

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (Flood Committee)

Subject	Flood Committee Meeting 2025 – #2	Date	5/27/25
Chair & Vice Chair	DCR Director, Matt Wells Chief Resilience Officer, Greg Steele	Time	1:00 pm
Location	Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room, 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219	Scribe	Gabrielle Rosario

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
Greg Steele	Chief Resilience Officer Office of Commonwealth Resilience	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	Assistant Director 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 representing Virginia Municipal League (VML)	
James Hutzler	Government Relations Associate Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)	Y
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, Middle Peninsula PDC representing Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)	
John Lawson	Director Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI)	
Alex Samms	Chief Deputy Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Y
Chris Swanson [Angel Deem]	Environmental Division Director [Chief of Policy] Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	[Y]

Invited Guests		
Name	Title Organization	Attended? V = Virtual
Ben McFarlane	Chief Resilience Officer Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Y
Caitlin Verdu	Commonwealth Resilience Coordinator Office of Commonwealth Resilience	Y
Sigrid Lampe	Commonwealth Resilience Policy Advisor Office of Commonwealth Resilience	Y
John Millsbaugh	Project Manager Arcadis	Y
Madison Teeter	Resilience Specialist Arcadis	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	Senior Resilience Planner (DCR)	Y
Gabrielle Rosario	Virginia Sea Grant Fellow (DCR)	Y

Reference Links	
Item	Link
Meeting Agenda	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20250527-flood-committee-agenda.pdf
Meeting Handouts/ Presentation Slides	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20250527-flood-committee-presentation.pdf
Video Recording of the Meeting	[Link to be added to final minutes]

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair of the Flood Committee, Director Matt Wells (DCR) started the call at 1:01pm and roll was taken.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Director Wells asked members to move to adopt the agenda and all members approved by voice vote.

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3. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2025	Director Wells then asked about the adoption of the minutes and all members approved by voice vote.
4. Flood Committee Charter Discussion & Vote to Adopt the Charter	Director Wells then asked about the adoption of the Flood Committee charter and all members approved by voice vote.
5. Chief Resilience Officer Updates	Vice Chair of the Flood Committee, Greg Steele introduced himself and the new staff for the Office of Commonwealth Resilience. He announced that the Office is working on the Status of Resilience and that they are continuing to work on reaching out to stakeholders for coordination.
6. Department of Conservation and Recreation Updates	<p>Director Wells provided an update on Round 5 of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF), including that the advisory committee recently met and recommended approval of \$45 million in grants and \$5 million in loans.</p> <p>He also announced that Round 6 of the CFPF is scheduled to occur later this year and a draft manual will come out soon for public comment.</p> <p>He then discussed plans to do a targeted round of the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund in Southwest Virginia and that a draft manual will also come out soon.</p>
7. Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP)	<p>Overview</p> <p>Matt Dalon provided a brief overview of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP), including the timeline, planning process, and final products.</p> <p>Mr. Steele asked if there is integration of the VFPMP status tracker with the Coastal Resilience Master Plan (CRMP) Web Explorer. Mr. Dalon responded that the VFPMP operates at the state-scale focused on policy and programs while the CRMP is place-based focused on projects which does not support direct integration of the two products.</p> <p>Flood Impact Analysis</p> <p>John Millspaugh from Arcadis then presented findings from the flood impact analysis for the plan, including impacts on land exposure, building exposure, and population exposure. He also presented a comparison of flood extent maps created by both Fathom and FEMA data.</p> <p>Robbie Coates asked Arcadis or the DCR Office of Resilience Planning (ORP) what the level of confidence is in the expanded Fathom flood hazard data, specifically the rainfall-driven flood hazard. Mr. Dalon responded that the nonregulatory Fathom pluvial data is similar to the Coastal Resilience Master Plan pluvial data, but not exactly the same due to difference in resolution and topography data. He further said that similar to the CRMP pluvial data, the Fathom pluvial data does not take into account stormwater infrastructure, but it still helps fill the gap in the FEMA data and shows the importance of stormwater infrastructure.</p> <p>Adrienne Kotula asked if anyone is working on including stormwater flooding in their mapping tools. Mr. Dalon responded that Virginia Beach, Newport News, and</p>

