FY 2014 PDC Competitive Grant Proposal Guidance

Contingent upon receipt of NOAA funds, the Virginia CZM Program intends to award grants on a competitive basis to coastal planning district commissions for the FY 2014 grant year (10/1/14 to 9/30/15). The intent of these grants is to provide PDCs the opportunity to address one or more of the five topics prioritized by the Virginia Coastal Policy Team (CPT): water quality, coastal resiliency, working waterfronts, habitat restoration, and public access. A brief description of each topic, based on information considered by the CPT is included below.

Water Quality: Provide technical assistance and develop tools for local governments that help to attain the increased nutrient reduction goals proposed by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Virginia's WIP, and revised Virginia storm water management regulations. Projects should be clearly oriented toward pollution reduction. Examples of projects that might be undertaken include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct economic or policy analyses of redevelopment and storm water retrofit benefits to identify the most cost effective approaches to reducing pollution
- Prepare options (draft ordinances, economic or tax incentives, etc) for localities to consider to strengthen water quality protection initiatives such as conservation subdivisions, low impact development, tree canopy ordinances, use-value taxation, transfer of development rights, riparian buffer restoration, nutrient reducing septic systems, and no discharge zones

Coastal Resiliency: Extend efforts of previous PDC projects or expand geographic coverage to those regions interested in addressing coastal resiliency. Examples of projects that might be undertaken include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct regional vulnerability analyses and engage local governments
- Conduct regional outreach/education programs that import and adapt existing research on policies and practices that address hazard vulnerability
- Analyze climate impacts on regional nature-based economies and develop recommendations for minimizing impacts

Working Waterfronts: Expand and complement the current 309 strategy through projects that help develop the markets needed to ensure sustainability of working waterfronts and related industries. Examples of projects that might be undertaken include, but are not limited to:

- Research the viability of sustainable, natural resource-based economies by evaluating implementation of community supported aquaculture (CSAs) and related policy.
- Conduct an evaluation of working waterfront infrastructure and identify vulnerability and necessary adaptations.
- Conduct fiscal and policy investigations through coordinated dialogue on issues such as tax relief, regulation and sustainability.
- Explore the planning needs required to establish commercial seafood ports.

Habitat Restoration: Undertake projects to promote habitat restoration through social marketing or demonstrate habitat restoration techniques on public lands. Examples of projects that might be undertaken include, but are not limited to:

- Develop and implement a regional native plants social marketing campaign
- Plan and construct habitat restoration demonstration projects such as living shorelines, riparian buffers, or landscaping using native plants

Public Access: Conduct small construction enhancement projects on *public lands* based on current 306A guidance:

http://www.deq.state.va.us/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/GranteeGuidanceInformation/306A_Guidance_for_Grantees_updated_weblinks_3-27-13.pdf

Examples of projects that might be undertaken include, but are not limited to:

- Kayak/Canoe floating docks
- Floating camping platforms
- Wildlife observation blinds
- Interpretive signage
- Nature Trails / Boardwalks
- Fishing Piers

Proposal Guidelines:

- The maximum amount available for the overall PDC Competitive grant is anticipated to be about $140,000 with $40,000 required for match (3.5:1). Each PDC may submit up to two proposals for this competitive funding. We anticipate awards to PDCs will be between $10,000 and $40,000.
- Joint proposals among PDCs will be accepted.
- Construction activities must meet CZMA Section 306A guidelines.
- Proposals may complement, but must not duplicate projects planned under the Virginia CZM Program's Section 309 Strategy. If applicable, describe the project's relationship to the relevant 309 strategy and how it would complement the strategy.
- Subcontracts are allowed and must be submitted using the embedded Sub-contractual budget Excel file in the proposal template with a description of the work to be performed accompanying the budget.
- Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers and Virginia CZM staff with input from members of the Coastal Policy Team and selected technical experts.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on technical merit, feasibility, cost effectiveness, potential for positive economic and environmental impact, and relevance to the goals of the Virginia CZM Program.

Submission instructions: Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to April.Bahen@deq.virginia.gov using the Virginia CZM Program FY 14 project template (attached) **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM, Friday, July 11, 2014**. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.