

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #13: SEA LEVEL RISE PROPOSAL – CHESAPEAKE RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

SUBJECT:

The Chesapeake Research Consortium is submitting a proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for funding to support enhancement of the Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System.

BACKGROUND:

The Chesapeake Research Consortium is leading a team of scientists, planners and engineers in the development of the Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System (CIPS). The team includes the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the U. S. Geological Survey and private entities. The CIPS is a comprehensive set of predictive tools for use in evaluating sea level rise and storm surge inundation, focusing on the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. Previous research and modeling work by the CIPS team has been and is being used by the HRPDC staff in its Climate Change work.

The CIPS team is proposing to enhance its work to date by incorporating land subsidence, and new sea level, storm surge, stream flow and related data into the system. In addition, the current proposal includes a substantial component examining societal effects of sea level rise. Work to date and proposed includes a major focus on Hampton Roads. CIPS has requested that the HRPDC support its current proposal.

The HRPDC staff has drafted the attached letter supporting the Chesapeake Research Consortium's proposal to NOAA for funding through the NOAA grant competition: "Improving NOAA's Climate Services for the Coastal Zone: A Special Competition."

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the attached letter supporting the Chesapeake Research Consortium's proposal for enhancing the Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The HRPDC, at its February 2010 retreat identified climate change and sea level rise as a critical issue for consideration during FY 2011. The HRPDC staff is continuing its analysis of climate change and sea level rise issues as the basis for developing a framework for mitigating and adapting to the negative impacts. This proposal is one of a number of initiatives addressing sea level rise and its impacts on Hampton Roads. In aggregate, these efforts will assist the region in developing the needed framework for responding to rising sea level.

Attachment



September 15, 2010

Dr. Kevin Sellner, Executive Director
Chesapeake Research Consortium
645 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, Maryland 21037

RE: Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System–NOAA Proposal (ENV:Climate Change)

Dear Dr. Sellner:

At its Executive Committee Meeting of September 15, 2010, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission acted to endorse the proposal of the Chesapeake Research Consortium, entitled “Improved Resiliency of Chesapeake Bay Communities to Storm Surge and Inundation under Climate-Induced Sea Level Rise.”

The HRPDC understands that this proposal is being submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for funding through the “Improving NOAA’s Climate Services for the Coastal Zone: A Special Competition.” The HRPDC further understands that the proposal will enhance the existing Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System through consideration of land subsidence and more accurate data on sea levels and stream flows and that it will incorporate a significant examination of societal impacts attributable to sea level rise.

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has identified sea level rise as a critical priority for consideration by the Commission and staff during the current Fiscal Year. The HRPDC staff is actively involved in research on the issues of climate change and sea level rise including a long term effort to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies for consideration by the region’s localities. The HRPDC believes that your proposal will be an important ingredient of its work in the coming years. We urge you to continue coordinating your efforts with those of the HRPDC staff to ensure that the region has the best available information to support local decisions.

The HRPDC hopes that you are successful in pursuing this funding.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Goodson
Chairman

JMC: