



HAMPTON ROADS REVIEW

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION • Spring '10



In this issue:

**Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Will
Significantly Impact Hampton Roads**

**2010 VAHC Conference
Descends on Hampton Roads, Again**

UASI Update



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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HRPDC Editor's Note:

There is nothing like a warm sunny weekend day to cause a run on the local garden shops and home improvement stores. With the appearance of the sun, projects that have been neglected all winter long due to weather conditions, have suddenly leapt to the top of the "Honey-Do" list and the family budget has been hit for spring flowers and early summer fruits and vegetables. After this winter, this ritual is welcomed and couldn't come soon enough!

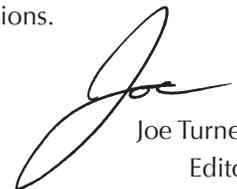
Speaking of wacky weather, the HRPDC staff is looking at the impacts of climate change and what it means for the region. Our environmental planners are looking at the rising sea levels and what impact it will have on our region. Check out the update on their work on page 7.

Getting back to home gardens and lawns, the region just celebrated National Environmental Education Week, the nation's largest environmental education event which strives to inspire environmental learning and stewardship among K-12 students. (See article on page 8.) Hampton Roads is fortunate to have four environmental education committees that work year round on educating the region's citizens on environmental stewardship. One group, HR WET, has a trailer that attends local functions and events to provide information on water quality and conservation. A schedule of events can be found on page 8.

Finally, this is one of the last printed versions of *Hampton Roads Review*. We've decided to do our part to conserve paper and reduce expenditures and switch to an electronic publication. The good news is that we'll be doing monthly e-pubs that will get information out quicker and provide an opportunity for more timely feedback.

Don't worry. The transition is just beginning there will be a few more printed versions as we continue to looking at formats and update our mailing lists. If you currently receive the electronic version of *Hampton Roads Review*, we have your email address and you will not miss anything when the transfer takes place. If not, I encourage you to send us your email address via the email address below or go to our website, www.hrpdcva.gov, and apply via the link there.

As always, feel free to contact me with comments or suggestions.



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HRPDC Establishes FY 2011 Regional Planning Priorities

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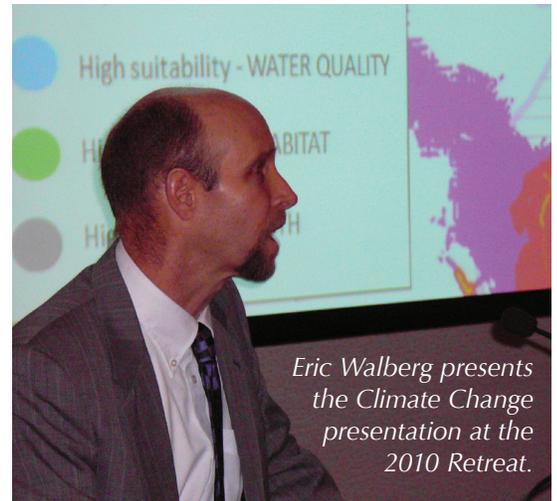
Deputy Executive Director

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission established three critical planning priorities to guide the work of the Commission and its staff during Fiscal Year 2011 at its annual retreat on February 10, 2010. The HRPDC Board received a series of presentations from staff on the Commission's budget and core work program activities as well as the critical issues for FY 2011. It also received briefings on matters related to the structure of HRPDC advisory committees and communications with elected officials, interested citizens and others. Based on these briefings and extensive discussion among the Commissioners, the HRPDC reaffirmed the Commission's core programs and budget strategy. It also directed the HRPDC staff to continue to embrace technology with a strengthened emphasis on electronic communications.

The FY 2011 regional planning priorities include climate change and sea level rise, recovery from a catastrophic event and energy development. These priorities will be incorporated into the FY 2011 HRPDC Work Program and will serve to further integrate the Commission's core departments: economics, emergency management and physical and environmental planning. The HRPDC staff will research sources of information, determine data needs and funding sources to support regional efforts to develop policies addressing these three critical issues.

Climate Change

A recent HRPDC study describes the pending negative impacts to the region associated with sea level rise. During the last 80 years, sea level has risen 14 inches in Hampton Roads. It is expected that the rate of rise will increase due to climate change. As the region has experienced in recent storms, storm-induced flooding is worsening. Further research on the region's vulnerabilities to storm surge flooding will be conducted. The region will work cooperatively with state and federal agencies to obtain funding to support ongoing collection of data about storms, land subsidence and elevation. Coupled with improved modeling and analytical tools, this data will support development of a policy framework for mitigating negative impacts and strategies that will assist the region in adapting to the rising sea levels. This work will assist and guide the region's localities and citizens to prioritized efforts in proactively addressing this issue.



Eric Walberg presents the Climate Change presentation at the 2010 Retreat.

