



HAMPTON ROADS REVIEW

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION • Spring '09



In this issue:

**Federal Stimulus Package:
Regional Impact**

Targeting Plastic Bag Litter

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The Hampton Roads Review is published quarterly and is available at no cost. The HRPDC is a voluntary association of sixteen local governments. The purpose of the HRPDC is to provide a forum for local governments to address issues of regional importance and to encourage regional cooperation and coordination. For more information contact the HRPDC at 757.420.8300 or visit our website at www.hrpdcva.gov.

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Cover photo: Signs of spring returning to Northwest River Park in Chesapeake, by Heidi Etter.

The Hampton Roads Review, a quarterly publication of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and local area governments.

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HRPDC Editor's Note

With all the excitement on the HRMPO side of the house, you've probably wondered, "What about the HRPDC?" Well, there have been a number of changes at the HRPDC, but the staff continues to serve as a valuable resource for the region's leaders and citizens. In this, my first opportunity to address Review readers, I'm excited at the prospects on tap for this publication as well as the launch of some more current methods of communications, which I'll get to. My excitement is also shared by others here at the HRPDC.

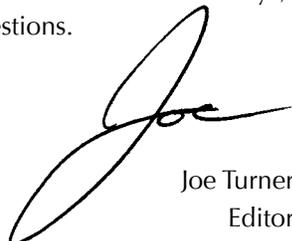
Not all transportation related issues fall to the HRMPO. The Hampton Roads region has both metropolitan and rural areas. Communities such as Southampton County and the city of Franklin, do not necessarily share the same transportation issues with the designated HRMPO communities and have been left out of the Long Range Transportation planning process. This past fall, the HRPDC staff began assisting the rural communities in developing a Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRP) that complements that of the HRMPO's Long Range Plan. See facing page.

Now, about those new communication methods, the HRPDC and HRMPO are launching electronic newsletters. Perhaps you've already seen the large sign-up box on the bottom left of every page on the HRPDC website, www.hrpdcva.gov. If you haven't done so already, please visit our website and sign up. We plan to use our e-newsletter list not only to distribute our e-newsletters, but to keep the public informed about what is going on here at the HRPDC. When you sign up with your email address, you will be asked to select what information you'd like to receive. The best way to keep informed is selecting to receive "All HRMPO/ HRPDC Information."

We will closely guard your contact information, and you can unsubscribe to our list at any time, if you wish to do so. However, we hope you grow to look forward to receiving our e-correspondences. And, don't worry. For the time being, we plan to continue producing paper copies of Hampton Roads Review.

For now, we hope you enjoy this issue of the Hampton Roads Review. As always, feel free to drop me an email with comments and suggestions.




Joe Turner
Editor

E-mail: jturner@hrpdcva.gov

Hampton Roads H2O – Help To Others – Program

By John Carlok, jcarlock@hrpdcva.gov

HRPDC Deputy Executive Director

In January 2007, the HRPDC approved a recommendation from the HRPDC staff and Directors of Utilities Committee that the Hampton Roads H2O – Help to Others – Program be incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Following approval by fourteen of the member jurisdictions, the towns of Smithfield and Windsor and Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD), papers were filed with and approved by the State Corporation Commission.

On March 4, 2009, the Hampton Roads H2O Program held its organizational meeting. The Board of Directors consists of the Director of Utilities or his/her designee from the participating members. The Board selected a slate of officers:

President – Tom Leahy, Director of Public Utilities, Virginia Beach

Vice-President – Brian Ramaley, Director of Newport News Waterworks

Secretary/Treasurer – Ted Henifin, General Manager HRSD

The H2O Executive Committee consists of the Officers listed above, as well as Suffolk Public Utilities Director, Al Moor and Larry Foster, James County Service Authority (JCSA) General Manager.

As requested by the Board, the HRPDC staff is filing the appropriate papers with the Internal Revenue Service to obtain tax deductible status for donations to the program. The HRPDC and HRSD staffs are proceeding with arrangements for a Spring 2009 fund raising campaign.



Regional Water Supply Plan

By Whitney Katchmark, wkatchmark@hrpdcva.gov

Senior Regional Geologist

A Regional Water Supply Plan is being developed to comply with state regulation 9 VAC 25-780. The regulation establishes a planning process and criteria that all local governments must use in the development of local or regional water plans.

The plan has three major components: 1) existing water sources and water use, 2) projected water demands and a statement of need, and 3) water demand management and a drought response plan. A draft of the existing water sources and water use section has been completed and the localities have already reviewed the information compiled relevant to water demand management and drought response.

HRPDC staff is currently developing projected water demands for the next 30-50 years. The plan also includes creating a GIS database of community water systems and self-supplied users of more than 300,000 gallons per month. A draft of the entire plan is expected to be completed in July 2009. The Department of Environmental Quality will review the plan and the State Water Control Board will determine whether the plan complies with the regulation.

Physical Planning

HR CLEAN Brings Regional Attention to Plastic Bag Litter

By Holly Miller, hmillier@hrpdcva.gov

Environmental Educator

Eighty individuals gathered in Smithfield to discuss an invasive and migratory species: the plastic bag. HR CLEAN organized a regional conference, "Are Plastic Bags Sacking the Environment?" to discuss the impacts of the plastic bags on the environment. Government workers, citizens, and recycling and retail workers participated in the conference to brainstorm ideas on innovative regional efforts to balance commerce, convenience and the environment.

Turtles, fish, sharks, and other aquatic life are endangered by plastic bags and particles every day. Christina Trapani, Virginia Aquarium Stranding Team, spoke at the conference. Her presentation showed slides of wildlife which had ingested or become entangled in plastic bags. Her presentation is available on www.hrclean.org (Warning: The presentation contains graphic photos.).

Farmers are also impacted by plastic bags. Littered bags become entangled in equipment, degrade the quality of cotton crops, and kill livestock when ingested. A regional group has been working for over a year to find a solution to the problem. At the conference, the Virginia Plastic Bag Advisory Council shared a pilot program they developed for



Isle of Wight. The program focuses on recycling and public education, and will be implemented once funding is received.

