



**Crater PDC / GWRC**  
**Joint Environmental Managers Technical Committee**  
FY20 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant  
CY21 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation (WIP) Program Grant

**MEETING NOTES**

December 15, 2021  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Michael Zehner, Luke Peters, Lindsay Edwards, Nadya Syazsa	Berkley Group
Rhonda L. Russell	Charles City County
Brandi Payne	Colonial Heights
Jay Ruffa	Crater PDC
Angela Davis, Jennifer Wampler, Mark Kilgore	DCR
Daniel Moore	DEQ
Matthew Culbreath	Emporia
Craig Pennington	FAMPO
Heather Barrar	FOLAR
Brent Hunsinger	FOR
Scott Rae, Tyler Gelles	Fredericksburg
Chip Boyles, Kate Gibson	GWRC
Reggie Tabor, Darryl E. Walker	Petersburg
Beverley Walkup, Michael Poarch	Sussex
Joe Croce	SVAREaltors
Holly Chichester, Gary Hobson	UMW
Toinette Waldon	VDH
Liz Adams, Andy John	VDEM
Chris Stevens	Stafford County
Johnnie Butler	Hopewell

**Angela Davis (DCR) – Planner, Dam Safety and Floodplain Management**  
**Addressing Equity in Floodplain Management in VA**

- In the beginning:
  - large gaps in capacity to manage floodplains

- needs different for each community based on types of flooding
- options to manage floodplains vary based on each community comprehensive plans, mitigation plans, etc.
- underserved communities, history of disenfranchisement
- education, awareness, consequently access, delivered inequitably
- choice vs. circumstance
- 2019 – Governor’s Council for Environmental Justice (reinstated)
  - state advisory council to the Exec Branch addressing environmental justice issues across VA and generate proposals for consistent approaches to evaluate EJ
  - Dr. Underwood, first cabinet-level Chief Diversity Officer
- 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Flood Awareness Week
  - Goal: to find creative solutions to enhance and effectively deliver flood risk communications
  - Strategy: offer variety of communications and events to engage a wider audience and meet people where they are
  - Pandemic changed societal values and methods to floodplain management
  - Flood risk education is NOT enough
  - Those more vulnerable tend to have less of a voice and access
  - flood history and placement and displacement of communities are key to understanding
- 2020-2021 – Next Steps
  - POLICY MATTERS: Redlining issues, sacrifice zones, “choice vs. circumstance”; leading to inequitable outcomes of environmental issues
  - Urban renewal and environmental justice
  - hazard mitigation programs
  - NFIP – issues and challenges
  - Climate Change effects
  - Vulnerable populations subjected to flooding, NOT populations vulnerable to flooding
  - DCR partnered with the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of VA – *impacts of Space, Place, Climate Change, and Race*
    - discuss effects of historic and systemic racism and impacts to minority communities in becoming more vulnerable to disasters
- 2021 – Share the Flood Story
  - Individual experiences with flooding
  - Progress? Urban Renewal?
    - Vinegar Hill (Charlottesville)
    - Fulton Bottom (Richmond)
    - Union Hill (Buckingham Co)
  - Environmental Justice Act in VA, building on the federal framework developed in the 1990s
- Environmental Justice
  - Mountain Valley Pipeline (Pittsylvania Co.)
  - Involvement people regardless of background (racial, socioeconomic, etc.), to create broad impact
  - Climate gentrification, green gentrification

- Vulnerable Populations – repetitive loss, including severe repetitive loss
- Making changes
  - Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) – index on vulnerable populations (lower-income, minorities)
  - Rural focus, disadvantaged rural communities;
    - SWVA – steep slopes mountains; high-velocity flooding
    - extreme and frequent rain events, will cause more damage to properties and infrastructure
    - only 7% NFIP flood policies are outside the coastal region – hinders resiliency for areas like SWVA and other mountain regions
    - DCR Training sessions – January 11 to 13
    - Hurley, VA – disaster relief, ongoing effort

**Mark Kilgore (DCR) – Dam Safety and Floodplain Management, Central Virginia Area  
VA Dam Safety Program**

- Presentation on VA Dam Safety Act and other Statewide dam-related issues (see presentation slides)