Energy Development

With the presence of high value wind resources off the coast of Hampton Roads, the potential for development of offshore wind, oil and gas resources, the Port of Hampton Roads, the availability of waterfront industrial lands and the concentration of technology and research entities, the region is well-positioned for extensive energy-related economic development. The HRPDC staff will explore this potential through analysis of regulations affecting energy development in various sectors, the economic and environmental impacts associated with such development, and the potential role of energy development in the future of the Hampton Roads economy. The initial focus will be on offshore energy development related activities. This work will support the HRPDC in developing a strategy for enhancing the region's competitive position in energy development.

Catastrophic Events

On a number of occasions in the past few years, the region has seen the effects of its constrained road network on its ability to meet the potentially catastrophic impacts of a severe hurricane or nor'easter. In combination, these conditions show that it will be impossible to evacuate the region if a direct hit by a major storm occurs. These negative impacts will be exacerbated by the effects of sea level rise. The HRPDC staff will continue to analyze the impacts of such events and, in cooperation with the localities, develop plans for increasing the resiliency of the region's critical infrastructure. These plans will include contingency elements as well as recovery plans. The focus will be on the short-term needs immediately following a major event. Work on identifying structures with the potential to serve as effective storm shelters and on analysis of evacuation-related issues will continue. Potential sources of funding to assist in meeting these needs will be identified and strategies for maximizing the availability of these funds for the region and its citizens will be developed.

Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable Wraps Up Another Year

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Physical and Environmental Planner

The Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable recently concluded its activities for 2009 with the publication of its Annual Report. During the year the Roundtable offered a variety of local groups, including business, trade, and environmental organizations, the opportunity to participate in informative meetings and to experience a local watershed firsthand with a kayak trip on the Lynnhaven River. The Roundtable concluded its activities for the year with a forum on public participation for local governments and non-profit agencies. This well-received opportunity to share stories and strategies for improving public interest in local environmental resources and the decisions that impact them also marked the beginning of a new campaign to expand the group's reach in 2010.



Over the next year, new resources will be developed for including more voices in the Roundtable's discussions. During 2009, a desire was expressed to include more groups in the Roundtable, particularly small or newly formed watershed groups that might benefit from other member's experience. The Roundtable also decided that an online presence is needed, including places to exchange information and keep up with the activities of member organizations. Shared watershed experiences and future forums on topics of common interest will also be part of the Roundtable's 2010 plans.

Accolades and Awards

Jenny Tribo Receives Award For Stormwater Management Work

Jenny Tribo has received a 2010 Stoneroller Award from the Center for Watershed Protection for her participation in the Extreme BMP Project and her work in stormwater management in Hampton Roads. Ms. Tribo received the award at the 2010 Rooftop to the Bay Workshop in Staunton, VA on March 10 where she presented Hampton Roads' Regional Stormwater Management Program as a model for stormwater program development and creating regional monitoring and tracking tools.



Eric Walberg Elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program Policy Board

Eric Walberg, Physical and Environmental Planning Administrator, has been serving as a member of the Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP) Policy Board since 2005. At the March 10, 2010 Policy Board meeting, Mr. Walberg was elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect. He will assume the Chairmanship in 2012 after two years as Vice Chair.



APNEP, established in 1987, is a cooperative effort jointly sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The APNEP mission is "To identify, restore, and protect the significant resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system." The Albemarle-Pamlico watershed is approximately 30,000 square miles in size, with approximately 1/3 of its area in southeastern Virginia and the remaining 2/3 in North Carolina. The Albemarle-Pamlico is the second largest estuary in the United States, second only to the Chesapeake Bay. APNEP staff, the policy board, and three advisory committees work together to guide the Program.