The conference generated articles in the *Daily Press*, *The Virginian-Pilot*, and the *Smithfield Times*. The news articles and presentations from the conference are posted at www.hrclean.org.



Why did the sea turtle eat the plastic bag? Because it looked like a jellyfish.



Visit the HR WET Educational Trailer at these area events!

For more information, contact Holly Miller, Environmental Educator at hmillier@hrpdcva.gov or 757-420-8300.

Earth Day Celebration- April 18, 2009, Waller Mill Park, Williamsburg

Earth Day- May 3, 2009, Mt. Trashmore, Virginia Beach

Chesapeake Jubilee- May 15-17, 2009, City Park, Chesapeake

Virginia Beach Relay for Life- June 6, 2009, Williams Farm Park, Virginia Beach

Olden Days- June 27, 2009, Downtown, Smithfield



Localities Gather Data, Assess Sanitary Sewer System

By Julia B. Hillegass, jhillegass@hrpdcva.gov
Senior Environmental Planner

The region's thirteen affected localities and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) continue to make progress in complying with the Regional Special Order by Consent, issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Most recently, participating localities have submitted their Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES) Plan, which outlines the methodology by which the physical sanitary sewer system will be evaluated in order to:

- Identify and prioritize sanitary sewer basins for further investigation;
- Establish baseline estimates of inflow and infiltration;
- Select the appropriate approach for further basin investigation; and
- Establish a schedule for the necessary field activities.

While localities may take somewhat different approaches, the goal of each SSES Plan is to make certain that the necessary work is done in the most cost effective manner, to alleviate redundancy, and to address the most pertinent needs of the system, thus ensuring the best use of public funds while improving water quality.

The next step in the process is completion of the Flow Evaluation Report, which is due to DEQ on May 26, 2009. The Flow Evaluation Report serves to:

- Document the flow, pressure and rainfall monitoring activities performed;
- Present the monitoring data;



- Describe the methodology for applying data to basins that are similar;
- Present the results of flow analyses and how those analyses impacted SSES basin identification; and
- Document any findings and conclusions, such as limitations, seasonal flows, future data collection needs and model calibration considerations.

Concurrent with this work, localities are also supplying HRSD with various data to populate the regional model. This model will utilize what is known about flow to determine potential Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), given an agreed upon level of service. Future work can then focus on regional system improvements and expansion to meet customer needs while ensuring water quality.



Climate Change Impact Study Underway

By Eric Walberg, ewalberg@hrpdcva.gov

Principal Environmental Planner

HRPDC Physical and Environmental Planning staff is examining the potential ramifications of climate change on the Hampton Roads region. Southeastern Virginia and eastern North Carolina are among the most vulnerable areas in the United States to sea level rise. The Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee projects that sea levels in the Chesapeake Bay region will be 0.7-1.6 meters (2.3-5.2 feet) higher by 2100. Potential impacts in Hampton Roads include increased damage from storm surge flooding and eventual loss of homes and businesses in low-lying areas. The HRPDC climate change project assesses the threat associated with sea level rise and other aspects of climate change on the region and brings a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to discuss actions that might be taken to both mitigate and adapt to projected changes.

Updating the Regional Green Infrastructure Network

By Eric Walberg, ewalberg@hrpdcva.gov

Principal Environmental Planner

Updates to the Hampton Roads regional green infrastructure network are underway. The regional green infrastructure network consists of lands that, when properly managed, provide valuable ecological services such as water quality protection, flood protection and support of rich biological diversity. In addition, the open space networks provide abundant recreational opportunities and a backdrop for environmentally conscious development.

The regional network update will include the latest local government future land use plans and new data and modeling from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Meetings are currently underway with the Hampton Roads localities and state agencies to collect the information needed for the update.

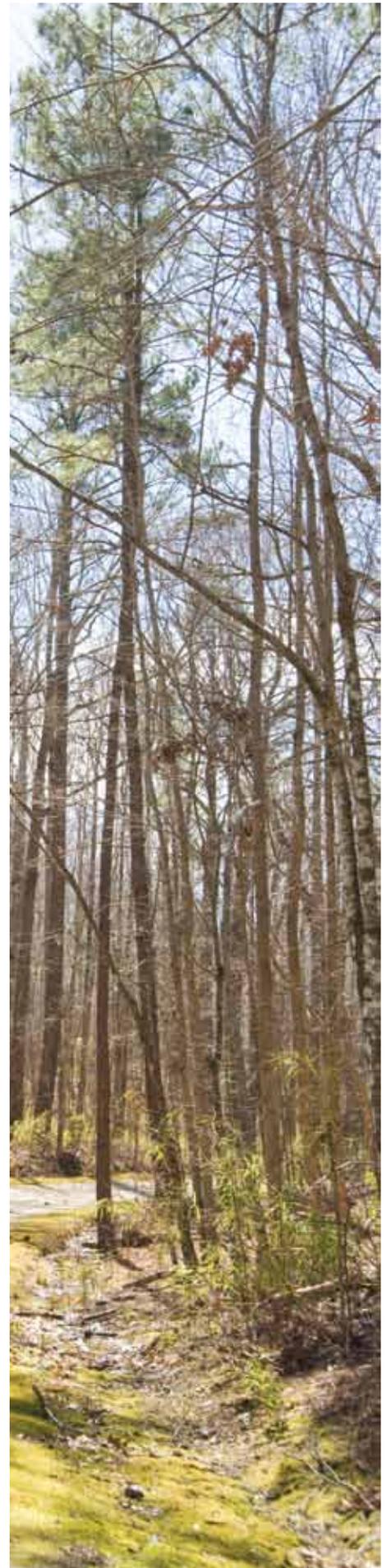
Roundtable Holds Green Building Meeting

By Claire Jones, cjones@hrpdcva.gov

Environmental Planner

The Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable hosted a Green Building and Green Communities Meeting on January 30, 2009, at the HRPDC offices in Chesapeake. The meeting drew interest from local community staffs and housing officials as well as from long-time Roundtable members. Mr. Chuck Miller of Miller Custom Homes provided those in attendance with a primer on the anatomy of a green house and the meaning of going green for the homebuilding sector of Hampton Roads.