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	<p>cities in Northern Virginia are working on this. He then said it is not feasible at this time for the state to incorporate stormwater flooding in its models.</p> <p>Strategies</p> <p>Madison Teeter from Arcadis then presented the draft strategies for the plan for members to discuss.</p> <p>On the reliable data systems strategy, Fred Kirby asked if VFRIS is going to reflect the new Fathom data. Mr. Dalon responded that VFRIS now includes the Fathom public dataset, but that the FEMA data is still the regulatory dataset.</p> <p>Ms. Kotula asked if there is a timeline associated with the strategies, and Ms. Teeter responded that the implementation roadmap will establish timelines. Ms. Kotula then asked when feedback should occur for the actions, and Ms. Teeter responded that it could be either during the meeting or at the next in-person workshop.</p> <p>The following discussion occurred for the following strategy themes:</p> <p><i>Meaningful Coordination Theme</i></p> <p>Alex Samms raised concern about the amount of people and groups asked to participate in multiple overlapping resilience discussions as it could impede efficiency. Ms. Teeter responded that one of the benefits to having the VFPMP meetings is for agencies to learn about what others are doing.</p> <p>Mr. Steele commented that the Office of Commonwealth Resilience and Resilience Team is working on meaningful coordination and that it is important to know what others are doing in this space.</p> <p>Ben McFarlane commented that there should be a focus on political subdivisions in this strategy and noted that localities suffer from lack of coordination.</p> <p>Mr. Coates asked if insurance companies are included, and Ms. Teeter responded that they are.</p> <p>Mr. Steele asked if this strategy would also include federal coordination, and Ms. Teeter responded that it may be included in the actions and implementation roadmap.</p> <p>Director Wells requested that the strategy also capture intergovernmental coordination both up with federal partners and down with regional and local governments.</p> <p><i>Enhanced Capacity Theme</i></p> <p>Mr. Steele asked if General Assembly action or a change in agency missions would be needed, and Ms. Teeter responded that General Assembly action may be needed.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane commended that “authorities” could be added to the second bullet in this strategy.</p> <p><i>Resilience Funding Theme</i></p>

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	<p>James Hutzler requested that this strategy emphasize the need for improved flexibility in funding for localities.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane commented that an analysis of level of funding needed for resilience should be completed.</p> <p>Angel Deem noted that the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) is a good model for examining the additional costs of incorporating resilience into projects.</p> <p>Mr. Steele commented that funding will be a challenge.</p> <p><i>Reliable Data Systems Theme</i></p> <p>Mr. Steele commented that we need to make sure data is accurate and comparable across government lines including the five USACE districts in Virginia.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane commented that this strategy could also include data acquisition.</p> <p>Bill Curtis asked if this strategy would require that the data be peer-evaluated to which Ms. Teeter responded yes.</p> <p><i>Proactive Adaptation</i></p> <p>Mr. McFarlane commented that the phrase “economic wellbeing” is limiting and that the strategy could also include people and resources or health, safety, and welfare.</p> <p><i>Supported Local Governments</i></p> <p>Mr. McFarlane expressed uncertainty over the call out of managed retreat and voluntary relocation as it could limit resilience solutions.</p> <p>Mr. Samms responded that relocation may be the best option in certain cases, such as wastewater plants that repetitively flood.</p> <p>Ms. Teeter clarified that stakeholders in past meetings emphasized the need for managed retreat to be highlighted at the strategy level.</p> <p>Mr. Hutzler commented that the need for localities is more through technical assistance and funding, not understanding strategies.</p> <p>Director Wells then asked the committee if they wanted to keep in managed retreat and voluntary relocation, and members did not reach a consensus. The Director then decided that for now, the strategy should include more broad language, and managed retreat and voluntary relocation could be placed in actions.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>Director Wells noted that committee members can provide more comments on strategies after the slides are posted.</p>

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	<p>Mr. Dalon asked members to discuss with their staff members if they need to align on comments for the upcoming stakeholder meeting on June 25th.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane noted that it would be good for the plan to have proactive engagement with the General Assembly, potentially through the Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding. He also mentioned that a living status tracker could be good for tracking progress on strategies. He then asked if other states have been identified to measure success for resilience planning, and Ms. Teeter responded that they have looked at other states including New Jersey.</p>
8. Committee Member Updates	<p>Director Wells then asked members of the Flood Committee to provide updates from their organizations.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane noted that the NOAA Atlas 15, Volume II is paused, so HRPDC is writing a letter to NOAA expressing their support for Volume II.</p> <p>Mr. Curtis noted that DHCD is working on the disaster assistance fund and that Bryan Horn will step down with Maggie Beal as the acting replacement.</p> <p>Ms. Kotula stated that the Chesapeake Bay Commission will help DCR to rework the RVRP.</p> <p>Mr. Coates said VDEM continues to work on Hurricane Helene recovery.</p> <p>Mr. Samms announced that the DEQ stormwater update will be final July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Ms. Deem said VDOT continues to implement their resilience plan and is putting together governance for what they must do.</p>
9. Public Comment	None
10. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 2:37pm.

Voting Records
N/A

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