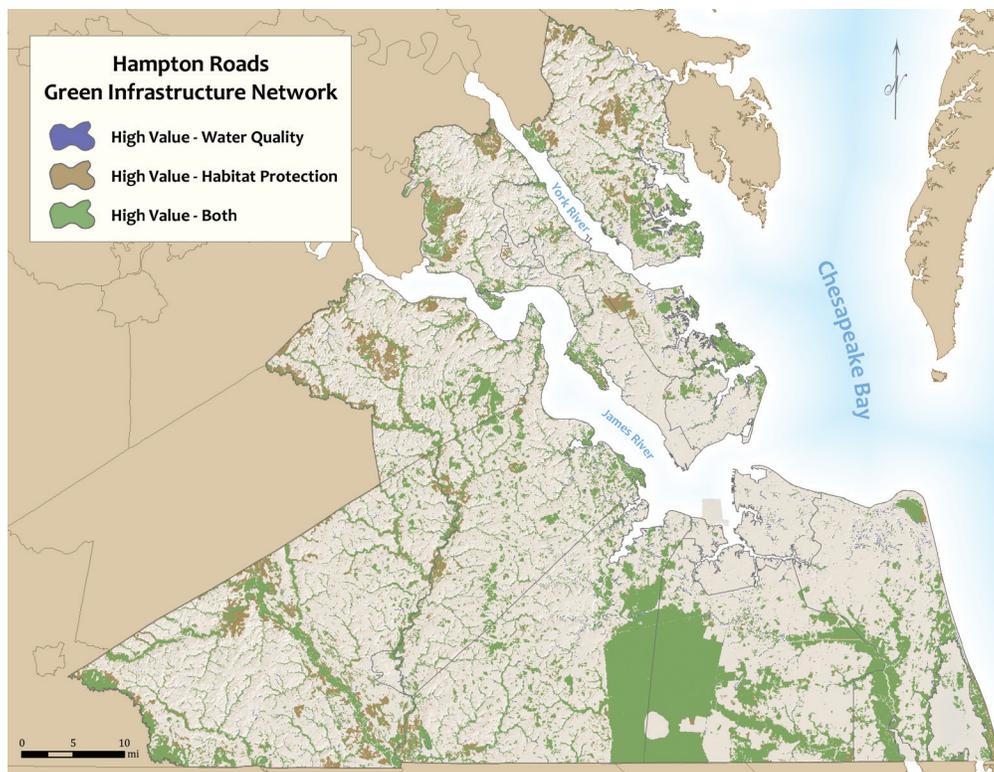
Green Infrastructure Plan for Hampton Roads Updated

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Senior Environmental Planner

The Green Infrastructure Plan represents an ongoing effort by the HRPDC to develop a regional green infrastructure network for the Hampton Roads region. The current effort serves as an update to the original Plan published in 2006. A key component of the project is to identify, prioritize and potentially link a network of valuable conservation lands. Creating a linked network of protected lands provides multiple benefits for both humans and the environment, including habitat protection, stormwater management, wetlands mitigation, and recreational opportunities. The green infrastructure network will also be a valuable planning tool for local and regional planners as they prepare to address water quality regulatory requirements such as Virginia's new stormwater management regulations, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans, and Urban Development Area (UDA) requirements.

The model for the green infrastructure network was created using geographic information systems (GIS). The original network was updated by incorporating more current GIS data sources, such as regional land cover. Changes between the current network and the original network were identified. It was concluded that the majority of the change seen in the green infrastructure was due to timber harvesting in the region.

A new analysis added to the Green Infrastructure Plan was a "vulnerability to development" model. This model was created in order to predict where future growth may occur in Hampton Roads and how the green infrastructure network will be impacted by this growth. This will help planners prioritize land acquisitions in the face of limited funding.



A key component to the project was the input received from discussions with a diverse group of stakeholders. The comments and suggestions provided by planners from local jurisdictions and staff from state natural resource agencies led to improvements in the Green Infrastructure Plan.

The Green Infrastructure Plan was funded in part by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The final report and geospatial data will be available online at:

<http://www.hrpdcva.gov>.

Regional Residuals Facility Opens

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Physical and Environmental Planner

Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) has completed construction of the first regional residuals facility (RRF) at HRSD's Nansemond Treatment Plant in Suffolk. HRSD, the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, and the HRPDC partnered to develop the facility. This facility implements one of the recommendations in the 2003 HRPDC [Regional Grit and Grease Drying Facility Study](#).

This partnership to address a shared need is an example of collaboration that benefits all residents

of Hampton Roads and the environment. As a part of HRSD's wastewater treatment services, there is no additional charge for the disposal of residuals removed from public wastewater collection systems within the HRSD service area. A similar facility to serve the Peninsula localities is being evaluated



In response to regulatory requirements to prevent sanitary sewer overflows, the cleaning of sewer pipes has increased and along with it, the need for a cost-effective method for disposal of residuals. A residuals facility is designed to receive the debris, usually grit and grease, removed from sewer pipes and pump stations during cleaning and maintenance.

Residuals are a regulated industrial waste which contains pollutants that can harm human health and the environment, and therefore must be taken to a sanitary landfill. Before the residuals can be taken to a sanitary landfill they must be dewatered. When the residuals are brought to the RRF the leachate, or drained liquid from the residual, is collected and treated at the HRSD wastewater treatment plant. The dried residual is then taken to a sanitary landfill. The new RRF facility allows for proper treatment and disposal of sewer pipe residuals.

The facility, which cost \$3.7 million, is designed to receive 7,100 wet tons of debris each year from about 25 trucks per week. Users of the RRF must be registered with HRSD and trained in the proper use of the facility.

Stormwater Regulations Expected with TMDL Goals

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Senior Environmental Planner

Tougher rules to prevent pollution from entering Virginia waterways are still in limbo at press time. Another comment period officially ended on March 17, 2010 on the state stormwater management regulations. The regulations, which took approximately four years to develop with the help of numerous technical advisory committees and state staff, face another round of review and approval by the Soil and Water Conservation Board and will then await Governor Bob McDonnell's signature. If approved, the stormwater regulations would no longer go into effect this summer. Instead, legislation approved by the General Assembly in its recent 2010 session would push back the effective date until either 280 days after the Environmental Protection Agency comes out with new figures on proper nutrient levels in the Bay, or December 2011, whichever comes first.

