

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #12: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. FY 2010 ATLANTIC SEASONAL HURRICANE FORECAST

Drs. Gray and Klotzbach at Colorado State University released their 2010 hurricane forecast on April 7, 2010. Summary information on the forecast is attached. The HRPDC staff expects to have a presentation on the forecast, hurricane preparedness and related issues at the May 2010 HRPDC Executive Committee Meeting.

Attachment 12-A

B. SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resource Conservation and Development, better known as RC&D, is a unique program. It helps people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that will improve the area=s economy, environment, and living standards. RC&D Councils facilitate getting people involved to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental problems in their communities. Councils are comprised of local citizens and the areas covered are typically multi-city/county in scope. Sponsoring organizations may include county and city governments, soil and water conservation districts, towns, water districts, planning district commissions and other nonprofit groups. RC&D councils are nonprofit corporations that have authority to seek help from sources qualified to provide financial assistance. This help may be technical or assistance from government agencies, private industry, grants and foundations. RC&D is authorized by the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97-97, 16 U.S.C. 345-3461, as amended by Public Law 101-624, Section 1452. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the local programs.

The South Hampton Roads RC&D is not yet fully recognized by USDA in terms of funding for support staff, but the Council has still been able to coordinate several significant projects operating as a 501(c)(3). Ms. Julia Hillegass, HRPDC Senior Environmental Planner represents the HRPDC on the Council's Board. This year's Virginia RC&D Association's Annual Meeting will be held in Smithfield later this month and is a great opportunity to see some of the exciting projects that the South Hampton Roads RC&D has fostered. A copy of the Agenda and related materials are attached.

Attachment 12-B1
Attachment 12-B2
Attachment 12-B3
Attachment 12-B4

C. **2010 STEWARDSHIP VIRGINIA**

Governor McDonnell has announced the launching of the 2010 Stewardship Virginia spring campaign. Stewardship Virginia is a program to encourage volunteers to participate in a specific group of tangible projects that will contribute to conserving Virginia's environment – landscapes, water quality, recreational opportunities and fisheries and wildlife. Attached is a letter announcing the campaign, an event registration form and facts about Stewardship Virginia. The spring program will run from April 1 – May 31, 2010.

Several of the localities and other local and regional organizations have already registered events. The HRPDC Environmental Education Program Committees are participating in many of these.

Attachment 12-C

D. **HRPDC STAFF RECOGNITION**

Ms. Jennifer Tribo, HRPDC Physical and Environmental Planner, has received a 2010 Stoneroller Award from the Center for Watershed Protection for her participation in the Extreme BMP (Best Management Practices) 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.

Ms. Andrea Gayer, Special Consultant on the WebEOC Project, was recognized at the Virginia Emergency Management Association annual awards dinner held at the Hampton Convention Center, April 1, 2010 by the Virginia Emergency Management Association and Virginia Emergency Management Department. She was the recipient of the 2009 - 2010 VEMA Group Achievement Award for her work with implementing WebEOC in Hampton Roads. The Group Achievement Award known as the "**Clarence P. "Pete" Rea, Jr. Group Achievement Award**" is awarded for Excellence and Dedication to the Emergency Management Profession in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Gayer has worked tirelessly with Emergency Managers and Information Technology personnel throughout the region implementing WebEOC and providing training to ensure this tool would be used in supporting consequence management activities in each locality's Emergency Operations Center. Additionally, she has been instrumental in ensuring the region is connected as a whole and has worked with VDEM to ensure the localities and the region is fully connected and interoperable with the Virginia Emergency Operations Center.

Attachment 12-D

E. U.S. HUD SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced intention to offer competitive grant funding through its *Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program*. The Program, funded at \$100 million (and an additional \$40 million for a Community Planning Challenge Grants Program), is to support multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, economic development, and transportation decision-making in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic growth, social equity, and environmental impact simultaneously. Grants will be capped at a maximum of \$2 million for entities of small metropolitan or rural areas (under 500,000 population) and \$5 million for large metropolitan area entities (500,000+ population). Proposals will be solicited by HUD from the week of April 12, 2010 to June 5, 2010, with grants announced by August 2, 2010.