Green building methods address a number of common elements including energy efficiency, water use, indoor air quality, materials, waste, and adherence to local building codes. In addition, staff from the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach discussed their green community programs: Sustainable Chesapeake and Go Green Virginia Beach. Costs and savings associated with green government programs were also discussed. The next Roundtable meeting is expected to be held in the spring and will focus on the topic of green energy.



Regional Pollution Prevention Training Spurs Local Actions

By Julia B. Hillegass, jhillegass@hrpdcva.gov

Senior Environmental Planner

Over 60 local government employees participated in regional trainings offered by HRPDC on pollution prevention. The training workshops, held on March 18 in Chesapeake and March 19 in Williamsburg, are a requirement of the Phase II MS4 Permits and were designed to highlight each municipal employee's responsibility for pollution prevention, specifically related to the stormwater system.

Local governments perform a variety of operations that have the potential to impact stormwater quality. Similarly, a variety of departments have key roles in stormwater regulatory compliance. Maintenance activities of roads, buildings and vehicles; waste disposal; fertilizer and pesticide storage and handling; as well as fuel and other chemical storage are just a few of the potential pollution issues that localities must remain vigilant in controlling every day. Standard operating procedures are a critical part of daily pollution prevention and all staff members, in the event they are needed, should understand spill response procedures as well.

The regional trainings provided concrete examples of potential problem areas, allowed time for localities to share how they handle certain situations and provided opportunity for cross-functional teams to develop action plans to take back to their locality. The training sessions provided much-needed opportunities for inter- and intra-departmental discussions on how to better meet the requirements of each local permit.

TMDL Status

By Jennifer Tribo, jtribo@hrpdcva.gov

Environmental Planner

The HRPDC staff is wrapping up work on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans in Virginia Beach, Hampton, York County, and Poquoson. The final public meeting for Implementation Plans for bacteria TMDLs in the North Landing River and Back Bay watersheds was held on January 26. Final public meetings for Implementation Plans for bacteria in the Poquoson and Back River watersheds are expected to be held in the spring 2009.

In addition, HRPDC personnel are working with staff in James City County and Suffolk to develop Implementation Plans for bacteria TMDLs in the Mill and Powhatan Creek watersheds and the Upper Nansemond watershed, respectively. Public meetings to initiate these projects will be held in late spring or early summer.



Build-Out Scenarios Studied for Northwest River

By Eric Walberg, ewalberg@hrpdcva.gov

Principal Environmental Planner

Build-out scenarios for the Northwest River watershed are being generated to determine the future of development patterns in southern Chesapeake. The Northwest River is the primary supply of drinking water for Chesapeake, so assessing development impacts is critical to ensuring a safe, abundant water supply for residents.

The first of the build-out scenarios will be based on the existing zoning and development controls and will provide both numeric totals and spatial distribution for currently permitted development types. Two alternative future development scenarios will be examined:

- Land use projections developed in conjunction with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- An analysis of possible modifications to the existing development controls.

The build-out scenarios will provide stakeholders with a range of options to consider for the rural tier of the City.

The ARRA of 2009: A Hampton Roads Perspective

By James Clary, jclary@hrpdcva.gov
Economist

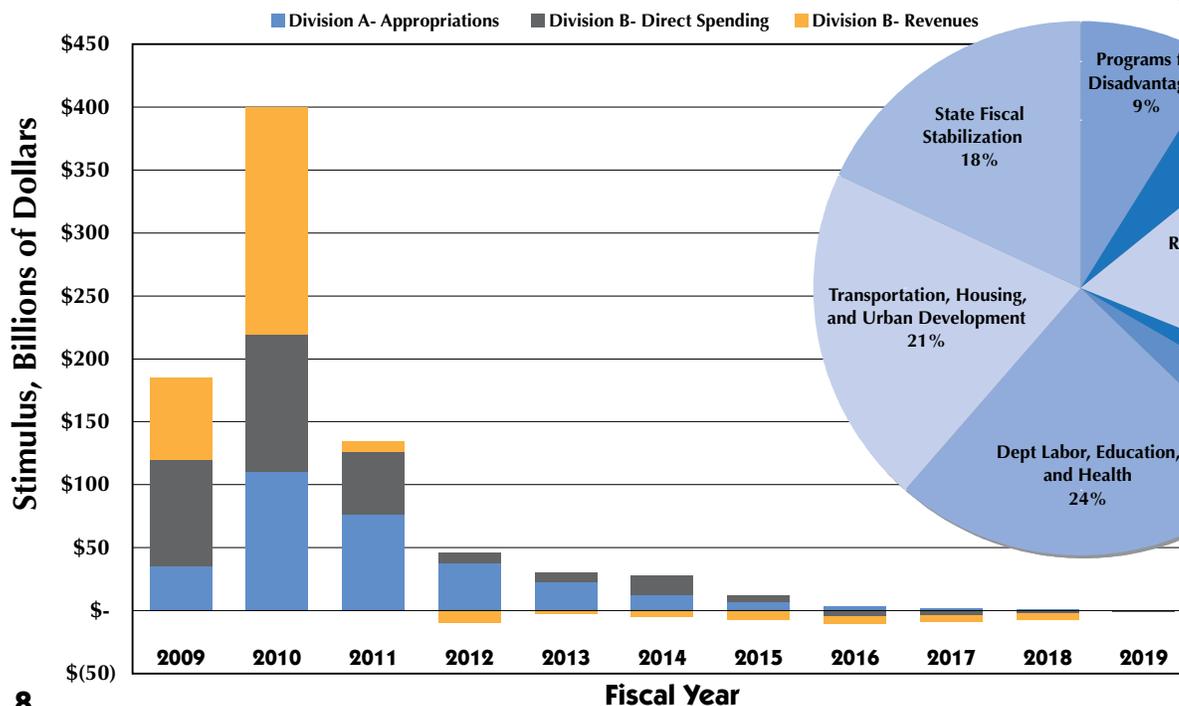
Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to both ease the short term impact of the current recession, as well as to prepare the U.S. economy for growth when the economy begins to recover. The bill injects a large amount of capital into the economy for the purpose of stimulating demand, and is projected to have significant effects beyond the pure cash value of the bill through the multiplier effect. The stimulus spending can be divided into three broad categories, tax cuts, direct payments to those impacted by the recession, and spending through existing appropriation programs.