These nutrient levels, known as Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs, will be allocated to Bay area watersheds.

Localities will then be expected to plan, implement and report measures that will aid in reducing the nutrient loads for stream segments in their localities.

The postponement may help to provide consistency for localities that have to implement the new regulations, as well as consistency for the business and development communities. Putting a set of regulations in place that could be changed shortly afterward would have created an administrative nightmare for the state and localities attempting to put the new requirements into practice.

A series of hearings on the regulations has brought out community activists and special interests on all sides of the issue. Most agree that the final regulations should be based on the latest available data.

Local Utilities and HRPDC Collaborate on Regulatory Issues

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Members of the HRPDC Directors of Utilities Committee collaborated to develop legislative proposals to solve two regulatory issues during this session. The committee sought to define local governments' requirements to mark water and sewer laterals and requested the ability to establish civil penalties for those introducing pollutants into the public sewer system. Both bills have been enacted by the General Assembly.

HB 1230 Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act

In 2008, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) took a position that utilities were responsible for marking private water and sewer laterals. Laterals are the pipes that connect a house or business to the main water and sewer lines which are typically in the public right of way.

Based on comments from the HRPDC and others, the SCC formed a working group including representatives from Hampton Roads in November 2008 to evaluate its policy. In December 2009 the working group developed legislative language that clearly defines the requirements of localities to mark laterals. It exempts localities from marking laterals outside the public right of way. The localities will either mark all sewer laterals in the right of way, or will provide by fax, email, or internet the best available location information. In the event there are no records, the excavator may request that a person with knowledge of the system meet them on site.

HB 82 Civil Penalties for Violations of Sewer Use Ordinances

The second issue addressed by the HRPDC Directors of Utilities Committee is included in HB 82 Civil Penalties for Violations of Sewage Usage Ordinances. Throughout the Hampton Roads region, localities are establishing ordinances to govern discharges into sanitary sewers as part of their compliance with the Regional Consent Order with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality which requires them to reduce sanitary sewer overflows. The Committee members and local legal counsel collaborated with other utilities and the state to draft legislation that met the objectives of the localities and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and further enables the Hampton Roads Region to implement policies to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and protect the region's water quality.

The collaborative efforts of the Directors of Utilities Committee members saved localities time and effort and resulted in the favorable policy decisions and the addition of important new tools for local governments.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Will Significantly Impact Hampton Roads

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Physical & Environmental Planner

HRPDC Physical & Environmental Planning staff has completed the first year of research and planning for the impacts of climate change on the Hampton Roads region. The report, entitled *Climate Change: Impacts and Stakeholder Involvement*, looks at the science, general impacts, and localized effects of climate change as projected over the 21st century. The Hampton Roads region will be significantly affected by climate change through sea level rise, increases in precipitation, more intense storms, and higher temperatures. The report describes impacts to various sectors, including the built and natural environments, the economy, human health and society, and the water supply. The general descriptions given of these impacts set up the next year's more detailed investigation of specific impacts for the region, as well as development policy recommendations. The report also includes a section analyzing some of the projected impacts on the region's natural environment, summarizing research and analysis by both HRPDC and a group led by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The report also summarizes the meetings held throughout the year focusing on gathering information and input from localities and other stakeholders.

HRPDC's efforts to help the region plan for climate change continue into a second year that will focus on specific policy recommendations and continued stakeholder involvement. Specific projects for the upcoming year include: an assessment of economic impacts from climate change on the region, continued development of tools to project impacts from sea level rise, policy recommendations for adapting the built and natural environments to climate change impacts, and continued work on the regional framework for responding to climate change. Regional stakeholders will be consulted throughout the process through a stakeholder working group which is currently being organized.

National Environmental Education Week

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Senior Environmental Planner

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week), the nation's largest environmental education event held April 11-17, 2010, inspires environmental learning and stewardship among K-12 students. EE Week connects educators with environmental resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment. The National Environmental Education Foundation sponsors this observance. Recognizing the importance of conserving both water and energy to protect the planet and reduce costs and acknowledging the connection between water and energy. EE Week's 2010 theme is "Be Water and Energy Wise".

Whether you are an educator looking to engage your students and inspire real-world problem-solving in the classroom, a homeschooling parent looking to encourage leadership in your children or a community leader looking to promote local habitat conservation, participating in EE Week is a terrific way to enhance learning and bring about positive change in your school and community.

