



Regional Environmental Managers Technical Committee
FY19 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant
CY20 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) Program Grant

June 12, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Digital Meeting and Conference Call

NOTES

Attendees: David Nunnally (Caroline), Michael Newchok and Chris Clarke (King George County), Scott Rae and Tyler Gelles (Fredericksburg), John Saunders, Ben Foster, and Chris Stevens (Stafford County), Adam Lynch and Bryan Hofmann (FOR), Pat Coady (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust), Eldon James (RRBC), Ashley Hall (Stantec for VDOT), Jennifer Wampler (DCR), Bryant Bays (VDOF), Jeff Flood (DEQ CZM), Kate Gibson (GWRC), and Denise Nelson (Berkley Group).

Outcome 1. VDOT/VIMS has started the 5-year “Coastal Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Recurrent Flooding Vulnerability Assessment & Recommendations” project that includes these tasks (**Attachment A**):

- Assess climate vulnerability and adaptation of transportation infrastructure.
- Assess ecosystem impacts of transportation infrastructure under rising sea levels
- Assess current policy and regulatory requirements of VDOT

Outcome 2. The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission launched the Fight the Flood website (www.fightthefloodva.com) to connect landowners to flood reduction product, service, and insurance providers.

Outcome 3. The state launched ConserveVA v2 (www.vanhde.org) with updated data, additional acreage, and a water quality improvement layer. The state is requiring referencing ConserveVA on state projects, grants, and other initiatives.

Outcome 4. FAMPO has four transportation related documents out for public comment (www.fampo.gwregion.org). They scheduled a Public Hearing and Policy Committee Meeting for Monday, June 15, 2020 and offer other methods to provide comments.

Outcome 5. There are several new laws taking effect on July 1, 2020 related to utility-scale solar facilities that provide increased revenue to local governments.

Outcome 6. The WIP contract activities are on schedule to meet the June 30 interim report requirement and end of year final requirements. We are currently focusing on identifying methods to assist localities in reporting to the BMP Warehouse, outreach and education related to the Bay TMDL and BMP installation, creating a scope of work for next year, and developing potential projects. This contract ends December 31 and will renew with increase funding.

Outcome 7. This CZM Technical Assistance contract ends September 30. The contract will renew on October 1 with a focus on Flood Risk Communication. A new CZM Coastal Resilience contract will also start October 1 with focus on local resilience priorities and projects.

Outcome 8. There are numerous mechanisms and pathways available for funding green infrastructure and conservation projects. We are developing a list of projects and programs to help focus our efforts at achieving funding (**Attachment B**).

Outcome 9. When asked where green infrastructure stands, where funding stands, and what support is needed, these items were brought up for discussion and consideration by localities and stakeholders:

- **Fredericksburg** is discussing Comprehensive Plan revisions by regional areas and is focusing on the areas NE and NW of 95. There is interest in making the areas more green and incentivizing developers to incorporate green infrastructure. They are planning to meet their MS4 TMDL requirements with general funds, SLAF, NFWF, and the partnership with FOR. They had used street sweeping to meet the initial 5% target, but that is being phased out. They have 200 lbs of phosphorous to remove and have created a list of projects to choose from, including retrofitting an extended detention pond and restoring Alum Run. They recommend adding nutrient removal cost effectiveness (\$/lb P) to the project table. They are happy with the support GWRC is providing and want it to continue. They would like us to offer training on the VCAP program. They suggested reaching out to planners to educate them on relevant policies for implementation.
- **Stafford County** is working from their TMDL action plan. They are comfortable with the initiative based on historical efforts to “right size” the MS4 area. They have completed addressing the Potomac River watershed and are focusing on the Rappahannock River watershed. They submitted a promising project for SLAF. SLAF funding is on hold due to the covid-19 outbreak, and DEQ has not released the projects approved for funding. They would love for GWRC to assist in getting this information from DEQ. They also suggested we look at the Stafford County Schools MS4 action plan and start engaging with them.
 - **Follow up action:** Denise ask DEQ for the list of projects selected for SLAF funding. DEQ had mentioned that they would publicize the projects in June.
 - **Follow up action:** Denise will look at all local action plans.
- **King George County** is managing the Fairview Beach project underway. They see developers going for conservation easements on large developments. They are working with FOR on planting trees at parks. Parks and Rec is also evaluating the potential to install permeable pavement at one location. They would like GWRC to help with finding funding for unfunded mandates. They would also like outreach and engagement support related to septic pump outs, Healthy Lawns programs, and living shorelines.
- **Caroline County** had long ago tried to require septic pump outs county-wide, but that was restricted to the Bay watershed only. They will consider the project ideas GWRC suggested in the project wish list and think installing a BMP at the high school might be a good place to start. They are wondering if the ponds in neighborhoods can be considered for stormwater quality improvements. They are happy with the support GWRC is providing and want it to continue. They suggested reaching out to administrators to educate them and get support.

- **Friends of the Rappahannock** is administering the VCAP program on behalf of HC SWCD in Caroline County. This increase the administration capacity (not the funding). They recently completed one of the largest conservation landscaping projects VCAP has done (5.5+ acres). They would be happy to provide administrative support to TCC SWCD also. They are also willing to support MS4s in meeting their MCMs 1 and 2 for public outreach, education, and participation. They also have funding available for urban nutrient management planning on public or private lands.
- **DCR** noted that DHR just announced their [grants opportunities for battlefield preservation](#).
- **VDOF** wants to collaborate with localities on forest conservation and education landowners on the [forest legacy project](#) and [forest management planning](#). They offer 2 tree planting programs and have forest project on state lands in Stafford County.
- **VDOT** is working on their TMDL projects and will submit an annual report in October. Next year, they will develop their phase 3 action plan.
- **Rappahannock River Basin Commission** is made of elected officials focusing on watershed topics. They are interest in aligning initiatives.
- **Pat Coady (Northern Virginia Land Trust)** is interested in implementing the recommendations from past green infrastructure plans. He would like to better understand why the recommendations were not incorporated into local Comprehensive Plans and why the plans are a threat to developers. He suggested adding NGO projects to the wish list. He looks forward to working with us to incentivize action and find funding for priority projects.
- **Jeff Flood (DEQ CZM)** suggested we keep in mind how this initiative connects to the upcoming Coastal Resilience contract (October 1, 2020) and future CZM 309 enforceable policy focus areas (October 1, 2021). He provided the contact information for Tyler Meader, DCR's Locality Liaison, who provides support using the Natural Heritage Database. He added that the benefit of having a project wish list is to be prepared for when funding comes available. On occasion, localities have returned CZM funds to DEQ, and DEQ has the authority to reprogram those funds for similar use in another locality.

Outcome 10. Invite your colleagues to the July 9 meeting from 10am-12pm to learn about the CBPA Local Gov Assistance and have Q&A with DEQ's Daniel Moore.

- **Follow up action:** Denise will send meeting agenda and associated files.

Future meetings:

- a. July 9 10am-12pm: training and coordination – CBPA Local Gov Assistance
- b. August 25 1pm-3pm: project prioritization and WIP workplan for 2021