The three key funding categories include:

- Preparation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development that address housing, economic development, transportation and environmental quality in an integrated fashion where such plans do not currently exist.
- Preparation of more detailed execution plans and programs to implement existing regional sustainable development plans (that address housing, economic development, transportation and environmental quality in an integrated fashion).
- Implementation incentives for plans already in place.

The staffs of the HRTPO and HRPDC are working to formulate a project proposal for application to this grant program ahead of HUD's release of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The current concept involves a regional effort consisting of the HRTPO/HRPDC as the lead entity, member localities, and regional partners to draft a regional development framework. The goal of the regional development framework would be to improve the regional integration of local plans, accounting for initiatives within different livability areas including transportation, housing, environment, land use, and other applicable areas of interest.

Attachment 12-E

FYI: 2010 Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Forecast

Released: April 7, 2010

Dr. William Gray and Dr. Philip Klotzbach from the Colorado State University's "Tropical Meteorology Projects Forecasts" have just released their forecast for the 2010 hurricane season and it is not good news.

We continue to foresee above-average activity for the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season. We have increased our seasonal forecast from the mid-point of our initial early December prediction due to a combination of anomalous warming of Atlantic tropical sea surface temperatures and a more confident view that the current El Niño will weaken. We anticipate an above-average probability of United States and Caribbean major hurricane landfall.

Due to much warmer sea surface temperatures and a "dying" El Niño, activity is expected to be about **60% above normal** with 15 names storms, 8 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes. This is a major change from the relatively quiet season of 2009 which was 35% below normal.

The summary information is shown below with complete details at <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>.

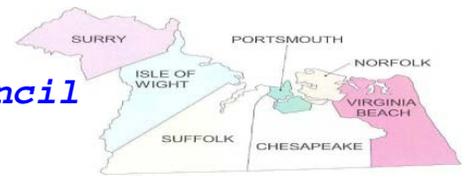
ATLANTIC BASIN SEASONAL HURRICANE FORECAST FOR 2010

Forecast Parameter and 1950-2000 Climatology (in parentheses)	Issue Date 9 December 2009	Issue Date 7 April 2010
Named Storms (NS) (9.6)	11-16	15
Named Storm Days (NSD) (49.1)	51-75	75
Hurricanes (H) (5.9)	6-8	8
Hurricane Days (HD) (24.5)	24-39	35
Intense Hurricanes (IH) (2.3)	3-5	4
Intense Hurricane Days (IHD) (5.0)	6-12	10
Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) (96.1)	100-162	150
Net Tropical Cyclone Activity (NTC) (100%)	108-172	160

More information about these predicted conditions for the upcoming hurricane season will be in the revised forecasts on June 2 and August 4.

**South Hampton Roads
Resource Conservation and Development Council**

310 Shea Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322
757-547-7172



Chesapeake

Robin Freeman
James Vachon

Isle of Wight

Al Casteen
Rachel Chieppa, Secretary

Norfolk

Kevin Dubois
David Rosenthal

Portsmouth

Meg Pittenger
Marlene W. Randall

Suffolk

Joseph H. Barlow
Cindy Taylor, Vice-Chair

Surry

Judy Lyttle, Chair
Rev. Daniel Baltimore

Virginia Beach

Jack Whitney

**Hampton Roads Planning
District Commission**

Julia Hillegass

**Peanut Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Keith Seward, Past-Chair
Tara Outland-Williams

**Virginia Dare Soil and
Water Conservation District**

Kathleen Hickman, Treasurer

Date: February 12, 2010

To: VARCDC Delegates, RC&D Council Chairs, NRCS Staff, Partners and Guests

From: Judy Lyttle, Chair, South Hampton Roads RC&D Council

Re: Virginia Association of RC&D Councils 2010 Spring Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Virginia Association of RC&D Councils (VARCDC) Spring Meeting, April 28 – April 30, 2010, in Smithfield, VA at the Smithfield Conference Center. Our theme will be “Making Things Happen in South Hampton Roads.” We are looking forward to hosting this conference and making sure you will have an enjoyable experience during your visit with us.