Locally, there are a variety of resources available through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission's Environmental Education Committees. Looking for more information on using water wisely? Visit www.hrwet.org for tips and fun water facts. Wondering what to do with left over fryer oil from your church fish fry? Log on to www.fatfreedrain.com to locate grease recycling locations in your area. Seen a crab medallion on the curb in your neighborhood? Go to www.hrstorm.org to find out more! Curious about the status of recycling in your locality? www.hrclean.org has the answers. Even better, all of these websites contain information about how you can apply for a mini-grant to help fund your K-12 classroom, youth group or club's environmental project! Follow us under HR Green on Facebook and Twitter to stay on top of all the latest environmental information in Hampton Roads.

HR WET Trailer Schedule

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Senior Environmental Planner

Want to learn more about water conservation and the steps you can take to reduce water consumption? If so, stop by the HR WET Trailer at the following upcoming events in the Hampton Roads area! The HR WET trailer is stocked full of water conservation tools and tips that can help you reduce your indoor and outdoor water use.



10 Year-Round Ways to Continuing Environmental Education

- *Incorporate environmental themes into daily lesson plans.*
- *Help students conduct an audit of water use and develop a plan to improve conservation at school and at home.*
- *Visit a local nature center with your students.*
- *Set up a nature scavenger hunt on your school grounds.*
- *Take students on a tour of a power plant or water treatment facility to learn about local water or energy resources.*
- *Partner with a local business or community group to host a clean-up or water quality monitoring event.*
- *Construct a wildlife habitat, schoolyard garden or outdoor classroom on your campus.*
- *Help students launch a school recycling campaign.*
- *Involve students in nature journaling.*
- *Ask students about environmental issues that concern them most and develop a service-learning project around these issues.*

Yorktown Earth Day Environmental Fair and Trade Show

April 22, 2010

Earth Day at Waller Mill Park, Williamsburg

April 24, 2010

Virginia Beach Earth Day Celebration

May 2, 2010

Newport News Water Conservation Event

May 8-9, 2010

Smithfield Olden Days

June 26, 2010

2010 VAHC Conference Descends on Hampton Roads, Again

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Housing/Human Services Manager

The Virginia Association of Housing Counselors' 2010 Annual Conference, Embracing a New Economic Horizon: Moving To The Next Level, will be held in the region again this year on April 26th through 29th at the Norfolk Waterside Sheraton. 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.

Several local housing experts have been added to the agenda and will be presenting on a number of related topics such as: Tenant Rights in Foreclosure, Affordable Housing Initiatives, Counseling Clients after Foreclosure and Bankruptcy, Addressing the Needs of the Homeless, and Organizational Capacity Building.

VAHC Members from across the State always express their preference to coming to Hampton Roads for the annual conferences. Over the last six years, the conference has been held in Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Norfolk.



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Vision Hampton Roads

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Chief Economist

In early 2009, community leaders and several regional organizations in Hampton Roads began collaboration on developing a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Federal guidelines that require a CEDS in order to access certain federal grants provided the original impetus for the development of a regional plan. As discussion progressed, it soon became evident that the development of such a plan could provide a tremendous opportunity for the region to come together and create a united vision for regional growth.

The Hampton Roads Partnership, with co-sponsor the HRPDC, took the lead role in the plan's development. Following the guidelines established by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the Hampton Roads Partnership convened a steering committee that was comprised of predominantly private-sector representatives, but also included public officials, community leaders, workforce development boards, representatives of institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, as well as private individuals. Four subcommittees focused on four pillars of the region's economy: Federal (including defense), Port & Maritime, Tourism Arts & Culture, and Opportunities.

The subcommittees developed a list of objectives, strategies, and actions to help create a strategic vision for the region. Each subcommittee entered into a series of meetings, discussing the subject matter at length and paying special attention to four cross-cutting regional issues: 1) Education and Workforce Development 2) Infrastructure, Land Use & Technology 3) Energy and Environmental Issues 4) Quality of Life Issues. The work done through the subcommittees was brought before the steering committee on several occasions. Each sub-committee then provided a finalized list of objectives and strategies, for inclusion in the CEDS document.

Extensive public input helped shape "Vision Hampton Roads" into a regional strategic plan. Vision Hampton Roads has been sent to the Economic Development Administration for approval. The final document, as submitted, can be reviewed at www.VisionHamptonRoads.com. A Plan of Action is being set in place that will continue to build on the spirit of regional cooperation, maintaining discussion among sub-committee members and bringing together regional organizations for a united effort.

