

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #13: PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

A. Joint Environmental Committee

The Joint Environmental Committee met on November 4, 2010. The meeting included:

- A presentation from HRPDC staff on the status of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan, and a discussion of comments to be sent from the HRPDC to EPA and DCR.
- An update from HRPDC and locality staff on the status of the Virginia stormwater regulations.
- A discussion of potential priorities for the 2011 General Assembly session, including potential items to be included in locality legislative packages and potential positions to be taken by the HRPDC.
- A presentation from City of Virginia Beach staff on the City's proposed site design guide.
- A discussion by the Committee on the Stormwater Program Budget for FY 2012.

B. Directors of Utilities Committee

The Directors of Utilities Committee met on November 3, 2010. The Committee addressed the following:

- Mr. Mark Bennett and Mr. George Harlow, USGS, briefed the Committee on two projects involving the new Virginia Coastal Plain groundwater model.
 - The first project evaluated the performance of the new groundwater model in area with thin aquifers. USGS staff concluded that the model provides significantly better predictions of groundwater levels than the existing groundwater model being used by DEQ to evaluate groundwater permits. HRPDC staff will pursue a partnership with DEQ to create an implementation plan to begin using the new model in the state's groundwater permitting program.
 - The second USGS project used the new model to analyze the water budget in the aquifer system. The results indicate that 26% of the water stored in the aquifer system has been withdrawn. It takes thousands of years for precipitation to infiltrate into the soil and reach the deep aquifers. The groundwater is not replaced at the rate that it is being withdrawn. The withdrawals are removing water from clay confining

units that compress as the water is removed. Compression of the confining units results in land subsidence. USGS has applied for a NOAA grant to estimate the amount of subsidence occurring in the region. The Committee requested a proposal from USGS to estimate the amount of groundwater available in 30-50 years if annual withdrawals stay at 2008 rates (with and without International Paper).

- The HRPDC staff discussed the proposed water and wastewater budgets for next year.

C. Hampton Roads Help to Others - H2O - Program

The Board of Directors of the Hampton Roads H2O (Help-to-Others) Program held its Annual Meeting on November 3, 2010. The meeting included the election of a new Vice President, Larry Foster, JCSA, and a new Program Director, Brian Ramaley, NNWW. The Board also reviewed the Program's available funds to date. The HRPDC staff informed the Board that the paperwork to apply for Internal Revenue Service approval of the tax deductibility of the Program, which has been incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is in the final stages of completion. The next step is to submit the paperwork to the IRS. Once IRS approval is received, the next fundraising campaign can be launched.

D. Regional Housing Program

Hampton Roads Loan Fund Partnership

The FY11 allocation of HOME funds for the downpayment and closing cost assistance program has been announced for the HRPDC. Planning District #23 will initially receive \$180,000. Staff members are in the process of setting up new guidelines for the new allocation as well as training for local administrators.

The Housing and Human Services staff assisted in facilitating a state-wide training on the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (S.A.F.E Act). Representatives from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), State Corporation Commission, and HUD participated in a panel discussion on October 13, 2011. While the HRPDC's Hampton Roads Loan Fund Partnership efforts may be exempted from the provisions of the law, it was recommended that housing providers should still become licensed. HRPDC staff has completed the 20 hours pre-education requirements and will be taking the State and National test for licensing in the weeks to come.

Housing and Human Service Technical Support

Staff members are continuing to assist the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium and will be representing the region at the upcoming Governor's Housing Conference on November 17-19, 2010 in Richmond, Virginia. The Governor's Housing Conference is the largest and most comprehensive housing-related event in Virginia. The staff assisted in the development of a regional exhibit that showcased affordable housing opportunities and activities in the Hampton Roads area.

Regional Housing Portal

HRPDC staff members are working on the initial design phases for a Regional Housing Portal. Currently all housing resources pertaining to foreclosure prevention and mortgage default services have been identified. Other housing related services pertaining to downpayment/closing cost assistance, first-time homebuyer education, rental counseling, and housing services for persons with disabilities will be identified and compiled into a uniform database. This information will be used to create a regional web-based portal for consumers and housing providers to access appropriate services.

E. Regional Economics Program Report

Technical Assistance

Economics staff routinely provides technical assistance and support to member jurisdictions and regional organizations. Information from both the HRPDC Data Book and the Commission's Benchmarking Study provides easy access to a great deal of regional information. Over the past month, staff has provided information to individuals, member localities, regional organizations, and the media.