While significant disagreement exists among economists as to the effectiveness of fiscal stimuli, many feel that current conditions warrant government action. U.S. non-farm payrolls have fallen by an average of 662,000 jobs the last three months, and evidence from leading indicators, including initial unemployment claims and construction investment, suggest that job losses will continue at this rate for the near term. The housing supply increased despite falling construction, simply because sales have slowed by such a significant amount. There is significant pessimism as a result of job losses, falling home values, and a stock market that is below 1997 levels, effectively wiping out 12 years of wealth creation.

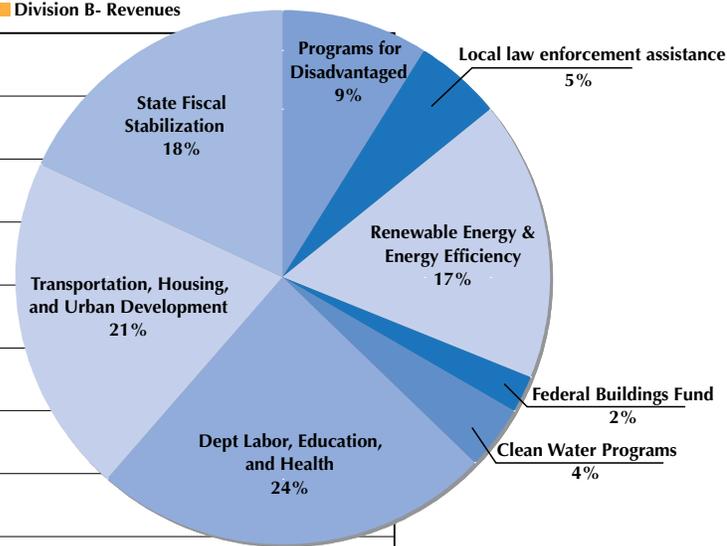
While the direct payments, tax cuts, and fiscal aid to states are straight forward attempts to inject money into the market place, it is the appropriations/investment portion of the act that requires the greatest explanation. A premium has been placed on projects which not only pass a cost-benefit analysis, but are also ready for obligation within a short time horizon (recently referred to as *shovel ready*).

Infrastructure investment has been a key piece of the plan, but this term has been broadened from the traditional roads, airports, and ports (though they will receive \$61.8B) to other categories. More than \$11B is devoted to improving the energy grid, allowing greater scope for investment in renewable energy projects. Investments in healthcare infrastructure are projected to result in large savings by both public and private entities through the adoption of electronic medical records. Money has also been devoted to renewable energy research, job training, and upgrading current transit systems. These and other investments are projected not only to stimulate the current economy through spending, but also to increase confidence about the long term health of the economy.

Stimulus Spending by Fiscal Year



Division A - Appropriations Spending by Category



At-a-glance...

President Obama signed it Feb 17th, 2009

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates its total costs at \$787B (nominal)

CBO estimates that it will boost employment in 2010 by 1.2 to 3.6 million jobs

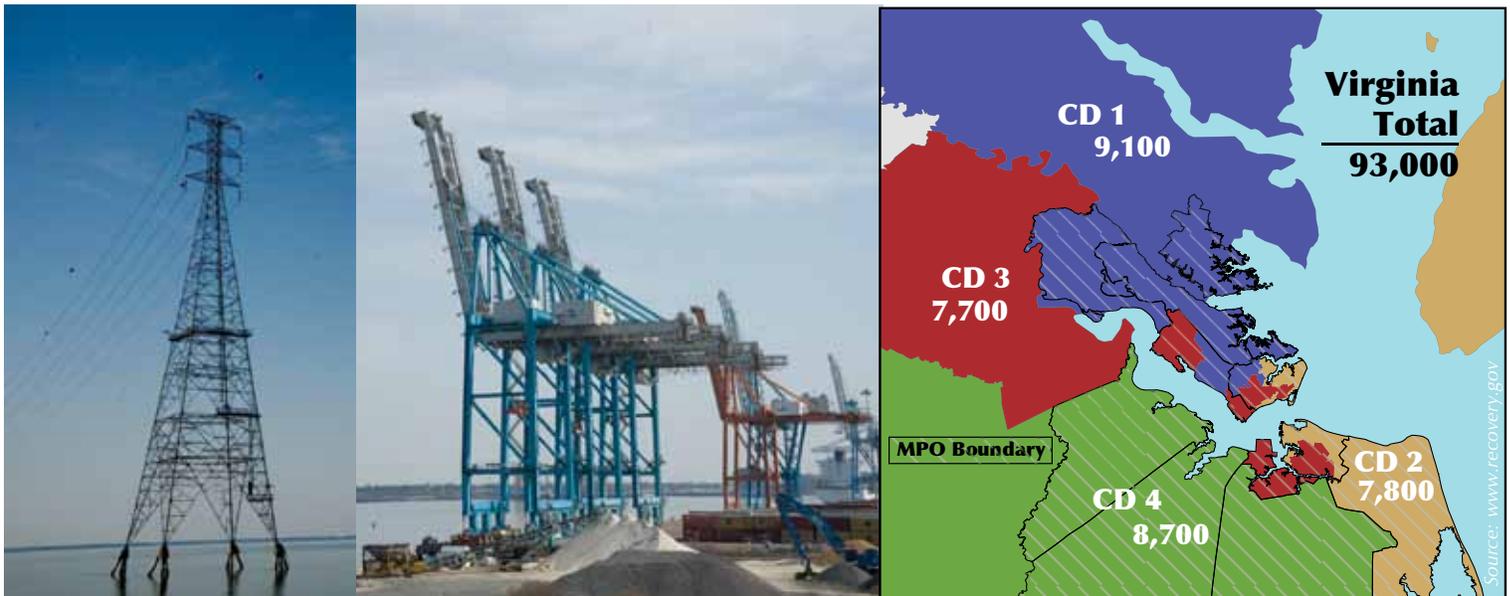
\$288B comes in form of tax relief, but consensus believes this not to be stimulative.

\$144B in State and Local Fiscal Relief

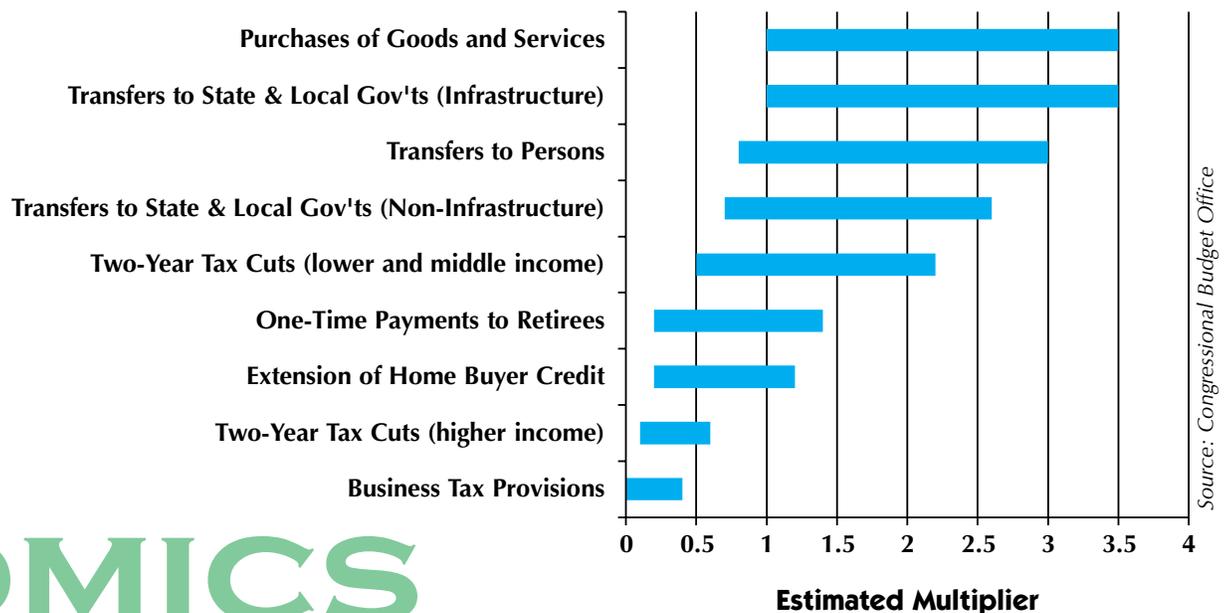
\$83.5B in Aid to Low Income Workers and those considered vulnerable (Direct payments)

\$271.5B in appropriations spending

Jobs by Congressional Districts (CD)



Stimulus and the Multipliers . . .



HRPDC joins Regional Task Force on Ending Homelessness

By Shernita Bethea, sbethea@hrpdcva.gov

Housing and Human Services Manager

The HRPDC recently joined the South Hampton Roads Regional Task Force on Ending Homelessness. This coalition is comprised of seven localities in the Hampton Roads area including; the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Isle of Wight County as well as regional nonprofits United Way of South Hampton Roads and The Planning Council .

Established in 2005, the Task Force is an active working task force that implements the regional activities approved by the Mayors and Chairs of these localities. It consists of staff participants from a variety of offices in each locality. Together, through the Task Force, these localities and organizations address homelessness on a regional basis as an addition to being able to strengthen its own locality programs and efforts. This group has been successful in accomplishing several regional efforts to date:

- The implementation of a regional affordable housing database called "Housing Connect" (www.housingconnect.org), an online database of affordable housing options in South Hampton Roads.
- The development of the only two regional Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings in the nation, Gosnold (Norfolk) and Cloverleaf Apartments (Virginia Beach) (pictured).

Region to Host 2009 VAHC Conference

By Shernita Bethea, sbethea@hrpdcva.gov

Housing and Human Services Manager

The Virginia Association of Housing Counselors' 2009 Annual Conference "The Housing Counselor... Multi-Talented; Multi-Faceted; Multi Tasked... The Wearer of Many Hats" will be held in Hampton Roads again this year. The conference will be held at the Virginia Beach Hilton on May 4-7. The Virginia Association of Housing Counselors, Inc. (VAHC) was established to provide support and resources to housing counselors or those in related fields. The mission of the organization is to strengthen housing counseling as a profession and assure that all low and moderate income families and individuals are offered the opportunity to live in safe, decent and affordable housing.

The return to Hampton Roads is no surprise as for several years now, VAHC members from across the state have indicated their preference to return to Hampton Roads for their annual conferences. In the last five years, the conference has been held in Virginia Beach, Williamsburg and Norfolk. One of the reasons may be the high level of

- The hosting of two successful conferences that provided a forum for local and regional leaders and stakeholders to share best practice information as well as promotion of strategic planning.
- The creation of the regional report, "Homelessness in Southside Hampton Roads," a key tool for educating city leaders, organizations and the public about the scope of the homelessness issue in the region.

For more information on the South Hampton Roads Regional Taskforce on Ending Homelessness,

please visit www.VBgov.com/housing or

call 757-

385-5761.



participation from lenders, real estate agents, and other housing related organizations located in Hampton Roads. Shernita Bethea, Housing and Human Services Manager for the HRPDC, serves as the current VAHC President.

Several local housing experts have been added to the agenda and will be presenting on a number of related topics, such as: combating financial and housing scams, innovative approaches to decreasing homelessness, reenergizing homeownership, addressing the housing needs of the disabled, and rental counseling training.

2009 VAHC
ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
"THE HOUSING COUNSELOR:
MULTI-TALENTED; MULTI-FACETED;
MULTI-TASKED...
THE WEARER OF MANY HATS"

Hilton Virginia Beach-Oceanfront
May 4th-7th
VAHC Annual Conference
Housing Counselor Certifications
Review and Exam

Update on the Hampton Roads Labor Market

By James Clary, jclary@hrpdcva.gov
Economist

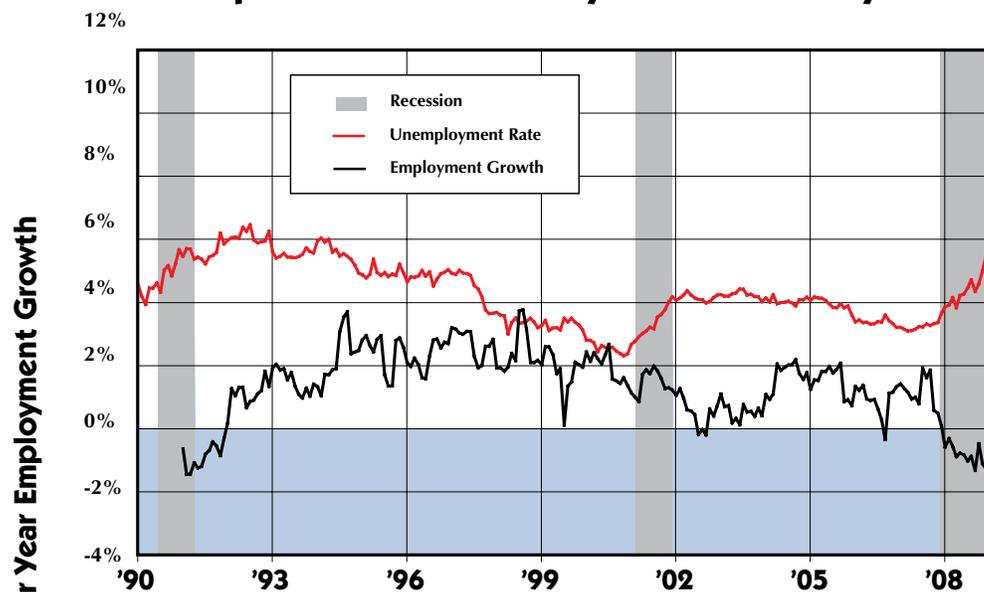
The unemployment situation remains tenuous in both the nation and the region, as the recession has yet to show signs of reaching its trough. The national unemployment rate increased to 8.1% in February as the result of a month-over-month rise of 0.5%, and a year-over-year increase of 3.25%. This actually understates the magnitude of the problem as the labor force participation rate has fallen throughout this recession. National payrolls fell by 651,000 in February, and this was the third straight month of job losses greater than 600,000. If the employment losses don't slow, the nation will have lost over 2 million jobs by April (this number is updated in the Hampton Roads Economic Quarterly).

Regionally, the unemployment rate continues to increase, reaching an unadjusted 5.3% in Dec 2008, but this increase is driven primarily by an increasing labor force (the labor force increased by 25,000 from December of last year). Payrolls have begun to decline regionally, but Hampton Roads has yet to see negative year over year payroll growth (the nation has lost 3.5 million jobs year over year). Even as Hampton Roads has seen weakness in its tourism and transportation sectors, the strength in military incomes have anchored the economy from the rough economic waters and helped to maintain relatively strong employment. Though military employment is not included in the official figures, spending by military personnel supports a variety of jobs throughout the region, and military pay saw a 3.9%

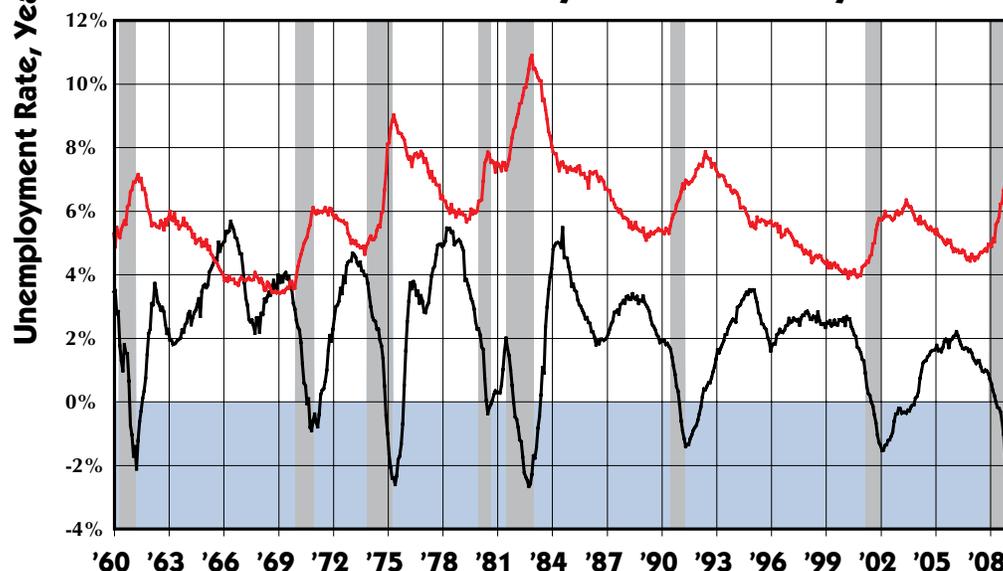
increase for the fiscal year 2009, and is currently projected to receive a 2.9% increase by President Obama's 2010 budget. This should provide some encouragement to the local retail sector and help to buoy the regional economy. Unfortunately, most regional businesses are not immune to declining national and international demand and have been forced to make substantial cutbacks and, in some cases, closures (most notably USAA and Smithfield Foods).

In the near term, the primary source of employment growth will result from the stimulus package. Projections by the White House state that the stimulus will add or save 33,300 jobs to the region's four local congressional districts (that is more than 4% of the local labor force, though some of those jobs would occur outside the scope of the region).

Hampton Roads: January 1990 - January 2008



United States: January 1960 - January 2008



Proposed State Budget Cuts Dissolve Disability Service Boards

By Greg Grootendorst, ggrootendorst@hrpdcva.gov
Chief Economist

The Disability Service Board (DSB) was mandated by the General Assembly in 1992 to assist localities in indentifying and addressing the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities in their communities. The DSB's are instrumental in providing locally-based assessment and planning decisions pertaining to persons with disabilities. Members are comprised of local government representatives, business representatives, and individuals with physical and sensory disabilities.