The meeting will be held at the Smithfield Conference Center, which is located on the Pagan River in the Historic District of Smithfield. In 2004, the Town of Smithfield, located in Isle of Wight County, was recognized by the White House as a preserved community. This designation is a federal initiative that encourages and supports preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Smithfield grew economically as a center for peanut farming and meat processing becoming “Ham Capital of the World.” This prosperity is reflected in the many historic buildings from the period that exist with their colonial neighbors to make up the Smithfield Historic District which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We have worked hard at planning a great conference experience for you. On Wednesday we will begin our business sessions and have training provided by outside consultants on nonprofit advocacy and the revised 990 form. You can expect wine tasting and live music at Wednesday evening's banquet as we recognize our award winners. On Thursday we will take a tour of our RC&D projects and other points of interest in the Hampton Roads area. Later that evening we will have dinner at the Smithfield Conference Center and hold our live auction. The conference will conclude Friday morning with our business session.

Enclosed you will find the preliminary meeting information including registration information, tentative program agenda, lodging information, bus tour stops, and request for auction items. The meeting will begin at 12:30pm on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. The host hotel is the Hampton Inn Suites in Smithfield. Hotel reservations must be made by March 27, 2010.

All Councils are invited to bring a display board to showcase their projects, activities, and other accomplishments to show our collective impact statewide. Please forward our invitation package to any of your partners and sponsors that you feel would like to join us. If you have questions regarding the conference please contact our Acting RC&D Coordinator, Patrick Vincent at (804) 732-4375.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Lyttle".

Judy Lyttle,
Chair, South Hampton Roads RC&D Council

Virginia Association of RC&D Councils
2010 Annual Spring Meeting - Draft Agenda
Smithfield Conference Center, Smithfield, Virginia
(Wednesday, April 28, 2010 - Friday, April 30, 2010)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

All sessions will be held in the Smithfield Center

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Conference Registration	
	Lunch on Your Own	
12:30 p.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<i>Judy Lyttle</i>
	Town of Smithfield/Isle of Wight County	
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VARC&DC Business Meeting	<i>Bill Smith</i>
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Training	
	Nonprofit Advocacy Virginia Association of Nonprofit Organizations	<i>Deborah Barfield Williamson, Executive Director</i>
	Revised 990 Form 501 Advisors, Inc	<i>Randy Howard, President</i>
6:30 p.m.	Live Auction Viewing Wine Tasting	
7 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet	<i>Judy Lyttle</i>
	Special Guest	
	Presentation of Awards	<i>Awards Committee</i>

Thursday, April 29, 2010

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	<i>Hotel</i>
8:30 a.m.	Tour Departure <i>(Lunch Provided)</i>	<i>Front of Hotel</i>
4:00 p.m.	Return to Hampton Inn Suites	
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Dinner & Live Auction	<i>Smithfield Conference Center</i>

Friday, April 30, 2010

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	<i>Hotel</i>
8:30 a.m.	Call meeting to order	<i>Bill Smith</i>
8:35 - 11:00 a.m.	VARC&DC Business Meeting	<i>Bill Smith</i>
11:00 a.m.	Closing Remarks & Adjournment	<i>Bill Smith</i>

Virginia Association of RC&D Councils 2010 Annual Spring Meeting

“Making Things Happen....In South Hampton Roads”

April 28 – April 30, 2010
Hosted by South Hampton Roads RC&D

Smithfield Conference Center
Smithfield, Virginia

Registration

(Only one registration form is needed for couples)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ RC&D Representing: _____

No.	Description	Amount
Full Registration:		
_____	Wednesday: Business Session, Training, and Awards Banquet	
_____	Thursday: Lunch, Tour, Dinner, and Live Auction	
_____	Friday: Business Session	
		\$150.00/ea. _____
Partial Registration:		
_____	Wednesday: Business Session, Training, and Awards Banquet	
_____	Thursday: Lunch and Tour	
_____	Thursday: Dinner and Live Auction	
_____	Friday: Business Session	
		\$50.00/ea. _____ \$75.00/ea. _____ \$35.00/ea. _____ Free _____
Total Enclosed:		_____

Make Checks Payable to: South Hampton Roads RC&D
Send checks and registration forms to: South Centré Corridors RC&D ▪ P.O. Box 1237, Prince George, VA 23875
Deadline for Registration is April 21, 2010

Food Allergies: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Hotel Reservations: A room rate of \$70.00 per night plus 10% tax has been negotiated with the Hampton Inn Suites in Smithfield, VA. Please make reservations by calling **1-800-426-7866 (toll free)** by **March 27, 2010**. When you call, ask for the block of rooms reserved under the **Virginia Association RC&D Conference** rate. A credit card number is needed to reserve the room.

