

ATTACHMENT 1A
THE DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMITTEE, THE
REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY IMPLEMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
March 1, 2012

1. Summary of the February 2, 2012 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay and Regional Stormwater Management Committees and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Subcommittee

The Summary of the February 2, 2012 Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay and Regional Stormwater Management Committees and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Subcommittee was approved as distributed.

2. HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update

Mr. Benjamin McFarlane, HRPDC, briefed the Committee on the debriefing concerning HRPDC's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant application. The debriefing provided an overview of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the application. Specific needs identified included: having more involvement with housing agencies and providers; involving specific agency partners within local governments; identifying clear roles and responsibilities for coalition partners; having more specific actions to be undertaken; and providing more information for how the coalition would go about engaging traditionally marginalized groups.

3. 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan

Ms. Janit Llewellyn, DCR, gave a presentation to the Committee on the 2013 update of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. This update will include a survey for the general population as well as a survey specific to trail providers to solicit their feedback. The objectives of the Outdoors Plan are to promote outdoor recreation as well as land conservation; one goal of the plan is to help the state qualify for land and water conservation funds. The presentation included a description of the results of a 2011 survey that identified which forms of outdoor recreation were increasing in popularity or desirability (walking, hiking, biking) and which were decreasing in popularity (traveling to historic areas). Perceived needs identified through the survey include hiking and walking trails, access to state waters, more natural areas, bike trails, and historic areas. Most respondents participated in outdoor recreation on weekends and found out about opportunities through word of mouth. Next steps for the planning process include conducting statewide public meetings, meeting with state and federal agencies, identifying trends at the state and regional levels, correlating those trends with inventories of outdoor recreation facilities, and identifying outdoor recreation needs, including specific projects.

Following the presentation DCR staff solicited input from the Committee for project recommendations, including:

- water trails (Virginia Beach, Southeast Coastal Paddling Trail)
- water access (Lynnhaven River, Back Bay, North Landing River, Northwest River, Indian River, Nansemond River, Pagan River, Elizabeth River, Dragon Run)
- land trails (North Landing, Intercoastal Waterway, mountain biking trails, Virginia Capital Trail)
- outdoor recreation (fishing, rowing and paddling, boat launch facilities, information centers at preserves and refuges, educational signage)

4. Coastal Zone Grant Project: Land and Water Quality Protection in Hampton Roads

Ms. Jenny Tribo, HRPDC, and Mr. McFarlane gave presentations to the Committee on the regional Coastal Program Section 309 grant. The purpose of this project is to analyze the requirements of new state stormwater management regulations and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and to develop tools to assist localities in reducing the impact of land development on water quality. The first year of the project (renewable for up to another four years on an annual basis) has three goals:

- 1) Assess stormwater regulations and Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements
- 2) Develop an evaluation methodology for local plans and policies (and test on pilot localities)
- 3) Evaluate model tools for development impacts

Years 2 and 3 will focus on providing technical assistance to the pilot localities, with years 4 and 5 dedicated to developing guidance for other localities to follow.

The regulatory changes to be considered are the new Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Ms. Tribo described some of the requirements local governments will have to meet to comply with these new regulations. The overall impact of these new regulations is that site design will be increasingly important in order to maximize pollutant removal and minimize costs. If more nutrients can be reduced through redevelopment, fewer retrofits will be necessary to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL load reduction requirements.

Mr. McFarlane presented the findings of a preliminary assessment of available tools to evaluate local plans and policies. HRPDC staff identified three existing tools: the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Checklist developed by DCR, a Municipal Regulations checklist used in New Jersey, and a codes and ordinances worksheet developed by the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP). Each tool has some parts that may be useful in identifying which plans or parts of plans may be useful to look at for potential changes.

The Committee provided several comments on the checklist review. Use of the CWP tool could be problematic based on some localities' experiences with the organization; similar feedback was given for the New Jersey tool. The checklist should focus on identifying obstacles. A checklist was identified as an easy tool, but one that should be accompanied by a list of good practices or model ordinances. The tool should be

mindful of the differences between various types of localities: cities vs. counties, urban vs. suburban vs. rural, etc. Potential sources of information included tools from North Carolina and Florida as well as the Tidewater Builders Association and the agricultural community.

HRPDC staff solicited volunteers for the pilot localities: Norfolk, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach expressed interest.

5. **Status Reports**

A. Hampton Roads Sanitation District

In the absence of a HRSD representative, there was no report.

B. Hampton Roads Planning District

HRPDC staff reported that DCR will be giving a presentation on the Chesapeake Bay Phase II WIP at the next Regional Steering Committee meeting on April 5.

C. Soil and Water Conservation Districts

In the absence of a SWCD representative, there was no report.

D. Department of Conservation and Recreation

DCR representatives had nothing to report.

E. Department of Environmental Quality

In the absence of a DEQ representative, there was no report.

F. U.S. Geological Survey

USGS representatives had nothing to report.

G. Department of Transportation

VDOT representatives had nothing to report.

H. U.S. Navy

In the absence of a U.S. Navy representative, there was no report.

I. Local Programs

Virginia Beach staff reported that DCR has been permitting offsite nutrient credits.

Chesapeake staff reported that the City has set up a Chesapeake Bay TMDL page on the City's website, containing the City's WIP submittal and other information.

Southampton County staff reported that DGIF is building a new access to the Meherrin River; the area used is zoned for industrial uses and the project requires a conditional use permit.

James City County staff reported having a conversation with a volunteer from Congressman Scott Rigell's office to discuss the Chesapeake Bay TMDL from the local government perspective.

6. **Other Matters**

The next meeting of the Joint Environmental Committee is scheduled for April 5, 2012 at the HRPDC office in Chesapeake, Virginia. Materials will be sent in advance for review.