Regional Competitiveness

Staff is working on a regional competitiveness study. The purpose of the study is to review the components of growth in competitive economies and evaluate the regional capacity for growth. This analysis will include an in-depth analysis of the region's occupational and industrial composition, with a particular focus on the region's labor supply.

Joint Forces Command (JFCOM)

Since the announcement of the potential closure of Joint Forces Command, a major combatant command headquartered in Hampton Roads, HRPDC staff has been investigating the economic impact that JFCOM has on the region. Several economic

impact briefs have been released including information and analysis related to JFCOM's significant economic presence. Staff continues to monitor information that is released from the Department of Defense and will provide updates as new analysis becomes available.

Hampton Roads Economic Quarterly

The fall 2010 edition of the Hampton Roads Economic Quarterly (HREQ) was released on October 21st. This most recent publication contained information on the "stay put" economy, discussing how dislocation in the housing market and disruption of the labor pool is contributing to an economy that is shifting sideways. The HREQ also included a synopsis of the current regional economic climate with graphical illustrations of regional economic indicators. A copy of the document is available on HRPDC website.

Regional Benchmarking Study

Staff is working to complete the next edition of the Regional Benchmarking Study which is due for release in December. This publication contains graphical illustrations for a variety of regional socio-economic indicators on topics such as the economy, demographics, housing, transportation, and quality of life. The up-coming publication will feature new data from the American Community Survey recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

F. Emergency Management Project Update (October 2010)

Debris Management

FEMA issued new guidelines for "Debris Removal Contract Cost Analysis" and "Debris Contracting Guidelines" that have been passed on to all stakeholders.

Hampton Roads Regional Jail and Inmate Evacuation Committee

The committee met on October 7 and reviewed the draft RFP to solicit a consultant to conduct the functional jail assessments for emergency operations plan enhancements and jail evacuation planning. Grant funds to support this initiative are expected to be received by December 2010.

Hampton Roads Tactical Regional Area Network (HRTacRAN)

The EM Administrator continues to work with the Hampton Roads Interoperability Communications Advisory Committee (HRICAC) Oversight Group in an effort to find a funding solution for sustainment of the system for follow-on service and maintenance procurement. The FY 09 Port Security Grant Application was

submitted to VDEM in August 2010 as a potential temporary solution for sustainment. Representatives from the Area Maritime Security Committee conducted their initial review as part of the application process. In mid-October, the HRPDC was notified that a preliminary grant approval has been provided by the Coast Guard and the application has been submitted to DHS, via VDEM, for final approval.

Peninsula Local Emergency Planning Commission (PLEPC)

A grant application was submitted to VDEM, by the City of Hampton on behalf of the PLEPC, for funds to update the current Peninsula Local Emergency Response Plan. The City of Hampton was granted this award in the requested amount. The HRPDC is supporting the work for this grant with a consultant (hired by Hampton) and the management of the project with the City of Hampton and PLEPC. The HRPDC collated and provided the “in-kind” grant match documentation to the project manager in Hampton.

FY 11 Healthcare Organization Emergency Preparedness Seminars (HOEPS)

The Emergency Management staff continues to lead the planning for this seminar with public health partners and multiple health care organizations. The HOEPS planning committee continues meeting on a monthly basis to advance the plans for next year’s (2011) seminar. Dates for next year’s event are May 4, 2011 on the Peninsula and May 5, 2011 on the Southside.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

The grants for updating the Southside Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Franklin Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Southampton Hazard Mitigation Plan have been awarded and the HRPSDC staff is actively engaged in moving the planning process for these three plans forward. An RFP was developed, vetted, released for 2 weeks and closed on November 1, 2010. Seven proposals were received and will be reviewed by the Hazard Mitigation Committee (representing all localities) on November 9, 2011. Barring any unforeseen challenges, the Committee anticipates selecting a proposer on the same day, allowing the HRPDC to begin contract negotiations with the desire to have a proposer under contract by December 1, 2010 so that work can begin immediately.

The Emergency Management staff continues to work with the City of Hampton’s Fire Chief (Project Manager) by providing support to update the Peninsula Hazard Mitigation Plan. Current activities in progress are those supporting data requests from the HRPDC and involved localities to support the needs of the contractor.

A website supporting this project for the staff, local agencies and future public participation has been established: www.remtac.org/mitigation. Currently, the Peninsula plan is not represented on this site. This will change in the near future as the consultant is working with the HRPDC to have the Peninsula section included at the request of the peninsula localities.

Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP) Support

The Emergency Management staff continues to support the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team and the three workgroups to ensure existing projects and data are integrated. The three workgroups are (1) Evacuation and Transportation, (2) Commodities, Resources, and Volunteers, and (3) Mass Care and Sheltering. A workshop for updating local senior leaders on the progress made thus far and developing a plan for moving forward is being held on November 15, 2010 in Smithfield. The CAO's and other public safety stakeholders were the recipients of the invitation from VDEM.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

The Emergency Management staff continues to manage and support the Hampton Roads Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program for the Urban Area Working Group (UAWG). With the support of the consultant performing the Capabilities Assessment work, a final version of the Hampton Roads Homeland Security Strategy (HRHSS) has been completed based on the gap analysis from the assessment. The UAWG has been briefed and the HRHSS was approved and adopted. The HRHSS is a "For Official Use Only" document.

FY 11 UASI Grant planning has been initiated in anticipation of grant guidance being released in December.

The FY 07 UASI grant is nearing completion. A few projects have not been completed and an extension request for 6 months was submitted by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to DHS on behalf of the UAWG. The request was granted and four projects were extended until November 30, 2010. All four are expected to be completed.

FY 10 UASI grant funds are expected to be received in December or January as indicated by VDEM's grant office.

In late August 2010, the National UASI Conference, Inc. issued an RFP for solicitations to host a future UASI conference. The RFP was brought forward during the September UAWG and REMTAC meetings for consideration. Both entities agreed to move forward with submitting an RFP with a Hampton Roads locality that

could meet the requirements of the RFP for hosting the UASI conference. As such, the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau was able to meet the venue requirements for the RFP.

On November 2, the HRPDC received notice that Hampton Roads would be the host to the 2015 National Conference in Virginia Beach in June 2015.

Hampton Roads Medical Special Needs and WebEOC Implementation Update (FY07 & FY08 UASI Project)

The WebEOC Subcommittee continues to implement its plan for institutionalizing WebEOC in the region.

The Special Needs Subcommittee held an open house for special needs committee members and advocates on October 28, 2010 to introduce the website and registry (www.hrspecialneeds.org). Nearly 160 stakeholders and advocates attended the event. Public outreach will continue to promote this initiative as an effort to help emergency managers with their planning for special needs populations.

Multi-Region Target Capabilities Assessment (FY08 UASI Project)

The Emergency Management staff, on behalf of and in cooperation with the HR and Central Virginia (Richmond area) UASI regions, provide program management and implementation support for the Target Capabilities Assessment (TCA), through the UASI Grant program. The project is now complete. However, with available funds remaining in the FY08 UASI program, staff is working with the UAWG and consultants to develop a scope of work for the next set of DHS Target Capabilities to be assessed. This will allow the region to further identify gaps in planning for future projects. The next set of capabilities to be assessed will focus on public health, EMS, medical and hospital areas.

Pet Sheltering Support (FY09 UASI Project)

The Committee supporting this effort met and finalized what equipment and supplies need to be procured for the trailers to support pet management in shelters. A price quote, with specs, was delivered and passed onto the committee for consideration, revision, and/or acceptance if within the allowable grant guidance. The Committee has accepted the quote. Staff will issue a purchase order to move this project forward.

First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC)

The Emergency Management (EM) staff continues to advance the First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC) pilot program in Hampton Roads initiated and

lead by the Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (OCP) through State Homeland Security Grant funds. OCP continues to work with Verizon to establish the issuing stations. The Hampton Roads Fire Chiefs Association has been working with OCP's project manager in order to have the FRAC's first issued to the fire service throughout Hampton Roads. The project manager is currently vetting dates for a working group meeting to plan for additional work stations. Currently, Newport News has an issuance station and the Emergency Management Office in Norfolk will be meeting with the project manager from OCP to discuss hosting a station as well.

Hampton Roads Critical Infrastructure Protection Program (HR CIPP)

Strategic planning by the Emergency Management staff for the development of a regional Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) program is on-going in coordination with the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness Critical Infrastructure Protection Coordinator.

Current efforts are focused on the development of the regional Critical Infrastructure Resiliency and Strategic Plan. Staff has been working busily with the consultants (University of Virginia) on this plan with multiple iterations of a draft being vetted. Efforts will continue to be expanded to support revisions of the plan and expanding stakeholder support. A website supporting this project has been established: www.hrcipp.org