

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #9-I: COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – FY15 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 2014 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 2015 budget.

Attachment 9-I

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize the 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.



Roads Planning District Commission and the Regional Environmental Committee, both of whose meetings are open and advertised to the public.

4. Training

Conduct four training programs/activities for local governments. Possible topics 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, GIS, and integrating sustainability into local plans.

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 include climate change and sea level rise planning, energy policy and planning, green infrastructure, and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Continue coordination with state and other PDCs on coastal initiatives.

6. Technical Assistance

Provide updated information and help to localities in comprehensive plan and ordinance updates and on environmental issues.

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 Coastal Consistency Review

*Percent total project budget:* 20%

*Description (4000 character and spaces limit):* The HRPDC will review all state and federal environmental and program documents, including permit packages, coastal consistency determinations/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, 2014

*End:* September 30, 2015

##### 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, 2014

*End:* September 30, 2015

##### Product #3

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

*Percent total project budget:* 29%

*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, 2014

*End:* September 30, 2015

#### Product #4

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

*Percent total project budget:* 30%

*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, 2014

*End:* September 30, 2015

#### 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, 2014

*End:* September 30, 2015

## **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 2014	2	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	16	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
November 2014	6	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	20	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
December 2014	4	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
		Environmental Impact Review	2
January 2015	8	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	15	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
February 2015	5	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	19	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
March 2015	5	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	19	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
April 2015	2	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	16	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
May 2015	7	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	21	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
June 2015	4	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	18	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
July 2015	2	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	16	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
August 2015	6	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	20	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2
September 2015	3	Joint Environmental Committee Meeting	4
	17	Commission Agenda and Briefing	3
		Environmental Impact Review	2