ECONOMICS

A Look at the Region's Labor Force

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Economist

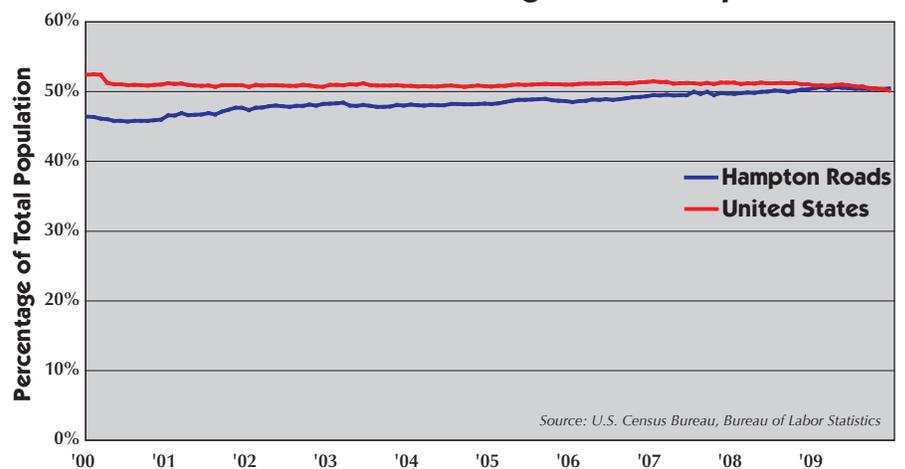
The unemployment rate attracts news coverage and attention in a way that few other economic indicators are able. The unemployment rate combines two different sets of labor market data, and thus analyzing this indicator properly requires greater subtlety than is commonly understood. The Bureau of Labor Statistics derives the unemployment rate by dividing the number of unemployed workers by the total civilian labor force. The civilian labor force is all who either are looking for employment or who are currently employed. This combination leads to the unemployment rate being a severely lagging indicator for turning points in the economy, as changes in the size of the labor force can mask changes in employment and unemployment. This fact has led many economists to predict that the national unemployment rate will remain flat for most of the year despite forecasting improving economic conditions. Economists expect the unemployment rate to remain flat because previously discouraged workers (those who had stopped looking for jobs), will re-enter the labor force and the ranks of the unemployed as they sense that the economy is improving.

A close examination of the Hampton Roads labor force can determine both the relative usefulness of the unemployment rate as an economic indicator and the prevalence of discouraged workers in the regional economy. Hampton Roads' labor force participation rate (defined here as the labor force divided by the population) has grown steadily over the last two decades, though it has leveled out over the past year. This most likely indicates that there are few discouraged workers waiting to enter the labor force. Thus the Hampton Roads' unemployment rate should quickly adjust to changes in employment. In contrast, while the national labor force has only declined by 0.2%, the U.S. needs to add approximately 150,000 jobs per month to keep pace with population growth as well as to maintain its labor force participation rate, and thus the numbers indicate a large number of discouraged workers sitting on the sidelines of the economy pending the advent of economic growth. It is also notable that the comparisons between the U.S. and Hampton Roads' labor force participation rate underestimate a regional strength, as the official employment statistics do not include the military population that compose 11.5% of the combined regional labor force, as compared to 0.6% for the nation. Thus it can be said that the region has a far greater percentage of active participants in the economy than the nation as a whole.

Hampton Roads Unemployment Rate, Seasonally Adjusted



Labor Force as a Percentage of Total Population



2010 South Hampton Roads Regional Task Force on Ending Homelessness Conference Held

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Housing/Human Services Manager

The South Hampton Roads Task Force on Ending Homelessness held its third regional conference on March 16, 2010. Over 250 participants attended this one-day event held on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan University.

The goal of the conference was to provide a forum for local and regional leaders, service providers and industry stakeholders to share best practice information and promote strategic planning as it relates to addressing homelessness. The conference featured presentations and workshops given by local and national industry experts. Topics included: Re-entry for Ex-Offenders, Recognizing the Signs & Symptoms of Mental Illness in Persons Experiencing Homelessness, Housing-Focused Case Management, and Involving the Faith Community in Ending Homelessness. The Regional Needs Assessment was presented by Suzanne Wagner, Center for Urban Community Services. This assessment provides much-needed data on the current state of homelessness services as well as recommendations and services to implement in an effort to eliminate homelessness in the region.



Established in 2005, the Task Force is an active working group that implements the regional activities approved by the Mayors and Chairs of the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach. It also consists of staff participants from a variety of offices in each locality as well as other nonprofit organizations. Together, through the Task Force, these localities and organizations address homelessness on a regional basis in addition to being able to strengthen their own locality programs and efforts.

For more information on the South Hampton Roads Regional Taskforce on Ending Homelessness, please visit: www.VBgov.com/housing or call 757.385.5761.

Have You Sent in Your Census Form?

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Chief Economist

Census 2010 is underway! The U.S. Constitution requires the federal government to conduct a nation-wide Census every ten years. Participation is important because each year over \$400 billion in federal funds is distributed to states and communities based on the Census headcount. The Census is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as to redistrict voting districts.

Census forms were mailed out in mid-March to Hampton Roads' households with the hopes of receiving the completed forms by April 1st, Census Day. From April through July Census workers will begin visiting households that have not returned their forms. By law, the Census Bureau must deliver the population count to the President by December 2010 for apportionment. The Census Bureau will complete delivery of redistricting data to states by March 2011.

HRPDC staff is helping the Census effort by distributing Census materials, including Census information in newsletters and mailings, and offering to provide translation services.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census>.