For any questions regarding registration please contact South Centré Corridors RC&D Council at (804) 732-4375.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
Date Received _____	Received by _____	Paid by Cash _____	Check Number _____	RC&D Display _____

Virginia Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils

Spring Meeting

April 28 - 30, 2010

Smithfield, Virginia

Hosted By South Hampton Roads RC&D Council



Our Meeting Place
Smithfield Conference Center



Host Hotel
Hampton Inn Suites
Smithfield, Virginia

Just Some of Our Tour Stops



Camp
E.W. Young



Practicing Environmental Responsibility
in Isle of Wight County, Virginia

Other Activities Planned



We will see you there!



Virginia Association of RC&D Councils Spring Meeting Bus Tour Information – April 29, 2010

- **Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center** – Take a tour of the Hampton Roads AREC demonstration gardens in Virginia Beach. The garden is one of the city's best kept secrets. The demonstration garden area contains a filterra unit, rain garden, buffer zone, irrigation pond, and new sustainable landscape garden. The Hampton Roads AREC facility is considered to be the only know place in the US with all of these water-related gardens and products in one place.
- **Virginia Beach Farmers Market** - The Virginia Beach Farmers Market features a variety of agriculturally inspired shops and related businesses offering seasonal, fresh vegetables and fruit in addition to many other products. The market has an organic grocer, butcher shop, dairy store, flower & gift shop, candy and bakery shop, restaurant, nature gifts and specialty gift stores, and a home and garden gift store, offering you a unique and varied shopping experience.
- **Camp Young** – Camp Young is located on 30 acres along the Intercoastal Waterway in the City of Chesapeake. Camp Young, owned and operated by Norfolk Public Schools, is a day camp for elementary school students attending Title I schools. Through assistance received from the RC&D Council, Camp Young and Norfolk Public Schools received a \$75,000 grant to restore 1100 linear feet of eroding shoreline.
- **Community Gardens at Western Tidewater Community Services Board (WTCSB)** – South Hampton Roads RC&D Council assisted mentally and physically handicapped members at the WTCSB facility in Suffolk, VA with establishing a community garden. The Council received a grant to purchase the materials and supplies to construct 10 raised garden beds. Members of the facility were assisted with construction of the beds by Council Members, NRCS Staff, Earth Team Volunteers, Extension Agents, and SWCD Staff.
- **Isle Be Green** - South Hampton Roads RC&D Council partnered with Isle of Wight County for a pilot project called Isle Be Green to promote the recycling of plastic bags. If time permits there will be a quick stop at the Isle of Wight Courthouse to hear more about the project and see the baler used to compact plastic bags.
<http://islebegreen.com/>



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

March 31, 2010

Dear Fellow Virginians:

I am honored to be launching the 2010 Stewardship Virginia spring campaign to run April 1 through May 31, 2010. Stewardship Virginia is a campaign to encourage volunteers to participate in a specific group of tangible projects that will contribute to conserving Virginia's landscapes, improving water quality, providing for improved recreational opportunities, and enhancing fisheries and wildlife.

Citizens, businesses and service groups across the Commonwealth are encouraged to become involved by adopting streams, planting buffers, improving wildlife habitat, and participating in educational and recreational programs.

Virginia's natural resource agencies and others will participate in these efforts. Those who participate will be recognized at a later date. Given your commitment to wise stewardship, I am asking you to identify and undertake one or more projects and to register your event or activity with Stewardship Virginia so we can recognize your contribution to improving the environment. Or, if you prefer, volunteer for one of the projects sponsored by our natural resource agencies. You can find a list of them at www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship.

