

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9-D: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – FY16 GRANT

SUBJECT:

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality manages the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. PDCs are eligible for formula grants to support technical assistance programs and competitive grants for projects addressing a high priority issue, as determined by the CZM Program.

BACKGROUND:

In October 1986, Virginia received its first grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the State's CZM Program. Since that time, the HRPDC and its predecessors have received over \$2.5 million through this program to provide technical assistance on environmental issues to the local governments and to complete a variety of technical studies.

The process for distributing funds for FY 2016 is now underway. Under the formula grants for PDCs, the HRPDC is eligible to receive \$60,000 in funding to support the ongoing Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Management Technical Assistance Program. The required match is \$60,000 and the grant proposal will be submitted to DEQ. Additionally, it will be included in the UPWP and FY 2016 budget.

Attachment 9-D

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Interim Executive Director to submit a grant proposal to the DEQ to support the Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Management Technical Assistance Program as well as to accept grant offers.

2015 VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT

Project Title: Hampton Roads Coastal Resources Management Technical Assistance Program

I. LEGAL APPLICANT

Name: Randy R. Keaton
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DUNS #:

II. PROJECT DETAILS

Geographic Area of Impact: Hampton Roads Planning District
Congressional District(s): VA-1, VA-2, VA-3, VA-4
Start Date: October 1, 2015 End Date: September 30, 2016

Project continuing from previous year? Yes

III. PROJECT SUMMARY *(4000 Character and Spaces Limit)*

The HRPDC staff will assist seventeen (17) member local governments, other public entities, and private organizations on coastal and other environmental issues. The HRPDC staff will perform the following:

1. Regional Coordination Process
The regional coordination process involves all seventeen (17) member local governments, associated towns, five (5) Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and several state and federal agencies. It addresses Core Elements of the VCZMP, Chesapeake Bay Program, and Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuarine Program. It specifically addresses Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) implementation, Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) implementation, wetlands, public access, environmental regulations, conservation planning, and other coastal issues. This component includes participation by the HRPDC staff in the Coastal PDC Committee and the Coastal Policy Team.
2. Environmental Impact Review
This includes review and comment on EIA/EIS and Federal Consistency Determinations/Certifications affecting Hampton Roads, including coordination of local responses if needed.

3. Public Information & Education

Maintain VCZMP-related information on the HRPDC website. Presentations to governmental and non-governmental organizations will be made on request. This component also covers monthly status reports and/or briefings to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Regional Environmental Committee, and the Special Committee on Recurrent Flooding and Sea Level Rise, all of whose meetings are open and advertised to the public.

4. Training

Conduct at least four training programs/activities for local government staff. Possible topics include environmental codes, low impact development, wetlands, CBPA implementation, the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, stormwater regulations, conservation planning, sea level rise, GIS, sustainability, planning law, and land use planning.

5. Regional Technical Studies

Policy and technical analysis of environmental and coastal issues. Specific studies to be determined in cooperation with local governments. Potential topics includes sea level rise, coastal resources uses and conflicts, green infrastructure, and working waterfronts.

6. Technical Assistance

Provide information, data, and technical assistance to help localities with comprehensive planning and ordinance updates related to coastal resources management.

This project is a continuation of activities undertaken by the HRPDC through the VCZMP over the last twenty years. The Regional Coordination Process is integral to all of the program components, linking them into a comprehensive environmental planning program. Through this process, the HRPDC staff manages local government advisory committees addressing the VCZMP, Chesapeake Bay Program, sea level rise, land use and wetlands issues and coordinates them with local and regional initiatives in water supply, stormwater and wastewater management that are supported directly by the localities. Each of these programs was initially supported by VCZMP seed money. In addition to the programs noted above, it is not known what requests may evolve through the process during the course of the project. They reflect developing local needs and new state and federal initiatives. Through this project, the HRPDC also participates in the Coastal PDC networking process and its involvement in VCZMP and other state and federal environmental initiatives.

To the degree feasible, the HRPDC will document program measures consistent with the NOAA Performance Measurement System. This will include numbers of individuals participating in the various educational components and discussion of local ordinances, plans, policies and acquisitions being considered.

IV. DELIVERABLES/PRODUCTS

Product #1

Title (80 character and spaces limit): EIA/EIS and Federal Consistency Review

Percent total project budget: 10%

Description (4000 character and spaces limit): The HRPDC will review all state and federal environmental and program documents, including permit packages, consistency determinations and certifications, master plans and program initiatives affecting Hampton Roads. This will be coordinated with review by affected localities. Project summaries will be provided to the Commission for consideration. Comment letters will be provided within the review period to DEQ, the affected locality, and, when appropriate, the sponsoring agency. The project review database and sample comment letters will be included in the Final Report. When appropriate, the HRPDC will participate in scoping and other meetings conducted by DEQ or the sponsor. When appropriate, the HRPDC will facilitate project meetings involving the sponsoring entities and reviewing agencies.