Photo Credit: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office



The 2010 Census-sponsored Ford Fusion No. 16 makes a stop at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington. Greg Biffle drove the car in three NASCAR Sprint Cup races in March.

Emergency Operations Centers Going On-line

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Senior Regional Emergency Management Planner

Most of us by now are aware of webinars and general Internet-based productivity tools such as Web mail and collaboration software. What many do not know is that this type of technology is being put to use to streamline and better coordinate information and resources in times of disaster by the local emergency managers. While there are many types of consequence management software tools on the market, the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (made up of local Emergency Managers and Planners) decided to adopt and procure WebEOC® (through the FY07 Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative Grant), in no small part due to its widespread use in the Commonwealth and surrounding States.

What in the past had to be done with paper, pen, and facsimile machines, with physical in/out boxes and multitudes of phone calls using banks of phones within the emergency operation center (EOC), local emergency managers and other response personnel now have the ability to accomplish many of those tasks with a few keystrokes and the click of a mouse. Using WebEOC® consequence management software, managers in the region can update and share in real-time the status of school closures, shelter openings/closings, roadway conditions, evacuation efforts,

hazardous materials spills or any other relevant disaster-related information that is needed to make sound decisions across organizations when responding to an event. To facilitate this process even further, personnel do not necessarily need to be in their emergency operation center to view information—as WebEOC® is web-enabled—thereby allowing personnel to work from their respective department or anywhere there is an internet connection resulting in a virtual command post or a “WebEOC.”

Upon completion of the incident response phase, information shared in WebEOC® can be used during the recovery process and to facilitate after action reporting as all information and activity entered into WebEOC® is automatically captured. While each WebEOC® install comes with standard information sharing “boards,” the region is continually working to improve upon how best to work together and with the Commonwealth using a common operating platform, sharing only that information deemed vital or useful on shared and customized boards.

Eventually, as the process for utilizing this new tool matures, it is expected that WebEOC® will become well-integrated within the daily activities of emergency management and emergency operations centers’ standard operating procedures.



Jurisdiction	Last Updated	EOC Activated	State of Emergency	Mandatory Evacuation	Voluntary Evacuation	School Status	Municipal Operating Status	Shelters Open	Comments
Chesapeake	02/25/2010 11:59:52	Closed	No	No	No	Open	Normal	0	Comments
Chesapeake	02/25/2010 11:41:34	Closed	No	No	No	Closed	Essential	0	Comments
Hampton	02/06/2010 12:13:32	Open	No	No	No	Open	Normal	0	Comments
Williamsburg	01/21/2010 12:42:01	Closed	No	No	No	Closed	Normal	0	Comments
Virginia Beach	01/21/2010 09:17:39	Open	Yes	No	No	Closed	Normal	0	Comments
Hampton	01/30/2010 18:37:16	Closed	Yes	No	No	Closed	Normal	0	Comments
Virginia Beach	01/30/2010 18:18:52	Open	Yes	No	No	Closed	Normal	0	Comments
Williamsburg	01/30/2010 16:40:19	Closed	No	No	No	Closed	Modified	0	Comments
Chesapeake	01/29/2010 16:05:40	Open	No	No	No	Open	Normal	0	Comments
Williamsburg	01/30/2010 11:25:51	Open	No	No	No	Closed	Modified	0	Comments
Chesapeake	01/30/2010 09:14:27	Open	No	No	No	Closed	Modified	0	Comments
Portsmouth	01/30/2010 10:18:44	Open	No	No	No	Closed	Modified	0	Comments
Isle of Wight	01/30/2010 10:00:31	Open	Yes	No	Yes	Closed	Modified	0	Comments
Surry County	01/30/2010	Closed	No	No	No	Open	Normal	0	Comments

HOEPS 2010 Is Here!

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

The Healthcare Organizations Emergency Preparedness Seminar (HOEPS) 2010 will be held on May 6th at the Newport News Marriott at City Center and May 7th at the Hilton at the Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. This year's theme is Holding Back the Storm: Forging Stronger Links, and will provide opportunities for participants from group homes, mental health facilities, and assisted living facilities to connect with community organizations, whether government, nonprofit or private, and foster stronger relationships when it comes to being prepared for all types of hazards. The seminar will also provide workshops for participants that address how to write emergency plans for their facilities.

The HOEPS Committee consists of representatives from the following organizations: Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC), Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Tidewater (TEMS) and Peninsula (PEMS) Emergency Medical Services, Social Services, American Red Cross and Community Service Boards.

Learn more about this year's HOEPS at www.hoeps.org.

Virginia Emergency Management Association Symposium—Special Needs Presentation

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

Two HRPDC supported committees regarding populations with special needs have been invited to conduct a *Special Populations/Special Needs and Inmates Workshop* at this year's Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) Symposium.

The Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC) Special Needs Subcommittee will present its efforts to identify populations with special needs in the region to both develop tools that address their unique needs as they relate to emergency planning and provide innovative public outreach venues to improve personal preparedness efforts in the community. John Kulinski, Co-Chair of the Hampton Roads Inmate Evacuation Planning Committee, will also share the group's ground-breaking initiatives addressing emergency preparedness needs and evacuation issues for the region's local and regional jails. Presentations will be followed by panel discussions provided by members of each committee.

For more information about VEMA and this year's symposium, visit www.vemaweb.org.



HOLDING BACK THE STORM: FORGING STRONGER LINKS

Emergency Management

UASI Update

John Sadler, jsadler@hrpdcva.gov
Regional UASI Planner

The HRPDC serves as the program manager for the region's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), a grant funded program administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The UASI grant addresses unique multi-disciplinary planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and assists them in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism. This program provides funding to high-risk urban areas based on risk. The eligible candidates have been grouped into two tiers according to relative risk. Tier I includes highest risk areas; Tier II includes the other 53 candidate areas. Hampton Roads is a Tier II region.

The UASI program began in fiscal year 2003. However, Hampton Roads was not considered an eligible high-risk urban area until fiscal year 2007. Originally, 5 core cities: Norfolk, Newport News, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, and Hampton composed the "Norfolk Urban Area." However, as allowed by DHS, the Chief Administrative Officers of the HRPDC localities agreed to have stakeholders from all sixteen jurisdictions of the "Hampton Roads Urban Area" participate in this program and be eligible to receive UASI funds.

After the submission of the fiscal year 2010 application, the Hampton Roads UASI will have received \$30.6 million of UASI funds. These funds support 18 initiatives totaling thirty-three projects. These initiatives include:

- Regional Security and Preparedness Enhancements for Mass Transit
- Hampton Roads Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive, and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Personal Equipment Enhancement Program
- Expanding and Enhancing Interoperable Voice and Data Communications
- Virginia Fusion Center Information/Intelligence Sharing
- Expanding and Enhancing Special Needs and Mass Evacuation Capabilities
- Maritime Security and Response
- Multi-Urban-Area Intelligence and Information Sharing
- Hampton Roads Citizen Corps Council Public Education & Outreach Initiatives

- Hampton Roads Bomb Squad Initiative
- Risk and Capabilities Assessment, Planning and Multi-Regional Coordination
- Hampton Roads Incident Management Team Development
- Hampton Roads Regional License Plate Reader System
- Maritime Incident Response Team
- Pet Evacuation and Management Resources
- Water Assessment and Emergency Response
- Enhanced information sharing for First Responders at Higher Education Centers
- Special Needs Shelter Equipment Enhancement
- Regional WebEOC® Integration

Since each fiscal year of grant funds have a thirty-six month performance period, the FY07 projects are nearly complete. FY08 initiatives are currently underway and FY09 initiatives are now receiving funding to commence those projects. The award for FY10 is expected to be available for projects by January 2011.



Multi-Region Target Capability Assessment Project Update

Natalie Easterday, neasterday@hrpdcva.gov

Regional Emergency Management Planner,

In September 2009, the Hampton Roads and Central Virginia Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) regions kicked off a multi-region target capability assessment (TCA). With funding from the 2008 UASI grant, the purpose of the one million dollar, one year project is to assess the two regions that span 36 localities against 14 Department of Homeland Security target capabilities. Since the initial kickoff, the TCA has accomplished several of the project's objectives.

The first objective accomplished was a review of critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) as part of a risk validation initiative. While the majority of jurisdictions had previously conducted internal risk assessments and there was a general understanding of regional risk, the regional risk verification process validated assumptions and will continue to help the region better target future initiatives around risk.

The second objective accomplished was the establishment of regional targets for each of the 14 target capabilities in the areas of planning, organization, training and equipment. The purpose of establishing the targets was to create the

framework within which data collected throughout the TCA process would be evaluated. To ensure a comprehensive and relevant list of regional targets, subject matter experts from each of the jurisdictions reviewed the 14 target capabilities and established the regional targets.

A third objective currently underway is the jurisdictional workshops. The workshops are a one-on-one opportunity for jurisdictional representatives to discuss their capabilities as they relate to planning, organization, exercise, and training. Information collected during the workshops is being used to create a regional perspective that will be evaluated using the regional targets. Currently, about half of the jurisdictional workshops have been completed and the remaining half should be completed by the end of May.

Following the conclusion of this capability assessment initiative, the project will be expanded to include a review of additional target capabilities beginning this fall with fiscal year 2010 UASI grant funds.



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May 19 HRPDC Executive Committee
held at: 9:30am, The Regional Board Room

Jun 16 HRPDC Executive Committee
held at: 9:30am, The Regional Board Room

Jul 21 HRPDC Quarterly Commission
held at: 9:30am, The Regional Board Room

MEETING CALENDAR