The HRPDC serves as fiscal agent and employer of record for the South Hampton Roads Disability Services Board (SHRDSB). SHRDB members are appointed by the cities of Norfolk, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, and Suffolk. The SHRDSB is the largest of the 41 Disability Services boards in Virginia, serving a population of over one million, including approximately 125,000 citizens with disabilities.

Over the years, the SHRDSB has been instrumental in preparing the tri-annual needs assessment survey as well as identifying effective programs and initiatives that were recipients for Rehabilitation Services Incentive Fund (RSIF) grants passed through from the Department of Rehabilitative Services. The Board has served as a clearinghouse on disability issues as well as a resource to localities and individuals on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

State funding for the SHRDSB will be eliminated effective June 30, 2009. In a recent planning session, the HRPDC worked with current members from each SHRDSB locality to brainstorm on ideas on how the board could continue to function. At present, the SHRDSB plans to continue meeting and will be looking at ways to gather more support from other local DSB's as well as other stakeholders in the community.

For further information, please contact Board coordinator, Mary Lopez at shrdsb.mkl@cox.net

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Public Meeting Held

Dale Stith, dstith@hrpdcva.gov
Transportation Planner/Engineer

In 2007, in response to a statewide VDOT initiative, the HRPDC began a multi-phase effort to develop a regional transportation plan for rural portions of Hampton Roads. This effort, which includes Southampton County and the city of Franklin, will result in a Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRP) that will complement planning efforts in the metropolitan areas of the region. The RLRP will evaluate the transportation system with respect to existing and projected population and employment in the rural areas and recommend a range of transportation improvements that best satisfy existing and future transportation needs. Once completed, the RLRP will be incorporated into Virginia's 2035 State Highway Plan, that defines and prioritizes

Virginia's transportation needs and establishes a foundation for making critical funding decisions.

The first public meeting for the Hampton Roads RLRP was held on March 10, 2009 in the city of Franklin. The meeting was held in an 'open house' format with representatives from HRPDC, VDOT, the city of Franklin, and Southampton County in attendance. The meeting provided interested parties a background on the RLRP process and solicited input from local citizens regarding safety and capacity concerns. Attendees were presented with a study schedule, maps illustrating potential growth areas and transportation needs, as well as locations identified as 'Priority Transportation Problems.' Materials from the March meeting and all the latest study information are available on the HRPDC website.



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RLRP Schedule '09

PLANNED DATES	JAN	Identification of Existing and Future Transportation Deficiencies
	Early MAR	Public Information Meeting
	Mid MAR	Identification of Priority Transportation Problem Locations
	Late MAR	Identification of Detailed Study Locations
	APR	Development of Draft Improvement Recommendations
	MAY	Draft Report Available for Public Review
	JUN	Public Hearing
JUL	Final Report	

TRANSPORTATION

FEMA Region III Administrator Visits REMTAC

By Richard Flannery, rflannery@hrpdcv.gov
Emergency Management Administrator

At its February meeting, the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC) welcomed Mr. Jonathan Sarubbi, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Region III Administrator, and Mr. Patrick Twiss, the Federal Preparedness Coordinator for FEMA Region III. The special guests provided the committee a briefing on Region III's current efforts. FEMA Region III is responsible for the Mid-Atlantic States that include Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

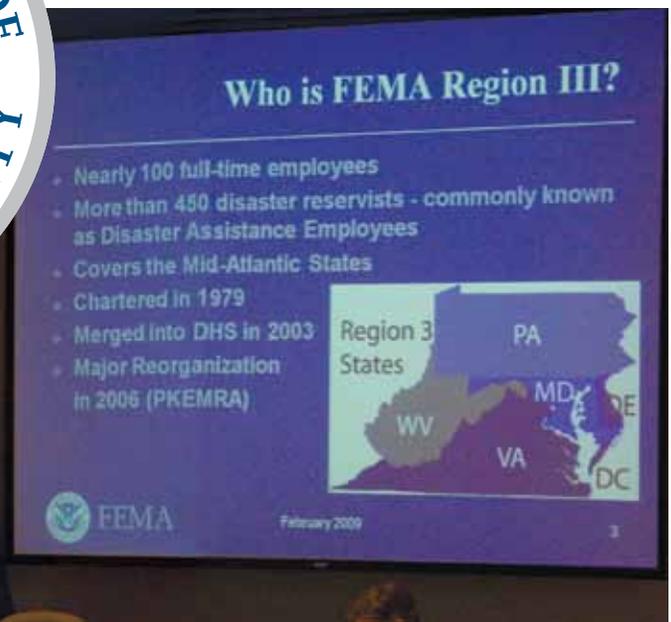
After being merged into the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2003 and the fallout from the Katrina response, Mr. Sarubbi emphasized "the strengthening of FEMA and its core functions to help State and local emergency management agencies prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters." Efforts have focused on ensuring the Regional Coordination Center has an operational watch to monitor the region, the hiring of additional operational planners, instituting an integrated planning system with all of its constituents at the local, regional and state level, and working through a gap analysis process for the hurricane-prone states.

Also, Mr. Sarubbi stressed the need to include the private sector in all planning.

With the Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act of 2006, Presidential Directive HSPD-8, and the National Preparedness Guidelines, Mr. Twiss explained how FEMA adheres

to and promotes 'capabilities-based preparedness' not just through guidelines, regulations and grants, but by helping determine "how prepared we need to be, how prepared we really are, and what needs to be done to close the gaps." In addition to REMTAC and multiple other public safety partners in Hampton Roads, the Hampton Roads Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) uses this same strategy to facilitate closing those gaps by strengthening those target capabilities identified by FEMA and DHS. By supporting this "capabilities-based preparedness" approach with a layered mutual effort of local, State and Federal authorities as defined in the National Response Framework, our region will be ready to more effectively respond to disasters.

