

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #4: RESOLUTION ON FREEBOARD REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT:

The HRPDC Special Committee on Recurrent Flooding and Sea Level Rise has recommended the Commission adopt a resolution encouraging local governments to consider adopting freeboard requirements or increasing existing requirements as part of their floodplain management strategies.

BACKGROUND:

On March 20, 2014 the HRPDC voted to establish a Special Committee on Recurrent Flooding and Sea Level Rise. One of the objectives of this Committee is to develop specific recommendations related to recurrent flooding and sea level rise adaptation and mitigation for local governments. On December 19, 2014, the Committee voted to recommend the Commission adopt a resolution encouraging local governments to consider adopting or increasing freeboard requirements as part of their floodplain management strategies.

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner will be present the freeboard recommendations to the Commission.

Attachment 4

Note: This will be presented for action under Consent Agenda Item #10-F



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2015-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
ENCOURAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN HAMPTON ROADS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING
NEW OR HIGHER FREEBOARD REQUIREMENTS TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF
RECURRENT FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

WHEREAS, the “Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia,” completed at the request of the General Assembly by the Center for Coastal Resources Management of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, found that “recurrent flooding is a significant issue in Virginia coastal localities and one that is predicted to become worse over reasonable planning horizons.”

WHEREAS, reports by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission staff have found the Hampton Roads region to be vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise.

WHEREAS, implementing freeboard requirements makes structures safer and better able to withstand damage from flooding.

WHEREAS, incorporating freeboard into residential construction can result in lower flood insurance premiums for individual homeowners.

WHEREAS, higher freeboard requirements can help communities earn credit through the Community Rating System, which can reduce flood insurance premiums community-wide.

WHEREAS, freeboard requirements can provide continued protection against flooding by keeping structures above the base flood elevation as sea level rises.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission hereby encourages localities in Hampton Roads to consider adopting freeboard requirements as part of their floodplain management regulations if they have not already done so and to consider adopting higher freeboard requirements if such requirements are already included in local regulations.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 15th day of January 2015.

Kenneth I. Wright
Chair

Randy R. Keaton
Interim Executive Director/Secretary