

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #13: RESOLUTION – SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

SUBJECT:

Resolution of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission requesting continued financial support for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past several months, the HRPDC has discussed the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and the financial implications of those efforts to the region's local governments at great length. As the HRPDC staff has advised the Commission, the cost of this restoration for local government stormwater management programs ranges upward from \$1 billion over the next fifteen years. Based on that estimate among other factors, the Commission adopted HRPDC Resolution No. 2011-01 on January 20, 2011 endorsing the "Hampton Roads Statement of Legislative Principles Regarding Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL" and requesting appropriate state and federal support for needed funding and legislative authority allowing local governments to implement the necessary programs.

Funding to support the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort is in jeopardy at the federal level in particular. Historic funding levels have been inadequate to allow localities to meet the goals of the voluntary restoration effort under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The regulatory requirements of the TMDL and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) further exacerbate this inadequacy. A number of localities throughout the Bay Watershed have endorsed a request to Congress to maintain funding for the restoration effort.

The HRPDC staff recommends the attached Resolution be approved by the Commission to reiterate its ongoing support for the restoration effort, focusing particularly on the current need to maintain funding for the program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Approve the resolution requesting the Governor, Virginia General Assembly and Congress to continue financial support for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Attachment 13



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2011-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING TO SUPPORT RESTORATION OF THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY**

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries are vital elements of the economy and quality of life of the 1.7 million plus people living in the Hampton Roads Region; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads region faces significant new requirements to reduce nutrients and sediments going to the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries, which will result in substantial increased costs for stormwater management, wastewater treatment and land development; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads region has worked cooperatively with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other regional partners to devise cost-effective strategies for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and to implement those strategies within their financial and legal resources for more than twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2011, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission adopted HRPDC Resolution 2011-01 endorsing the "Hampton Roads Statement of Legislative Principles Regarding Implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL," and requesting the support of the Governor, Virginia General Assembly and Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation for appropriate legislative authority and funding to support the restoration effort, particularly the efforts of the region's local governments; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2011, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission formally advised the Commonwealth of Virginia of its commitment to facilitate and coordinate development of a local/regional implementation strategy to support the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission requests the Governor and Virginia General Assembly and the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation support the continued funding of programs, including the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund, that support clean water, including state and federal funds to support local and regional development and implementation of watershed implementation plans and cost-share programs for agriculture to support those efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission requests the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation to resist all attempts to defund the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 21 day of July, 2011.

Stan D. Clark
Chairman

Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary