

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (Flood Committee)

Subject	Flood Committee Meeting 2025 – #1	Date	2/5/25
Chair	DCR Director Matt Wells	Time	9:00am
Location	Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room, 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219	Scribe	Arthur Kay

Flood Committee Members		
Name [Alternate Name]	Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Matthew Wells	Director Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)	Y
Stephanie Taillon	Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Office of Governor	Y
Martin D. Brown	Chief Diversity Officer Office of Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion (ODOI)	
Robbie Coates	Director, Grant Management and Recovery Division Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	Y
Shawn Crumlish [Peter D'Alema]	Executive Director [Director of Program Management] Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)	[Y]
Bill Curtis <i>Lee Hutchinson - Proxy</i>	Assistant Director <i>Resiliency Program Analyst</i> Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Y
Jamie Green	Commissioner Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)	
LJ Hansen	Director of Public Works, Virginia Beach Virginia Municipal League (VML)	
Fred Kirby	State Review Engineer Virginia Department of General Services (DGS)	Y
Adrienne Kotula	Virginia Director Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	Y
Lewie Lawrence	Executive Director MPPDC Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)	
John Lawson	Director Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI)	
Dean Lynch	Executive Director Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)	
Alex Samms	Chief Deputy Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Y
Chris Swanson [Angel Deem]	Environmental Division Director [Chief of Policy]	

Chris Berg - Proxy	Director of Sustainability Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Y
DCR Staff		
Name	Title (Organization Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Darryl Glover	Deputy Agency Director (DCR)	Y
Matt Dalon	Resilience Planning Program Manager (DCR)	Y
Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro	Resilience Planner (DCR)	Y
Arthur Kay	Resilience Planner (DCR)	Y
Ellie Plisko	VCU Wilder Fellow (DCR)	Y
Gabrielle Rosario	Virginia Sea Grant Fellow (DCR)	Y

Members of the Public	
In-Person Attendance Name (Organization)	Virtual Attendance Name (Organization)
Ian Blair (Wetlands Watch)	Henry "Speaker" Pollard (Williams Mullen)
Emily Steinhilber (Environmental Defense Fund)	

Scheduled Speakers	
Name	Title, Organization
Matt Wells	Director, DCR
Stefanie Taillon	Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
Joe Underwood	Senior Legal Council, FOIA Advisory Council
Matt Dalon	Program Manager, DCR
John Millspaugh	Project Manager, Arcadis
Madison Teeter	Resilience Specialist, Arcadis
Dr. Paul Robinson	Executive Director, RISE

Reference Links	
Item	Link
Meeting Agenda	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20250205-flood-committee-agenda.pdf
Meeting Handouts/Presentation Slides	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20250205-flood-committee-meeting-materials.pdf

Video Recording of the Meeting	https://youtu.be/IAU-M3VlOrw
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Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair of the Flood Committee, Director Matt Wells (DCR) started the call at 9:03 a.m. and roll was taken. He welcomed all members to the new committee.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Director Wells (DCR) asked members to move to adopt the agenda and all members approved by voice vote.
3. FOIA Training	Joe Underwood presented an abbreviated FOIA training. Highlighted notes included: • The definition of public meeting is typically defined as a meeting of three or more committee members (only two members would not qualify). • Public records are presumed open unless specifically exempt • Meeting minutes must be reviewed and adopted, then become public record posted on website. • Five working days to respond once a request is received. • The Flood Committee is a public body and therefore subject to FOIA meeting requirements, which include providing advance notice of meetings and permitting public attendance.
4. Flood Committee Charter & Overview	Director Wells stated that the draft charter has been provided in materials to attendees. Members have 30 days to review and adopt at next meeting. Members can designate an alternate. Adrienne Kotula asked if advisors be invited to meetings. Director Wells responded that such feedback on this can be provided to the charter. Matt Dalon requested consideration that advisors may be considered members of public body and subject to FOIA requirements. Director Wells presented on the committee charter, flooding in Virginia, and the resilience planning efforts. He discussed the differences between the Coastal Resilience Master Plan being a more localized/regional effort, while the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan would be broader and focus on policies and strategies to address flooding. He recognized DEQ Coastal Zone Management, VDEM Hazard Mitigation Plan, and VDOT Resilience Plan as opportunities for DCR to coordinate in the resiliency space. He identified a role of Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth would be to pull agencies together to produce a Status of Resilience Report for the Commonwealth. Regarding upcoming flood resilience activities, he highlighted that the State Floodplain Management Standards Update was internally being reviewed prior to public comment.

5. Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan	Overview Matt Dalon provided an overview of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, its objectives, timeline, and product deliverables. John Millspaugh then presented a more detailed update on the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, including objectives, and prioritized gaps based on stakeholder feedback. Prioritization of Gaps to be Addressed Madison Teeter presented on Priority Gaps to be addressed, summarized stakeholder feedback, and resulting prioritization from the previous engagements. Robbie Coates commented that these aligned with the Chief Resilience Officer’s roles and responsibilities. Alex Samms commented that some gaps received lower priority through the voting process are being addressed as priority gaps versus the gaps that were higher up. Director Wells suggested that a resource is provided to reference the cross-over between the gaps and how they were finalized. For example, Ms. Teeter mentioned that four financial related gaps were finalized into one. Madison Teeter provided resilience plan examples that depicted strategies, objectives, and performance measures with varying levels of detail and opened the floor to committee members for discussion. These examples from detailed to less detailed were as follows: City of Fort Lauderdale, State of Texas, City of Jacksonville, State of New Jersey. Committee Member Feedback Alex Samms stated that he appreciates the high level of detail. Some of the less detailed planning has already occurred during prior meetings and that it would be timely to get into more high detail, actionable items, although doing so creates a more rigid structure. Fred Kirby concurred that a high level of detail would allow for the identification of roadblocks. Strategies that are left vague may not be able to address specific issues. Chris Berg stated that VDOT and potentially other agencies are still working to identify what their strategies are, and what funding is available to them. Therefore a medium to lower level of specificity may be a good middle ground. Director Wells reminded members that the VFPMP is not a regulatorily binding document. It is a plan that seeks further coordination of strategies, and it is on an update cycle of 5-years per statute. Adrienne Kotula requested clarity on the plan’s content and audience. She stated the plan’s high-level strategies would be directed towards the General Assembly and Governor’s office. Any guidance for state agencies would need to get into more specific questions. Matt Dalon stated strategies are to be developed first, then an implementation roadmap would follow, which could vary depending on agency. This sequence would help establish a clear path and help foster coordination between agencies.
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	Director Wells stated that they are not making recommendations to the detailed level of design standards but may make more general recommendations for consideration regarding similar topics. Chris Berg recommended exercising caution around metrics (e.g. City of Fort Lauderdale example), as some agencies are still working on determining performance metrics. Robbie Coates agreed that it would be possible to get sidetracked by numerous detailed performance metrics which would be unattainable. Performance measures must tie back to overall strategy objectives. He agreed in having high level of detail, but they must tie to objectives to streamline process. Lee Hutchinson recommended to not reinvent the wheel and understand what is working in other states and localities where these resilience plans exist. Robbie Coates stated you can write yourself into a corner with too much detail or create a plan that is too open ended and ambiguous. He said we need to find a sweet spot in the middle. Paul Robinson stated Texas was the only provided example that referenced insurance which does not require building infrastructure. Insurance may be a good place to start. Director Wells stated the intent is to leverage existing programs rather than creating new ones. Madison Teeter asked if there are there any specific programs at your agencies that come to mind? Alex Samms stated that the DEQ CZM Program looks at policies and anything coastal related, and it is funded by NOAA. Fred Kirby stated that we looked at which models to determine increase of flooding. He would be interested to know 5-6 years down the road, what additional data have we gained to validate these models. Matt Dalon mentioned that DCR is working on statewide impact analysis and can provide an update at the next Committee meeting. There is opportunity to get feedback before plan is finalized.
6. RISE Presentation	DHCD/RISE SWVA Flood Insurance Challenges Paul Robinson gave a presentation on the RISE funding challenges and highlighted that locality and PDC staff are experts at explaining the problem very well, but may not know all the solutions. He provided updates on the five RISE Riverine Challenge winners which have pilot programs running through November 2025. These start-up companies offer solutions in parametric insurance, flood monitoring, mapping, and early warning systems. Paul mentioned RISE needing contacts to coordinate with VDEM and DCR, and suggested Virginia had an opportunity to be a leader in the space of riverine insurance.