Finally, both Mr. Sarubbi and Mr. Twiss emphasized the need to keep senior elected local and state officials informed about the hurricane pre-landfall declaration process and stressed the ability of their office to provide training seminars to demonstrate how this process works and when it should be employed as one of the region's preparedness efforts.



Mr. Jonathan Sarubbi, FEMA Region III Administrator, addresses the REMTAC meeting in February.

Moving Towards a Regional Capability Assessment

By Natalie Easterday, neasterday@hrpdcva.gov

Regional Emergency Management Planner

The Hampton Roads (HR) region will conduct its first regional capability assessment this summer. The assessment is designed to evaluate the level of readiness of emergency management and homeland security capabilities needed for emergencies and/or disasters, and where future efforts for building upon existing and/or new capabilities should be focused. Funding to conduct the assessment is provided through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Since 2007, the region has been classified as a Tier II UASI region, given its large metropolitan area and subsequent disaster risk. In addition, the Commonwealth of Virginia also has the Tier I National Capital Region UASI and the Tier II Richmond metro area UASI. Geographically, the boundaries between the Richmond and HR UASI touch making it prudent to conduct the capability assessment jointly. Therefore, both the Richmond and HR UASIs will be conducting their first comprehensive capability assessment during the three year grant performance period.



Currently, the Commonwealth of Virginia conducts annual assessments using the Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR). The LCAR is a self assessment based on 13 categories that capture responses on topics such as hazard identification and risk assessment, resource management, and planning. The regional capability assessment to be conducted will be facilitated by a contractor and bring the jurisdictions together to gather a regional assessment of readiness. Further, the assessment will be based on a target capability list (TCL). The TCL was developed by the DHS to compliment the capabilities-based planning approach in an effort to identify the “capabilities that states and communities...should collectively develop in order to respond effectively to disasters.”

Two federally developed tools currently exist to measure preparedness using the TCL. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pilot Capability Assessment and National Preparedness System (NPS) are both available to the region. However, in order to ensure that the best tool would be used for the assessment, the HRPDC emergency management staff in coordination with the Hampton Roads and Richmond UASI, reviewed the FEMA Pilot Capability Assessment, NPS, and LCAR for similarities and differences so that the best questions would be derived from each of the tools for the regional assessment. While the LCAR does not specifically follow the TCL list, it was important to review the tool as it is currently used by the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM).

The result was a comprehensive review of over 2,000 questions that examined the similarities and differences between the three capability assessment tools. Questions were then placed into a database from which the UASI membership, in collaboration with the HRPDC, will be able to hand select the questions that meet the regional needs. The formal regional capability assessment is anticipated to begin during summer 2009.

Department of Homeland Security (2007) DHS Releases National Preparedness Guidelines. Available at http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1189720458491.shtm



Debris Management - Filling the Gaps

By Robert Lawrence, rlawrence@hrpdcva.gov,
Senior Regional Emergency Management Planner

Hampton Roads has been fortunate to have pre-event debris management contracts in place since before Hurricane Isabel hit in 2003. These regional contracts were developed when our local emergency managers saw the need for better coordination and collaboration for debris removal after Hurricane Bonnie hit in August 1998. That storm left behind a region-wide trail of devastation and debris that took months longer than necessary to clean up.

Shortly after the formation of the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC) at the HRPDC, priority was placed on improving debris removal in the region. A Debris Management Subcommittee was formed in 1999 and included those responsible for debris management in each locality as well as subject matter experts from other organizations such as the Corps of Engineers, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), US Coast Guard and others. A Regional Debris Planning Model was developed by 2002 to help guide local planning. Perhaps more significantly, the Subcommittee developed pre-event debris reduction and removal contracts on a regional scale via the contract authority and willingness of the Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority (VPPSA) for the Peninsula and the Southeastern Public Service Authority of Virginia (SPSA) for the Southside. These contracts were tested in

2003 by Hurricane Isabel, and have been improved based on lessons learned from that event. The contracts are updated each year for pricing and ready to go on June 1, the start of hurricane season.

For this season, VDEM has gotten into the act. VDEM has secured pre-event debris management contracts, similar to those developed by Hampton Roads. In fact, the debris removal pricing schedule structure is identical so jurisdictions can easily compare and contrast costs among different contractors. In addition for those localities finding themselves needing extra manpower for debris removal operations, especially to ensure compliance with FEMA regulations, VDEM has secured Debris Monitoring services from Beck Disaster Recovery Services Inc. to help those jurisdictions who have yet to secure local monitoring contracts of their own. These services include Environmental Specialists, GIS and billing/invoice analysts, data managers, load ticket data entry clerks, project management and more.



HOEPS: Survive and Thrive 2009!

By Jenny Redick, jredick@hrpdcva.gov
Regional Special Needs Planner

Disaster preparedness continues to be a key focus for healthcare organizations in the Hampton Roads region via the Healthcare Organizations Emergency Preparedness Seminars (HOEPS). Both staff and administrators from organizations such as Home Healthcare and Case Management and facilities like Group Homes, Adult Daycare, Assisted Living, Nursing Homes and other similar centers come together once a year to learn from and dialogue with professionals in the emergency preparedness field. A panel session with local emergency managers will also take place.

attendees can choose the date and location as HOEPS will be offered from 8:15 am–1:00 pm on four days at two locations:

- May 4 or 5 at the Renaissance Hotel, Portsmouth, VA
- May 7 or 8 at the Crowne Plaza, Hampton, VA

This year, the focus will continue to be on preparing organizations and facilities for disasters with a special emphasis on personal preparedness for employees as they are the key to helping their patients “survive and thrive” during and after a disaster.

The event is free for all registrants and includes breakfast and lunch.



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* Executive Committee Member

MEETING CALENDAR	<p>May 20 HRPDC Executive Committee</p> <p>held at: 11 am-Noon, The Regional Board Room</p> <p>Jun 17 HRPDC Executive Committee</p> <p>held at: 11 am-Noon, The Regional Board Room</p> <p>Jul 15 HRPDC Quarterly Committee</p> <p>held at: 11 am-Noon, The Regional Board Room</p>
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