFPF: Petersburg applied for 3-4 applications in all categories
  - o Not aware of \$7.5 million limit per locality; had to whittle down proposal

**2:00pm:** Adjourn

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**12pm-2pm, In-Person (potential field trip!)**



*“The assumption that what currently exists must necessarily exist is the acid that corrodes all visionary thinking.”*

— **Murray Bookchin**