Product Format: One hard copy and one digital copy in Adobe Acrobat format

Timeframe: Start: October 1, 2015

End: September 30, 2016

Product #2

Title (80 character and spaces limit): Public Information, Education, and Training

Percent total project budget: 20%

Description (4000 character and spaces limit): The HRPDC will continue to cover environmental issues on the HRPDC website. Monthly status reports will be provided to the HRPDC through the Commission Meeting Agendas. Efforts to enhance the HRPDC web site as an informational medium will continue. The HRPDC staff will brief business, civic, environmental and other professional groups on environmental issues, as requested. Four training programs will be developed, sponsored, hosted and/or conducted. Topics will be determined in cooperation with the environmental committees. Potential training topics that have been identified include: environmental codes, LID, wetlands training, CBPA implementation, the Chesapeake Bay-wide TMDL, stormwater regulations, land conservation and funding opportunities, conservation planning, planning for sea level rise, geographic information systems, and integrating sustainability into local plans. Each training activity will be documented by HRPDC staff. Representative samples of education materials and training summaries will be included in the Final Report.

Product Format: Educational materials will be provided in hard copy and one digital copy in Adobe Acrobat format.

Timeframe: Start: October 1, 2015

End: September 30, 2016

Product #3

Title (80 character and spaces limit): Regional Coordination Process

Percent total project budget: 34%

Description (4000 character and spaces limit): The HRPDC will continue to maintain the regional coordination process among the 16 member cities and counties and associated towns, 5 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Hampton Roads Sanitation District and state and federal agencies. This includes the Hampton Roads Environmental Planning Committee and various project committees. Monthly meetings are arranged, staffed, facilitated and summarized. Policy papers and technical analyses are prepared by the HRPDC staff, based on Committee recommendations and/or Commission requests. Information is exchanged among the local, state and federal participants, program briefings are

provided by and local input is provided to the participating state and federal agencies. Committee members and/or the HRPDC staff represent the region on state and federal agency advisory committees. This linkage ensures that Hampton Roads localities have an opportunity to participate in the state and federal processes, while also being prepared for new initiatives that may develop. This process also generates the ideas for major technical studies, which may or may not be funded through the VCZMP. The monthly meetings may also contain a training component with regular briefings on new and emerging issues. Other regional committees address specific issues such as water supply, wastewater, stormwater and environmental education. Through shared membership, joint meetings and HRPDC staff facilitation, regional coordination and information exchange are enhanced. Representative agenda materials, meeting summaries, presentations and position statements will be included in the Final Report.

Product Format: One hard copy and one digital copy in Adobe Acrobat format.

Timeframe: *Start:* October 1, 2015

End: September 30, 2016

Product #4

Title (80 character and spaces limit): Regional Technical Studies and Special Projects

Percent total project budget: 35%

Description (4000 character and spaces limit): Through its Technical Assistance Program, the HRPDC staff is regularly requested by the Commission, Advisory Committees and others to analyze identified environmental issues and opportunities as well as new state and federal regulations, initiatives and legislation. These analyses are presented to these groups as the basis for formal policy positions. HRPDC staff has identified two specific projects for this grant period: conducting a review of the effect of HRPDC's environmental impact review process and developing a model local sea level rise adaptation plan or outline, based on HRPDC work with the City of Virginia Beach to develop a city-specific adaptation plan. These projects may change, depending on local and regional needs identified by the Commission or the environmental Advisory Committee. Copies of any technical analyses, associated presentations and recommendations will be included in the Final Report.

Product Format: One hard copy and one digital copy in Adobe Acrobat format.

Timeframe: *Start:* October 1, 2015

End: September 30, 2016

Product #5

Title (80 character and spaces limit): Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants

Percent total project budget: 1%

Description (4000 character and spaces limit): Develop a brief report (~ 1 page) naming and describing HRPDC projects funded by CZM in previous years that have produced measureable benefits in subsequent years and/or have served as a foundation for additional projects.

Product Format: One hard copy and one digital copy in Adobe Acrobat format.

Timeframe: *Start:* October 1, 2015

End: September 30, 2016

V. PROJECT TIMELINE.

In the following project timeline, activities with specific dates that are established in the HRPDC process are shown. Certain activities, e.g. review of a new regulation or legislative proposal or response to a technical assistance request, evolve during the course of the project and are not shown on the timeline. Others, e.g. review of EIA/Federal Consistency documents, are undated, because they are ongoing.

Those activities are driven by the regional committees and/or the HRPDC Commission itself or respond to the state and federal process and are outside the control of the HRPDC staff.

| Date | | Benchmark | Product # |
|-------------------|----|--|-----------|
| October 2015 | 1 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 15 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| November 2015 | 5 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 19 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| December 2015 | 3 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 17 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| January 2016 | 7 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 21 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| February 2016 | 4 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 18 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| March 2016 | 3 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 17 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| April 2016 | 7 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 21 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| May 2016 | 5 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 19 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| June 2016 | 2 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 16 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| July 2016 | 7 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 21 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| August 2016 | 4 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 18 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |
| September 2016 | 1 | Regional Environmental Committee Meeting | 4 |
| | 15 | Commission Agenda and Briefing | 3 |
| | | Environmental Impact Review | 2 |