

**THE DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE  
HRPDC COASTAL RESILIENCY COMMITTEE  
September 23, 2016**

**1. Summary of the June 24, 2016 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Coastal Resiliency Committee.**

The summary of the June 24, 2016 meeting of the Hampton Roads Coastal Resiliency Committee was accepted as distributed.

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. FEMA Requirements for Permitting Development in Special Flood Hazards Areas**

Mr. Steve Shapiro, Deputy Director of Community Development for the City of Hampton, and Ms. Bonnie Brown, Senior Assistant City Attorney for the City of Hampton, gave a briefing to the Committee on discussions with FEMA Region III regarding the city's recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) from FEMA. During the CAV FEMA staff identified issues with the city's lack of permitting all development within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and issued an immediate Corrective Action. The practice in question is the city's exemption from permitting certain activities as outlined in the Uniform Statewide Building Code, such as replacing windows, roofs, and cabinets. FEMA Region III staff state that these exemptions are not applicable in the SFHA, while city staff have stated that both historic practice and FEMA's guidance manual state that routine maintenance efforts can be exempted.

The Committee concurred with Hampton staff's assessment and asked to be kept informed of any developments.

**4. Economic Impacts of Sea Level Rise**

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC, gave a presentation to the Committee on a recent HRPDC assessment of analysis options for estimating the economic impacts of sea level rise and flooding. This assessment was completed as part of the HRPDC's Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program funding from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The assessment was developed to provide a roadmap for potential future HRPDC projects. Four types of analysis were considered, with the goal of identifying each option's costs, benefits, and potential negatives. The four types were: direct damage estimation, property value analysis, economic impact from adaptation, and

economic drag from sea level rise. Overall, direct damage and property value analysis were found to be good candidates for future work.

The Committee discussed the results and other efforts that are currently underway by individual localities. The Committee did not recommend pursuing these projects at the current time, expressing concern with the long-term usefulness of the studies. However, the Committee suggested that developing a roadmap with best practices or a baseline based on previous or ongoing work by HRPDC, Virginia Beach, and Norfolk.

## **5. Survey of Perceptions of Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Adaptation**

Dr. Michelle Covi and Dr. Wie Yusuf, Old Dominion University, gave a presentation to the Committee on a recently completed survey the university undertook to help inform planning and resilience efforts in Hampton Roads. The survey recorded perceptions about vulnerability to sea level rise, flooding, and the feasibility of and support for adaptation actions. The survey was web-based and distributed through city websites, newsletters, ODU networks, live events, and libraries from May to June 2016. A total of 1,633 completed responses were received. Most of the respondents were from Norfolk and Virginia Beach, but responses were received from twelve communities in Hampton Roads. Most respondents rated their personal vulnerability to flooding from sea level rise as high or extremely high, and over 60% think that sea level rise is already impacting the region. No adaptation actions were considered feasible by a majority of respondents, but floodplain management, natural solutions, and improved drainage all were supported by nearly half of respondents. The most supported public activities were constructing more resilient public buildings, using green infrastructure, and changing building codes and construction standards.

## **6. HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Program and Budget**

Mr. McFarlane and Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the HRPDC's proposed coastal resiliency program budget for 2017-2018. The HRPDC staff seeks recommendations from advisory committees for budgets that will be approved by the Commission. For 2016-2017 the coastal resiliency budget was directly approved by the CAOs. The budget provides funding for staff work on resiliency projects and issues. Each locality's share of the proposed budget is allocated proportionately based on population. The staff also presented an option for funding subsidence monitoring using benchmarks based on the same allocation.

All Committee members present, with one abstention (Isle of Wight County), voted to recommend that the funding for staff work be approved. The HRPDC staff will follow up with Isle of Wight County and absent localities to obtain their votes.

#### **7. HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Work Program Update**

The HRPDC staff updated the Committee on regional resiliency efforts and plans for future resiliency workgroup discussions. The HRPDC staff have established a system for holding informal workgroup meetings to discuss technical issues related to resiliency. The workgroups meet in months when the Committee does not meet. Future meetings of the workgroup will focus on issues such as first floor elevation data needs, planning scenarios, and modeling.

#### **8. Update on Federal and State Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding**

There were no updates on state efforts.

#### **9. Updates on PDC and Local Efforts Related to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding**

There were no local updates.

#### **10. Other Matters**

The next meeting of the Coastal Resiliency Committee will be held in December 2016.