Virginia's landscapes and waterways are important for their ecological value, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. If you or your organization would like to participate in Stewardship Virginia, complete the attached registration form and mail or fax it to the address listed. You can also register your event on-line at the above website.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is once again taking a leadership role in this campaign. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Bonnie Phillips with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at (804) 786-5056 or toll free at 1-877-42-WATER.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell

RFM/dd
Attachment
Cc: Doug Domenech, Secretary of Natural Resources



Stewardship Virginia

April 1 - May 31, 2010

September 1 - October 31, 2010

**Building a Better Outdoors -
Today, Tomorrow... Every Day**

Stewardship Virginia is a statewide initiative held twice annually to help citizens with projects that enhance and conserve Virginia's natural and cultural resources. Its focus is on projects that

- > enhance water quality
- > control invasive species
- > improve recreational resources
- > preserve historic and cultural resources
- > conserve natural heritage resources
- > educate people about recreational, historical, cultural, wildlife, forest and water resources
- > improve wildlife habitat and tree cover

Interested? Then get involved!

Get the word out about Stewardship Virginia by mentioning it in your newsletter, posting flyers on bulletin boards or promoting it with paychecks or organizational mailings. Businesses can grant employees time off to help with an event. Business can also contribute directly to the campaign to help defray the costs of promotional material.

Stewardship Virginia... as simple as 1, 2, 3

1. Plan and conduct a volunteer project or event or join an existing one. Our resource guide makes it easy to get great ideas about projects and where to go to get started. Come up with your own unique projects, or call to speak with the project coordinator for ideas and guidance.
2. Complete a registration form and send it in. Your event will be added to our website, ensuring greater exposure.
3. Give volunteers a big "thank you" by handing out certificates signed by Governor Bob McDonnell. These will be sent to you after receiving your registration.

For more information on participation or contributing to Stewardship Virginia, call toll-free 1-877-42-WATER. In Richmond call (804) 786-5056 or email: bonnie.phillips@dcr.virginia.gov

www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship



Stewardship Virginia

April 1 - May 31, 2010

September 1 - October 31, 2010

**Building a Better Outdoors -
Today, Tomorrow... Every Day**

REGISTER an EVENT

Event date(s) _____

Description of event _____

Location of event _____ Time _____

Estimated amount of hours worked _____

How many certificates do you need? _____

Contact name _____

Organization _____

Address to send certificates _____

Is this event open to the public? Yes _____ No _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Please let us know if you want more information on:

- Other volunteer opportunities
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation news

Fax to: 804.371.0315

**Or send to:
Stewardship Virginia Campaign
203 Governor Street, Room 406
Richmond, VA 23219**

www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship



Stewardship Virginia

April 1 - May 31, 2010

September 1 - October 31, 2010

Building a Better Outdoors -

Today, Tomorrow... Every Day

Stepping into Stewardship

A Resource Guide for Getting Involved in Volunteer Stewardship Activities

Water Quality

Buffer Your Backyard - If you own property along a stream, river, lake or wetland, consider buffering it. Buffers are plants other than grass along the water's edge. They filter and slow water draining into a waterway. Excess water running off lawns, roadways and sidewalks during storms can pick up unprotected soil, toxic substances, heavy metals and nutrients that may have been applied to land. These pollutants harm the health of local waterways and larger watersheds.

- > Learn how to create a buffer by downloading the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Backyard Buffers from, <http://www.acb-online.org/pubs/projects/deliverables145-3-2004.pdf>.
- > Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and Regulations require a minimum 100-foot wide riparian buffer in Tidewater Virginia localities. Download the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Got Buffer* brochure, http://www.cblad.virginia.gov/docs/chesapeake_bay_local_assistance/publica.shtml
- > Help Virginia state nurseries provide hardwood trees for plantings through acorn collection for the Growing Native Project. For more information visit <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/mgt/acorn-collect.htm>.
- > Want to know more about Riparian Forest Buffers, tree planting for conservation and how you can help the Virginia Department of Forestry plant trees in the state <http://www.dof.virginia.gov>.
- > Use native plants for conservation, restoration and landscaping. For a free list of native plants by region, habitat, type and recommended use, call the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at (804) 786-7951 or visit http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml.

