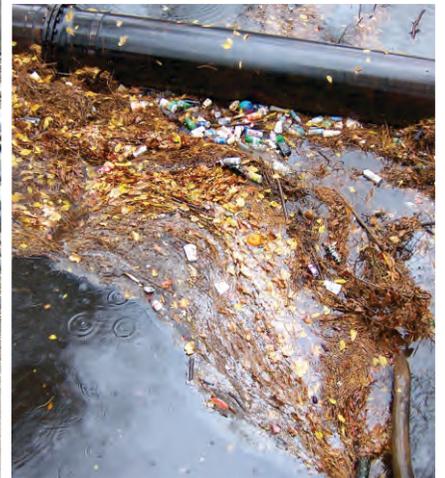


Regional Cooperation In Stormwater Management



Fiscal Year 2012
A Status Report

PEP12-10



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FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

A STATUS REPORT

This report was included in the HRPDC Work Program for FY 2012-2013, approved by the Commission at its Executive Committee Meeting on April 19, 2012

**Prepared by the staff of the
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
in cooperation with the
Regional Stormwater Management Committee**

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ABSTRACT

This document describes cooperative activities related to stormwater management undertaken by Hampton Roads local governments during Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Activities described include the regional information exchange process, public information and education, legislative and regulatory issues, cooperative regional studies and related programs. One of a series of Annual Reports, this document is used by the region's twelve localities with stormwater permits to assist them in meeting their permit requirements.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

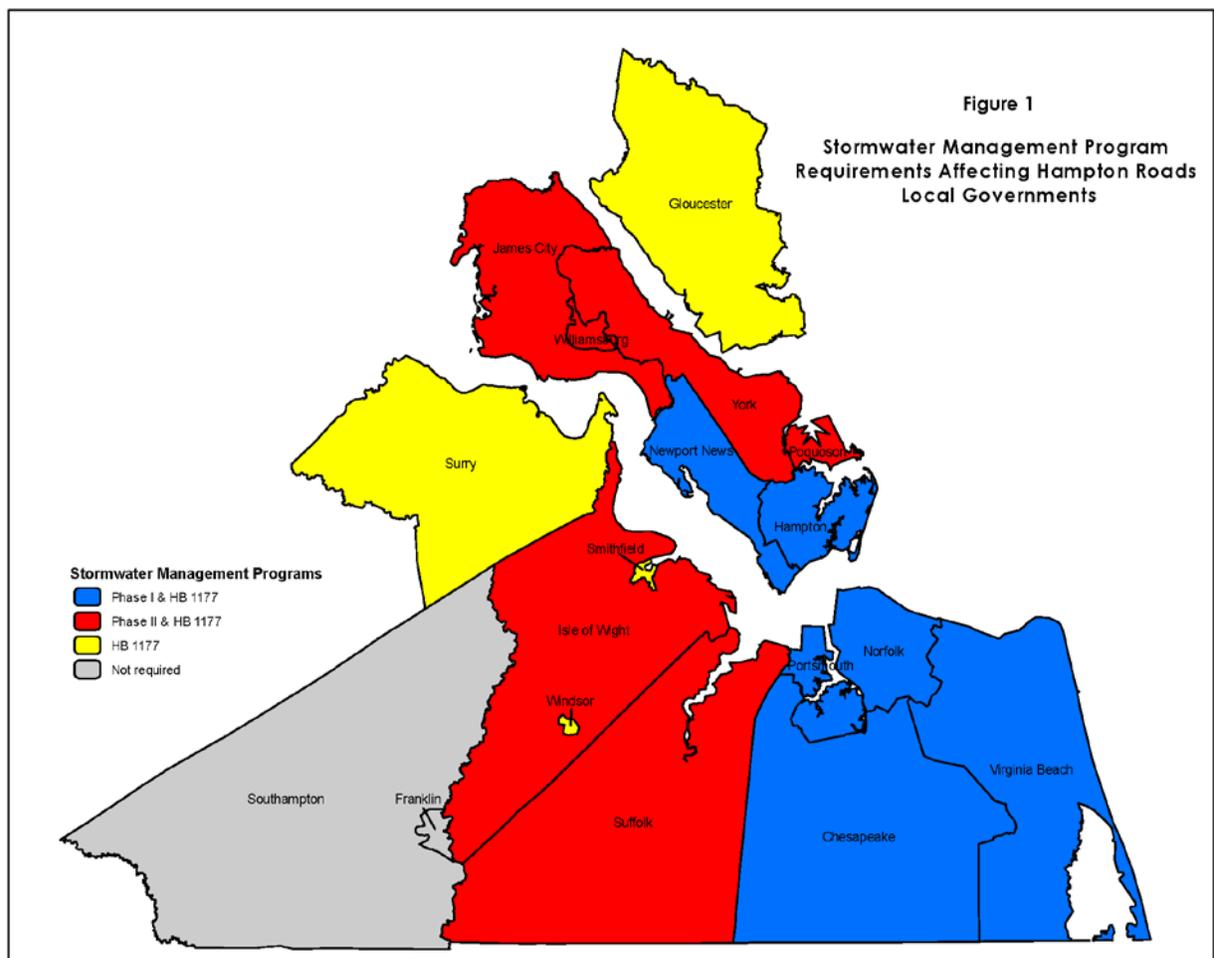
The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, in cooperation with the Regional Stormwater Management Committee (RSMC), prepared this report.