	Riverine Challenge II is upcoming in April 2025, with new topic areas, followed by HUD Challenge in September 2025. Additionally, RISE was asked by DHCD to bring Challenge program to the Hampton Roads Region. Presentation Questions & Answers Norfolk has embarked on CSRM program, VA Beach, Hampton too. Norfolk program is \$2.6B, RISE looking at opportunities for small businesses to interact with the CSRM program. Adrienne Kotula asked if parametric insurance is affordable? Paul Robinson responded that while he does not know what the number would be to run a parametric insurance program for a whole region, RISE wants to figure that out. The Norfolk insurance program is \$14/mo which is primarily targeting employer/employees for up to \$10k payout for loss of work. Director Wells asked if RISE keeps track of the company's results after the pilot period. Paul Robinson responded that they do keep track, particularly with additional funding rounds and business side, as some of the challenge winners are doing well.
7. Public Comment	Ian Blair (Wetlands Watch) Texas Coastal Resilience Master Plan and State Plan have some metrics that balance evaluating goals / metrics without being too prescriptive. Estimated population in 100-year floodplain, 500-year floodplain based on day / nighttime populations as well as evaluating low water crossings. Texas created a data quilt that involved stitching multiple datasets together. Texas has the highest flood fatality rate compared with other states due to low water crossings. They looked at how they can reduce this and track every 5-years, and this approach was not too prescriptive. The Texas plan is connected to a flood fund. They had a deadline to submit their resilience projects, evaluations, and strategies of would not be considered until the next 5-year cycle. This connected the funding mechanism to regional resilience plans and fostered numerous projects to become eligible for the flood fund. Texas established an iterative process for regional and state planning, they made mistakes in the first cycle which were fixed in second cycle. One of these mistakes that were corrected was first understanding the gaps before establishing goals. Emily Steinhilber (Environmental Defense Fund) Support in Adrienne's comments earlier, more voices and resources will be helpful to this effort. Henry "Speaker" Pollard (virtual / public attendee) In considering gaps, please also look to private sector and NGO activities and initiatives, including mitigation bank and permittee-responsible mitigation site developments (and slow pace of approval process) and voluntary credit market opportunities that can help with flood protection/resiliency.

	When looking at gaps, we should see what the private sector is doing. There are facility owner operators, mitigation banks, folks doing projects that will benefit riverine flood protection and other flood efforts in the state. Want to make sure we are accounting for those. Make sure we are doing whatever we can in the state. Development of mitigation banks. Credits are desperately needed. They have ancillary effects on flooding. Credit opportunities that are emerging within the private marketplace. He noted that we need to make sure we are getting input from business / economic development community, whether it is insurance or other. He emphasized getting input along the way, not just at the end. He said we need to ensure statewide and local water supply planning accounts for and protects critical infrastructure, particularly riverine intake structures, is crucial to long-term resilience.
8. Adjourn	11:17am – Meeting Adjourned

Voting Records

The purpose of these minutes is to record and preserve, to the best of our ability, the major contributors and general topics covered during this meeting. Verbatim transcription is not the intent of this document. If you have any questions, please contact flood.resilience@dcr.virginia.gov