Water monitoring - If you are interested in the health of our waterways, consider water quality monitoring. Sample your local creek or stream and share results with other monitors as part of Virginia Water Monitoring Day, www.deq.state.va.us/cmonitor/activities.html.

Restore your streambank - Streams are a product of the land they drain, and their water reflects streamside land management practices, good and bad. Much can be done to protect clean streams and restore damaged ones. Since private lands are where most streams lie, their fate depends largely on wise

www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship

management by landowners. If you have a stream you would like to care for, consider a project that protects and restores the streambank. You'll find information on restoring riparian areas and stream banks on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat/lip/>.

Stencil storm drains - Many people don't realize that stormwater runoff empties directly into local waterways. You can change that by painting brightly colored messages along storm drains in your community. It's a community effort with lasting effects. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation provides stencils that read, "Dump no waste, drains to (river/stream/lake/bay). Visit http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/documents/aasmanul.pdf for more information. Or write to adoptastream@dcr.virginia.gov.

BayScaping - BayScapes are environmentally sound landscapes that help people, wildlife and the Chesapeake Bay. You can bayscape backyards, business grounds, parks, schoolyards and more. Visit the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's website at <http://www.alliancechesbay.org> for details.

Clean up litter - Contact your local litter control coordinator at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle/contactlist.html>. Whether intentional or not, our waterways receive tons of litter each year. There are many ways that litter is hazardous. Swimmers can cut their feet on glass. Propellers get caught in old rope and fishing line and it can be deadly to marine animals. Sea turtles swallow plastic bags mistaking them for their favorite food, jellyfish. They slowly starve as their digestive systems are inactivated. Seagulls, ducks and other animals become entangled in discarded fishing line, and many fish died in old nets drifting free with the tides. Some trash will sink and be covered up with sediment eventually. But plastics will not disintegrate and can float or remain suspended in the water. Thus a single piece of plastic litter might be a problem for hundreds of years. It's up to each of us to keep Virginia's rivers, streams, lakes and bays clean.

Help remove litter in and along Virginia's waterways and roadways by supporting or organizing a local cleanup project. These anti-litter activities are a good way for local businesses, civic groups, watershed associations, churches, schools, scouts and others to step into stewardship. Here are some organizations that can help you get involved:

- > Adopt a Stream, http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/adopt.htm
- > Adopt a Highway, <http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp>
- > America Outdoors, National River Clean Up Week, <http://www.nationalrivercleanup.org/>
- > International Coastal Clean Up, <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/icc>

Invasive Species

Get rid of "the weeds" - Curb the attack of invasive exotic plant species on our landscape. Learn which ones live nearby and what you can do to stop them from spreading. Getting rid of "the weeds" can be a great project for landowners, youth groups, conservation organizations and others. Here are ways to get started.

- > Citizens Guide for the Control of Invasive Plants in Wetland and Riparian Areas. It's available for \$2 postage from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
- > Visit http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml for a list of the state's invasive species and management information.

Improve Recreational Resources

Trail projects - Trails offer transportation alternatives, connect communities, parks and neighborhoods, and provide serene places for families to get away from traffic, noise and pollution. Trails provide a valuable wilderness experience and teach children the importance of natural resources conservation. Whether it's hiking, biking or horseback riding, trails are great places to enjoy the outdoors. For information on trail building and maintenance. Opportunities, visit DCR's website at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/volunteer.shtml>

Preserve Historic and Cultural Resources

Virginians enjoy a wealth of history. Learn and share interesting facts while working on a project. Conduct a cultural heritage project such as a collection of oral histories. Volunteer to help spruce up a historic house or museum, or help record an archaeological site. For more information on ways to get involved in historic preservation and archeology. Visit <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/>

For educational resources, including exhibits, teaching kits, and lesson plans, visit: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/educ/edu1.htm>.

Natural Heritage Resources

Virginians share the Old Dominion with thousands of more species populations and natural communities.

- > Information on natural heritage resources in your area, http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nhrinfo.shtml
- > Natural Area Preserves, http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/natural_area_preserves/index.shtml
- > Management and restoration projects for which you can volunteer, http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/spevents.shtml
- > Conservation lands mapping site, which allows you to easily find and print maps of protected lands, http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/conslandmap.shtml

Education

Teach others about outdoor and cultural resources. Good stewardship results from creating awareness, understanding and appreciation for our outdoor resources. Teachers, youth leaders, civic organizations, sportsmen's groups and others can help set that stage by exposing children to the outdoors through educational activities and experiences. There are many educational resources and programs that can help. Visit Virginia Naturally, <http://www.vanaturally.com>.

Wildlife Habitat

Help build a better outdoors for fish and wildlife by enhancing habitat. It doesn't matter if you have a small backyard or a huge farm; there are many ways to improve wildlife habitat. Consider landscaping for songbirds, managing for deer, turkey or quail, or improving the fishing in your pond with artificial reefs.

Habitat improvement projects are fun, rewarding, and range from easy to intensive. Everybody can do something. Visit:

- > Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Habitat Program,
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat/>
- > Best management practices for your pond habitat can be found at
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/pondmanagement/>.

Marine fisheries conservation

Tag a fish: Catch, tag and release fish with fellow saltwater fishermen. By participating in the Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program (VGFTP), you help develop information needed to conserve and manage saltwater fish. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) sponsors this annual program. Participants register in December and January; training takes place in February and targets many popular saltwater species.

Special tagging events: The VGFTP is planning several one-day tagging events next year. Open to the public (some require pre-registration), you'll learn about tagging fish, talk with program managers and veteran taggers, and enjoy a little fishing.

Catch-and-release fishing: Catch-and-release fishing is a great way to learn firsthand about conservation. Learn about the best equipment and how to handle fish to ensure that they remain in good health. Many species of released fish are eligible for recognition through the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, and the Virginia Junior Angler Program recognizes only released fish.

Learn more about these marine conservation programs by visiting <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov>.

CENTER FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

March 24, 2010

I Yc Yeong Kwon
Executive Director

Karen Capiella
Director of Research

David Hirschman
Program Director

Gregory Hoffmann, P.E.
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Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Hampton Roads PDC
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for taking the time to present at and participate in the *Rooftop to the Bay* stormwater management workshop in Staunton recently. Your experience "in the trenches" for helping localities deal with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state regulations and monitoring requirements are quite impressive. I really appreciate the time you took to speak to me before the conference and discuss the session concept, your effort to collaborate with Danny Barker to ensure his involvement and develop a presentation together, and your time to travel to Staunton to share your expertise with the stormwater professionals and elected officials who attended the Regional Cooperation for Alternative Stormwater Monitoring session.

Your work in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) field to form the Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Indicator Tracking Program is a new concept and one that was well worth sharing with other localities struggling with these same issues you face. I believe that your efforts will serve as an example to other communities for years to come. Congratulations again to both you and Danny Barker for having produced a model collaborative process to work together in the regional cooperative.

From the feedback we received at the event, the workshop was a valuable experience for those who attended. I could tell that the participants in your session were engaged and learned from each presenter. I hope that you enjoyed the conference.

Congratulations on your Stoneroller Award for all your hard work in the environmental field! I'm glad that the fish is proudly displayed on your desk to the envy of your colleagues.

Thanks again for your time. Please don't hesitate to call me or CWP staff to collaborate in the future.

Sincerely,



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March 12, 2010

Sent Via Email: sustainablecommunities@hud.gov

Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Room 10180
Washington, DC 20410

RE: Docket No. FR-5396-N-01 Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program
Advance Notice and Request for Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

As the representative regional planning agency and metropolitan planning organization for the Hampton Roads region in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) are jointly submitting the attached comments on the *Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program* as solicited by the issued Advance Notice.

The HRPDC and HRTPO appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this program and thank you for your consideration of our comments. Our agencies look forward to applying to this grant program and working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency to enhance the sustainability and livability of the Hampton Roads region.

If you need further assistance or clarification to our comments, please contact me by email at dfarmer@hrpdcva.gov or by phone at (757) 420-8300.