Preparation of this report was included in the HRPDC Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2012-2013, approved by the Commission at its Executive Committee Meeting of April 19, 2012.

The sixteen member local governments through the HRPDC Regional Stormwater Management Program provided funding.

INTRODUCTION

Working through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the region's sixteen member cities and counties (Figure 1) cooperated on a variety of stormwater management activities during Fiscal Year 2011-2012. This cooperative effort has been underway as a formal adjunct to the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (VPDES) for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) held by the Cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach since Fiscal Year 1995-1996. The Cities of Suffolk, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and James City County, Isle of Wight County, and York County joined in 2002 to coordinate Phase II MS4 permit applications. Cooperative activities documented in this report represent a continuation of an ongoing effort, which has involved concerted activity since 1992.



REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GOALS

The HRPDC and the Regional Stormwater Management Committee undertook a comprehensive effort in FY 1998-1999, called the Regional Loading Study. The project included developing a set of regional stormwater management goals to guide the regional program.

The goals were presented to and adopted by the HRPDC at its Executive Committee Meeting in September 1999. They were reaffirmed in the January 2003 approval of the “Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Establishing the Hampton Roads Regional Stormwater Management Program” and the March 2008 renewal of the MOA. The adopted Regional Stormwater Management Program Goals, which guide the regional program, are:

- Manage stormwater quantity and quality to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).
 - Implement BMPs and retrofit flood control projects to provide water quality benefits.
 - Support site planning and plan review activities.
 - Manage pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer applications.
- Implement public information activities to increase citizen awareness and support for the program.
- Meet the following needs of citizens:
 - Address flooding and drainage problems.
 - Maintain the stormwater infrastructure.
 - Protect waterways.
 - Provide the appropriate funding for the program.
- Implement cost-effective and flexible program components.
- Satisfy VPDES stormwater permit requirements.
 - Enhance erosion and sedimentation control.
 - Manage illicit discharges, spill response, and remediation.

THE REGIONAL PROGRAM

The HRPDC Regional Stormwater Management Committee (RSMC) recommended during FY 1995-1996 that a formal regional program be established at the HRPDC. The program initially focused on activities that supported the permit compliance efforts of the six communities with Phase I VPDES Stormwater System Permits, technical assistance to the region’s non-permitted communities and regional education and training to support all of the communities.

In late 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the final Phase II Stormwater Permit Regulations. To facilitate review of the regulations, the HRPDC staff prepared a “Review and Summary of the Regulations.” That review summarized regulatory requirements, highlighted differences between the Phase I and Phase II regulations, and noted potential issues that needed to be considered by the Phase II localities. That report served as the basis for the region’s six Phase II localities moving forward in a cooperative fashion to address the Phase II Permit requirements.

Phase I Localities

The efforts of the Phase I localities this year have focused on developing input for Virginia's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan and preparing for local program changes required by revisions of the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations. Localities also urged Virginia and the EPA to remove Phase I MS4 individual Waste Load Allocations from the Bay TMDL.

Localities have continued to follow the Phase I MS4 permit renewal process in Virginia. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has switched focus from reissuing the Fairfax County permit to reissuing the Arlington County permit. HRPDC staff has continued to work with the localities to obtain copies of the draft permit and review the draft with the RSMC. The Phase I localities have monitored and commented on the development of the Phase II MS4 General Permit since the proposed changes may eventually be proposed in the Phase I MS4 permits.

Phase II Localities

In addition to participating in Regional efforts related to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and the revision of the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations, the Phase II localities cooperate to evaluate proposed changes to the Phase II General Permit. The Phase II General Permit is scheduled to be reissued on July 1, 2013. HRPDC and local staff volunteered to serve on the State's Regional Advisory Panels for the Phase II General Permit, expansion of Nutrient Exchange, changes to Dam Safety requirements and the application of pesticides to surface waters. The representatives shared updates and concerns with the RSMC to develop regional comments on proposed regulatory changes. Activities in FY 2012 included regional training sessions on the Chesapeake Bay Program's VAST tool, the State's proposed e-permitting system, and requirements in the new Stormwater Regulations.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The cornerstone of the Regional Stormwater Management Committee's activities continues to be the exchange of information. This is accomplished through regular monthly meetings to address topics of regional importance, as well as crosscutting issues that affect local stormwater, planning, public works and public utilities staff. In addition, various agencies and organizations utilize this regional forum to engage and inform local governments, as well as to gather feedback.

Monthly Meetings

The sixteen communities are represented on the HRPDC Regional Stormwater Management Committee, which meets twice a month. These meetings provide an opportunity to exchange information about successful stormwater management techniques, program activities, utility structures and policies, and a myriad of related environmental issues. Cooperating agencies such as DCR, Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Department of Transportation, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and the US Navy regularly participate in one of the monthly meetings.

Increasingly, the region's localities are affected by and involved in the state's TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Studies and Implementation Plan processes for the Chesapeake Bay and locally impaired waterbodies. Issues associated with these programs are also addressed during the monthly meetings. In FY12, the RSMC discussed and provided input to DEQ on the PCB TMDL for the Lower James and Elizabeth River and the bacteria TMDL for Hoffler Creek. From July 2011 to April 2012, HRPDC held monthly meetings of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Steering Committee. The meetings discussed the State's request for local input for the Phase II WIP and provided guidance to localities on how to develop TMDL strategies.

During FY 2011-2012, representatives of the Regional Stormwater Management Committee assisted the HRPDC staff with developing its comprehensive work program. The HRPDC work program continues to include a strategic planning initiative, identified previously as a high priority activity by this group. The Committee continued the long-term effort to better integrate the various reporting requirements associated with the state's stormwater management programs and to explore institutional approaches to further enhance the region's environmental planning and management programs. In addition, this year the RSMC reviewed the EPA's guidance on Integrated Planning and had a discussion with HRSD about the potential application of this strategy in Hampton Roads.

State and Federal Agency Program Briefings

Representatives of state and federal agencies frequently brief the Committee on developing issues, regulatory guidance and technical programs. During the year, the Committee was briefed regularly by representatives of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) on state initiatives related to the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations, by DEQ staff on the development of TMDLs for local waters and by DCR concerning the Chesapeake Bay Program TMDL efforts.

Watershed Roundtables

The Watershed Roundtable approach is Virginia's preferred approach to nonpoint source pollution management. HRPDC leads the Lower James River (Hampton Roads) Watershed Roundtable and participates in the York River Watershed Council, the Middle James River Roundtable, and the Albemarle-Chowan Roundtable. Members of the RSMC participate in the Hampton Roads Roundtables, along with representatives from other local government departments, regional and state agencies, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and private organizations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

askHRgreen.org

To support development and operation of the stormwater education program, a Public Information and Education Subcommittee consisting of local stormwater education/public information staff was established in 1997. The Public Information and Education Subcommittee (HR STORM) was established during FY 1997-1998 and meets on a monthly basis. Program funding supported, in part, HRPDC staff members, who also coordinated the

region’s water conservation education program (HR WET), the regional litter control and recycling education program (HR CLEAN), and the regional wastewater (fats, oil and grease) educational program (HRFOG).

Beginning in FY2011, the HRPDC staff began to combine these separate programs into a single public awareness program and central resource for environmental education in Hampton Roads known as askHRgreen.org. In June 2011, the askHRgreen.org website launched. The website contains information on earth-friendly landscaping ideas and pointers for keeping local waterways clean, recycling tips, and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. It also includes a blog written by a team of local experts who work in the region’s municipal utility and environmental divisions.

The Stormwater education subcommittee continues to meet on a monthly basis to discuss education priorities for stormwater. The activities conducted through the askHRgreen.org campaign for the year are summarized in the askHRgreen.org Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012 annual report entitled.

TRAINING

Since 2004, the HRPDC staff has worked with the six Phase II communities to develop and conduct training programs for local government staff. Program topics are reviewed and prioritized annually by the Phase II Subcommittee. The next training is scheduled for Winter 2012 and will focus on lessons learned from audits in the region including general pollution prevention and good housekeeping at municipal facilities. HRPDC will also coordinate with DCR to host additional training linked to new local program requirements and certifications.

Topic	Last offered	Previous dates
Fleet Maintenance	Mar 2005	
Landscaping	Mar 2006	
IDDE	Oct 2009	Feb 2008, May 2007
General Pollution Prevention	Feb 2009	March 2004
Parks & Open Space Mgt.	March 2011	
LID Practices	June 2010	

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY MONITORING

This element of the program involves monitoring of state and federal legislative and regulatory activities that may impact local stormwater management programs. Based on this monitoring activity, the HRPDC staff develops briefing materials for use by the localities, including consideration by the governing bodies. As appropriate, the HRPDC staff in cooperation with the Committee develops consensus positions for consideration by the Commission and local governments. The level of effort devoted to this element has increased significantly over the

past five years. During 2011-2012, the regional emphasis was continued participation in the evolving regulatory stormwater program of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Implementation Plans for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Virginia Stormwater Regulations

Revisions to the Stormwater Regulations were approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Board in May 2011 and will be implemented by localities by July 1, 2014. In FY12, HRPDC and local government staff served on DCR's Stormwater Local Government Advisory Committee. The committee provided input to DCR on development of a model ordinance and other guidance documents. Other challenges include establishing an approval process for local programs and clarifying certification requirements.

The region is also currently represented on the DCR Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse Committee that was developed to review protocols for proprietary BMP pollutant removal efficiencies, and is a result of a similar regional effort explored by the HRPDC. Regional input is coordinated through the HRPDC Regional Stormwater Management Committee.

Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Virginia Phase II Implementation Plan

Because the water quality goals set forth in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement were not met by 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency established a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Chesapeake Bay on December 29, 2010. The jurisdictions within the Bay watershed are expected to develop strategies to meet the nutrient and sediment load reductions outlined in the TMDL. In November 2010, Virginia submitted to EPA its Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) that outlined the statewide strategies that would be implemented by each source sector. The Phase II WIP outlined the management actions that will be implemented by local governments. On December 15, 2011, Virginia submitted its draft Phase II WIP to EPA. Virginia submitted its final Phase II WIP to EPA on March 30, 2012.

In a November 9, 2011 letter to local governments, DCR director Mr. David Johnson identified Virginia's data needs from localities for the Phase II WIP and requested that the following information be submitted to DCR by February 1, 2012:

1. Develop a current BMP inventory.
2. Evaluate the land use/land cover information.
3. Review the 2017 and 2025 BMP scenarios as identified in the Phase I WIP and develop preferred local scenarios that provide a similar level of treatment.
4. Develop strategies to implement the preferred BMP scenarios.
5. Identify any resource needs to implement the strategies and BMP scenarios.

To address the State's request, the HRPDC endorsed the following process at its meeting on November 17, 2011:

- Localities will each submit an individual plan to DCR that focuses on narrative strategies and includes items 1, 2, 4, and 5 above.

- HRPDC staff will translate strategies into a report with two basin-level BMP scenarios of the cumulative local strategies to address item #3 above.

The “Hampton Roads Regional Planning Framework, Scenario, and Strategies” report covered item #3 and provided a regional summary of items 1, 2, 4, and 5. The HRPDC staff completed the report and the Commission approved it on January 19, 2012. Localities submitted the report to DCR as an appendix to local plans.

During the last three years, staff has closely followed the EPA’s development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Staff also participated in Virginia’s efforts to create its Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay through attending the Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings from August 2011 to March 2012. The charge of the Stakeholder Advisory Group was to provide guidance and recommendations to the Secretary of Natural Resources during the development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase II WIP. Specific issues addressed by the committee included:

- Provide recommendations on strategies to successfully engage local governments, planning district commissions, soil and water conservation districts, and other local and regional entities in the Phase II WIP process;
- Provide comments and recommendations on issues raised by local governments, planning district commissions, soil and water conservation districts, and other local and regional entities as they work toward identifying pollution reduction practices and strategies to be undertaken at the local level;
- Identify potential resources, including funding and staffing opportunities, to assist local governments and other local entities in implementing identified practices.

HRPDC has provided numerous comments on this process and continues to be actively involved in the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

REGIONAL STUDIES

Reducing Nutrients on Private Property: Evaluation of Programs, Practices and Incentives

The goal of this project was to investigate the feasibility, opportunities, and constraints of utilizing best management practices (BMPs) for nutrient reduction on existing urban/suburban residential and light commercial private property as a strategy to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The report included the following information:

- Examples of local government collaboration with grant-funded, community-based, and other voluntary stormwater management/stewardship projects in the Hampton Roads area;
- A sample of model programs and strategies to work within the locality’s authority and leverage existing tools to implement and maintain retrofits and BMPs on private property;

- A summary of existing programs by locality including the number of potential existing BMPs on private property and the grant money received for the projects; and
- A summary table of all stakeholders contacted and programs/program details reviewed during the project.

Section 2 of the report, Existing Model Programs, provides a number of model programs that localities can emulate or modify based on their own needs in order to increase the number of BMPs on private property. As a next step, HRPDC is coordinating with Wetlands Watch to hold a regional Strategic Summit to take a more intensive look at existing programs and opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and partnerships.

Redevelopment as a Nutrient Reduction Strategy

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission received a grant in 2011 from the Virginia DEQ Coastal Zone Management Program to examine the role that redevelopment may have in helping to meet the nutrient reduction goals of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The study recommended that water quality treatment from redevelopment activities should be one of the strategies that localities use to help meet their Chesapeake Bay TMDL nutrient reduction goals. The following recommendations were identified to help localities plan for using redevelopment as a strategy:

1. Develop a definition of redevelopment for stormwater management site plan design review that is consistent with Virginia's Stormwater Management Regulations.
2. Use redevelopment planning as a catalyst to help provide water quality treatment in existing developed areas that don't currently have water quality controls.
3. Develop a process for tracking nutrient removal due to redevelopment activities so that progress towards the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements can be calculated.

Bacteria Source Tracking

The HRPDC is leading a regional effort to develop a bacterial identification methodology for the Hampton Roads Region. Proven genetic techniques are being used to differentiate bacteria sources, so that TMDL plans can be designed to address the cause of the bacterial impairment. During FY2012, researchers from Virginia Tech, University of South Florida, and University of North Carolina in coordination with locality staff and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) analyzed bacteria samples from three case study watersheds in Suffolk, York County, and Virginia Beach. A final Study report is expected in November 2012.

Stormwater Program Matrix

A comprehensive stormwater program matrix, including Phase I and Phase II communities, was developed in FY 2000 which addresses both utility and programmatic issues. HRPDC staff coordinates with local government stormwater program staff to update the information in the matrix annually.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The HRPDC continues to serve as a clearinghouse for technical assistance to the localities, as well as a point of contact in arranging short-term assistance from one locality to another. The HRPDC Committee process also provides a forum, allowing state regulatory agency staff to meet with the region's localities to discuss evolving stormwater management regulations. In addition, the HRPDC staff provides technical information and advice to all of the participating localities on a wide variety of issues upon request. The HRPDC is frequently requested by localities from other parts of Virginia for assistance due to its experience with stormwater management programs in Hampton Roads.

In FY2012, technical assistance to localities was focused on disseminating information related to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Virginia's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan. Throughout 2010-2012, HRPDC staff briefed the Hampton Roads Planning District Commissioners on the Phase II WIP development process, and Commissioners approved actions that influenced the Phase II WIP development process. Meeting materials or correspondence for the HRPDC commission meetings and regional steering committee meetings can be reviewed on the HRPDC website (<http://www.hrpdcva.gov/>).

The Regional Chesapeake Bay TMDL Steering Committee was convened in July 2011 as an advisory committee to HRPDC to involve regional stakeholders in the Phase II WIP development process. Building from the Tributary Strategies Project Steering Committee in the mid-1990s, the HRPDC invited agencies and organizations contributing to and benefiting from nutrient reductions to join locality representatives in participating on the Regional Steering Committee. Suggestions from the Steering Committee were brought to the HRPDC for approval. The Commissioner's actions from the previous month were reviewed at each Regional Steering Committee Meeting. A summary of each meeting is included in the "Hampton Roads Regional Planning Framework, Scenario, and Strategies" report.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The Regional Stormwater Management Program was established in 1996 as a formal program of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission with support and participation from the sixteen member local governments. Due to increasing dependence upon the HRPDC to fulfill various permit requirements for both Phase I and Phase II localities, the HRPDC staff and RSMC developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), formalizing the existing regional program, while providing a structure for future program evolution and regional cooperation. The MOA outlines the basic regulatory and programmatic premises for the cooperative program, incorporating the Regional Program Goals, outlined earlier in this report. It establishes a division of program responsibilities among the HRPDC and the participating localities and establishes the role and responsibilities of the Regional Stormwater Management Committee. It formalizes the traditional method of allocating program costs, addresses questions of legal liability for program implementation and includes other general provisions. The MOA is reauthorized by the signatories every five years. It was last executed in March 2008.

PERMIT ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM (PARS)

In an effort to streamline reporting and capture data more effectively for local governments, the twelve permitted localities have pooled resources to develop the Permit Administration and Reporting System, or PARS. Based on local needs and anticipated Phase I permit requirements, as well as changes in the state stormwater management regulations, the region contracted with URS Corporation to develop a web-based data tracking and reporting system. The first modules of the system are already being utilized by local governments to catalog development sites and their associated best management practices (BMPs). The system also enables localities to capture inspection information, as well as collecting documentation for future inspections or enforcement actions. In addition, localities can use the site to catalog stormwater outfalls, document illicit discharge investigations and record public education information. Users can then query a variety of reports to satisfy the reporting requirements of their stormwater permits. In FY12, the RSMC reviewed the potential for PARS to track and report the implementation of Chesapeake Bay TMDL strategies. The Chesapeake Bay Program and DCR continue to refine the data reporting requirements for BMPs so the evaluation of PARS will continue in FY13.

RELATED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

In various combinations, the twelve (12) MS4 communities, as well as their non-permitted counterpart communities, in Hampton Roads participate in a wide variety of related programs. These programs are noted here because of their relationship with stormwater management.

Chesapeake Bay Program

Over the past several years, the Hampton Roads Region has devoted considerable attention to the ongoing Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP). To facilitate local government participation in Chesapeake Bay Program activities, HRPDC staff and RSMC members have participated in the deliberations of many CBP Committees and Work Groups dealing with urban stormwater, land development, watershed planning, land use development, modeling and local government's role in the Bay Program. Since the development of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL in December 2010, the HRPDC and the RSMC have continued to follow the activities of the CBP primarily through participation in the Urban Stormwater Workgroup. In FY 2012, local government stormwater staff volunteered to serve on the BMP Retrofit panel and IDDE panel that develop Bay Program efficiencies for new stormwater best management practices.

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Program

Fourteen of the sixteen member localities, including the six cities with Phase I MS4 Permits and the six localities with Phase II MS4 Permits, continue to implement programs in response to the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Stormwater management is one component of those programs. Although the CBPA is not formally part of the multi-state Chesapeake Bay Program, described above, it serves as one element of local government implementation actions to comply with their MS4 Permits and to meet the goals of the Bay Program.

Water Supply Planning

Beginning with the drought of 2002, the Department of Environmental Quality embarked on an intensive effort to develop regulations governing water supply planning and permitting. This effort was directed by legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2003. With a small grant from DEQ, the HRPDC staff and Utilities Committee developed a framework for accomplishing development of a regional water supply and educational materials on the state planning requirements. In 2011, HRPDC completed the Hampton Roads Regional Water Supply Plan. The plan addresses the requirements of the state planning process for all local governments in the region.

Water Quality Management Planning

Under the Clean Water Act, state legislation, water quality management planning regulations and a consent order involving the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government, the state is proceeding with development of a substantial number of TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Studies and subsequent development of TMDL Implementation Plans. This work follows from the classification of the waters by the state as meeting or failing to meet water quality standards. Water bodies that fail to meet water quality standards are classified as “impaired,” triggering the requirement to prepare the TMDL study. Once a TMDL Study is completed, state law requires the development of an Implementation Plan, which will restore water quality in the water body to a level that meets water quality standards.

The HRPDC staff has coordinated regional involvement in the “impaired waters” listing process. This has entailed providing opportunities through the Joint Environmental Committee for education of local government staff on the TMDL process, development of technical comments on the “impaired waters” list and response to the development of TMDLs themselves.

The HRPDC staff is currently working with the region’s localities in participating in TMDL studies. This year the RSMC has provided input on the PCB TMDL for the Lower James and Elizabeth River and implementation plan for the bacteria TMDL for Hoffler Creek. To assist the region’s localities in addressing this requirement and ensuring that Implementation Plans are feasible, the HRPDC staff is working with DEQ to devise a cooperative regional partnership to coordinate the TMDL study process with the localities and to develop the required Implementation Plans.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

In late 2004, the HRPDC staff began implementing an electronic reporting and record keeping system known as the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reporting System (SSORS). HRPDC staff has provided informational briefings and presentations on this system to a variety of agencies across the state. SSORS enables localities to communicate information about sanitary sewer overflows across departmental lines, allowing for easier reporting. SSORS was the basis for the creation of PARS.

Work continues under the Regional Special Order by Consent with DEQ, thirteen local governments, HRSD and HRPDC. The Order established the framework for sewer system evaluation, flow monitoring, determination of allowable levels of infiltration/inflow, system

modeling, and the appropriate balance between system and treatment capacity and collection systems.

As a part of this effort, the regional fats, oils and grease abatement program (HR FOG) was invigorated. A variety of materials for restaurants and residents has been developed to inform the public of proper FOG disposal methods. This is relevant to the stormwater program because of the potential for illicit discharges into the stormwater system.

CONCLUSION

Through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the sixteen localities of Hampton Roads have established a comprehensive Regional Stormwater Management Program. This program provides technical assistance, coordination, comprehensive technical studies and policy analyses and stormwater education, supporting both permitted and non-permitted localities alike. The Regional Stormwater Management Program enables the region's localities to participate actively and effectively in state and federal regulatory matters. It has enhanced the ability of the twelve localities with VPDES Permits for their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems to comply with permit requirements. Their long history of participating in the Regional Stormwater Management Program enhanced the efforts of the localities that obtained Phase II MS4 Permits in 2003 to move forward cooperatively with permit applications and program development. In fact, their participation in the regional program over the past decade led to the establishment of the cooperative Phase II Permit component of the regional program.

Since the HRPDC staff also coordinates a number of other regional environmental initiatives, the program allows for effective coordination and regional balancing of the various activities. On several occasions over the last several years, the HRPDC formally endorsed recommendations developed through this coordinated initiative on state water quality and technology standards, funding guidelines, implementation strategies, as well as on state legislation addressing funding needs for water quality improvement programs.

The Regional Stormwater Management Program provides a mechanism through which the strengths of the sixteen local stormwater programs can be mutually supportive. It allows for cost-effective compliance with permit requirements, resolution of citizen concerns with stormwater drainage and water quality matters, and achievement of improved environmental quality throughout the Hampton Roads Region.