



Regional Environmental Managers Technical Committee

FY20 CZM Technical Assistance (TA) Grant

November 17, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Digital Meeting and Conference Call

NOTES

Attendees: David Nunnally (Caroline County), Michael Newchok (King George County), Scott Rae and Tyler Gelles (Fredericksburg), John Saunders and Chris Stevens (Stafford County), Wanda Parrish and Jacob Pastwick (Spotsylvania County), Brent Hunsinger and Adam Lynch (FOR), Harry Looney (Lake Anna Civic Association), Bryant Bays (VDOF), Pat Coady and Matt Gerhart (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust), Les Johnson (UMW), Mikel Manchester (VCE), Angela Davis (DCR), Julio Reyes (VDEM), Jeff Flood (DEQ CZM), Kate Gibson (GWRC), and Bella O'Brien and Denise Nelson (Berkley Group).

Outcome 1. The GWRC board discussed and adopted (resolution 21-06) the Environmental Services Strategic Plan at their meeting on Nov.16, 2020. Notes from the discussion are **attached.**

- **Follow up action:** GWRC will post the final PDF and Excel files on the website.
- **Follow up action:** Member localities and other organizations will consider the need or value in adopting or endorsing the plan individually.

Outcome 2. The region has many environmental projects. Activities will be coordinated among:

- Coastal Zone Management, started Oct. 1, 2020
 - Technical Assistance (CZM TA)
 - Special Project: Flood Risk Communication Program (CZM SP)
 - Advancing Ecosystem and Community Resilience (CZM R), kick off in January
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Program (WIP), 2020 contract ends Dec. 31, 2020; 2021 scope is coming soon, kick off in January
- Greenways Feasibility Study, kick off in 2021
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act compliance templates, starting soon
- Hazard Mitigation Plan update planning, applied for funding for August 2021 kick off

Outcome 3. DEQ is interested in receiving proposals for small amounts of funds to facilitate CBPA compliance.

- David Nunnally inquired if funds could be requested for a “stormwater-lite” pilot program.
 - **Follow up action:** GWRC will work with David to prepare a proposal.

Outcome 4. The focus for this year’s CZM trainings will be water quality laws and regulations and related programs and funding opportunities (as prioritized in the Environmental Services Strategic Plan). GWRC shared overview information and links on the federal Clean Water Act and Regulations, Virginia’s water laws and regulations, and DEQ guidance documents and training opportunities.

- The proposed amendments to the CBPA for resilience and trees will be presented to the SWCB in December 2020. The questions DEQ asked stakeholders at the Oct. 29, 2020 virtual public meeting are **attached**.
 - **Follow up action:** GWRC will send SWCB meeting details.
- DEQ expects efforts to consolidate stormwater regulations should be completed in December 2021.
 - **Follow up action:** GWRC will track and share details.
- The committee would like further information on conservation easements. While controversial because they secure land from development, they are voluntary and bring in federal funds, making this an economical and underutilized tool.
 - **Follow up action:** GWRC will add this topic to a future meeting agenda.
- The committee would like more information on the state revolving loan fund in relation to water quality laws and regulations.
 - **Follow up action:** GWRC will add this topic to a future meeting agenda.
- DCR is partaking in a perennial stream regulatory review and will be mapping all perennial streams in Virginia using LIDAR. The more rural counterparts need to be familiar as there is room for conflict as new streams are mapped. Public forum and guidance document on perennial streams:
<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GDocForum.cfm?GDocForumID=417>
 - **Follow up action:** GWRC will track and share details.

Outcome 5. The CZM special project this year is to create a regional Flood Risk Communication Program to supplement locality outreach programs. This aligns with DCR’s efforts to create a state Flood Risk Communication Program and the updates to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps across the state. FEMA created non-regulatory Flood Risk Maps, Flood Risk Reports, and other flood risk data for communicating risk.

- Localities reported they provide flood risk outreach during Flood Awareness Week in March and as required for properties that have a change in status during FIRM updates.

Outcome 6. DCR’s current programs and resources are described online at:
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/fppubs>.

Outcome 7. King George County Parks and Recreation is partnering with Friends of the Rappahannock to implement the Trees for Clean Water in two new buffer zones.

Outcome 8. Spotsylvania County is updating their comprehensive plan and parking standards.

Outcome 9. Stafford County is having issues with halted larger developmental projects by the DEQ due to stream mitigation challenges. They are also receiving results from DEQ on the ESC program audit. They are willing to share insights and lessons learned from the audit.

- **Follow up action:** GWRC will add this topic to a future meeting agenda.

Outcome 10. Fredericksburg is in initial phases of outreach to community members in flood zone A. Zone A does not include flood elevation data; however, the newer maps and geodatabase do include information on BFE which needs to be communicated to the community members in this zone.

Outcome 11. Friends of the Rappahannock recently provided two large tree giveaways funded by grants. Additionally, they are working on living shorelines in Caroline County. The scenic designation for the Rappahannock has been approved by the DCR and will next be voted on by County Supervisors. If it is not passed by the county supervisors, it will move to the special session of the Virginia General Assembly. This may pose issues as each member of the assembly is approving only 10 acts.

Outcome 12. Virginia Department of Forestry shared the seedling store is now open and will be until they sell out in early spring. They provide bareroot seedlings. Communities can now track tree planting with the new tracking program provided by the VDOF. Additionally, tax credits are available to localities who harvest lumber and keep the riparian buffer zone intact.

- **Follow up action:** GWRC will add these topics to a future meeting agenda.

Outcome 13. VDEM staff have been busy with a variety of efforts related to the coronavirus. They are hosting an exercise held for communities within a 50-mile radius of the North Anna nuclear powerplant. There is also a hazard mitigation plan update underway.

Outcome 14. UMW will be supporting FOR in delivering the Trees Workshop funded by VDOF. The event will likely occur in August or September of 2021.

Outcome 15. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is busy securing new conservation easements. They are excited to support this group in conservation and resilience planning.

Future meetings (3rd Tuesdays, every other month, 1-3pm) and topics are:

- January 19: Kickoff CZM R and WIP annual programs
- March 16: CZM TA, CZM SP, and WIP
- May 18: CZM TA and CZM SP
- July 20: CZM R and WIP
- September 21: CZM TA and WIP