Sincerely,

Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization

BP/kg

Attachment

Staff Comments on the Advance Notice and Request for Comments

Local Match Requirement

The Advance Notice states on page 3 that the Department of Housing and Urban Development expects at least 20 percent of overall costs of the awarded grants would include leverage funding. Given the current fiscal climate for many governments, requiring a match of such magnitude would discourage otherwise worthy applicants, and would be impossible for many regional entities. It is suggested that no match be required of applicants. If a match must be required of applicants, it should not exceed 10 percent. It is further suggested that in-kind contributions be allowed to comprise the match requirement, and that creative local investment into the project be encouraged and supported.

Grant Application Deadline

Per the Advance Notice, the suggested deadline on page 4 is June 5, 2010, with awards announced in early August 2010. The suggested schedule for the grant's application deadlines should be extended. Applications should due on or around July 3, 2010 and the announcement of awards pushed back accordingly. Extending the application deadline will allow for the development of stronger, more detailed applications and, most importantly, adequate time for regional entities and partnerships to go through their required decision making processes to support applications.

Environmental Stewardship Livability Principle

The stated goal of the Sustainable Communities Initiatives "is to advance development patterns that achieve improved economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, and social equity in metropolitan regions and rural communities." Since the Livability Principles will be the basis for assessing applications and performance, an additional Livability Principle should be developed that specifically targets and promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Interagency Considerations

Since the goal of this grant program is to develop Regional Plans for Sustainable Development that meet the Livability Principles, partner federal agencies should develop a set of integrated and consistent requirements. The end product should be judged on how they conform to these integrated requirements, in addition to how they meet mandated requirements of department-specific plans.

Funding Categories

First Funding Category – Regional Visioning

For the first funding category, Regional Plans for Sustainable Development, we suggest that eligible activities include regional comprehensive plans or visions that merge plans for housing, transportation, environment, and economic development. These regional plans should include vision statements, analyses of existing conditions, future scenarios, goals and priorities for each sector (transportation, environment, housing, etc.), strategies and measures to achieve those goals, and/or frameworks for implementation. Funding plans should not be required at this stage. Public involvement should be required and assessed through the quality of response and available participation options; a minimum number of meetings should not be required, but applicants should be judged based on a required public involvement strategy and plan. Performance measures should be based on economic vitality, environmental protection, transportation, affordability, and hazard mitigation.

Second Funding Category – Regional Implementation Plans

Eligible execution plans that are envisioned in the second funding category should include short-term regional improvement plans and programs that implement the regional vision described in the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. Criteria for evaluating previously adopted plans should include: whether or not the plan mentions the livability principles, how those principles are defined by the region, how they are currently applied, and how they are intended to be applied in the future. Such a regional improvement plan should provide reasonable goals, strategies, timeframes, and measures of performance. The amount of available local and contributed resources should be used as a low-weight scoring factor for this grant program to distinguish between otherwise similar applications.

Third Funding Category – Regional Catalytic Implementation Projects

Implementation projects, if allowed, should not be prioritized ahead of planning projects, given the difficulty in pre-certifying plans and previous efforts as meeting the stated Livability Principles and the limit on funds. Projects should be judged on meeting regional goals, sustainability, livability, cost-effectiveness, and economic stimulus capacity. Projects should be allowed a 3-5 year implementation window. Local match should be encouraged and considered.

Suggested Applicants

Regional planning organizations are uniquely suited to participating in and leading these regional planning efforts, both for their technical capacity and for their past experience.

Where those entities exist they should be required as partners and should be preferred as the lead agency. Where these organizations do not exist, a consortium of local governments should be encouraged; in these situations one locality would act as the lead agency. Non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders should be encouraged as well to be stakeholders in regional efforts. Organizations should demonstrate commitment by adopting a resolution supporting the regional planning effort being proposed for application.

Application Evaluation

Applicants should be judged based on public involvement strategies, regional participation, a demonstrated pattern of cooperation, and technical capacity to complete the project. Furthermore, applications should require an inventory of previous regional planning efforts to demonstrate this experience and capacity.