



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

September 28, 2023

Jerry Davis, AICP
Executive Director
Northern Neck Planning District Commission
P.O. Box 1600
457 Main Street
Warsaw, VA 22572

RE: NNPDC Resilience Plan Submission

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for submitting the Northern Neck Planning District Commission's Resilience Plan. After careful review and consideration, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has deemed the Plan complete, meeting all criteria outlined in the 2021 Community Flood Preparedness Grant Manual. This approval will remain in effect for a period of three years, ending September 28, 2026.

The following elements were evaluated as part of this review:

Element 1: It is project-based with projects focused on flood control and resilience.

Meets criteria as written. The *2023 Northern Neck Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (NNHMP)*, includes flood resilience projects at both regional and locality scales. Section 9, "Mitigation Action Plan," explains that these projects derive from re-examination of the 2017 HMP, results of RAFT scorecards, preparation for joining the Community Rating System, and direct engagement with localities.

Element 2: It incorporates nature-based infrastructure to the maximum extent possible.

Meets criteria as written. Proposed projects span many categories including planning, regulations, flood preparedness outreach, technical assistance and warning systems. Nature-based solutions, both structural and non-structural figure prominently. These include natural resource protection measures such as land acquisition, slope stabilization, erosion control, riparian buffers, and wetland restoration.

Element 3: It considers of all parts of a locality regardless of socioeconomics or race.

Meets criteria as written. The *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)* and the “Community Profile” section of the *NNHMP* discuss the prevalence and distribution of minority populations, low-income households, elderly, disabled and non-English speaking residents across member localities. According to *CEDS*, over 30% of the Northern Neck population has three or more risk factors that could impede their personal resilience. Goal #5 of the *NNHMP* “Mitigation Action Plan,” specifically targets these vulnerable populations for preparedness outreach, and localities list increased emergency communication efforts for these populations as potential projects of high priority.

Element 4: It includes coordination with other local and inter-jurisdictional projects, plans, and activities and has a clearly articulated timeline or phasing for implementation.

Meets criteria as written. Virginia’s *Coastal Resilience Master Plan (CRMP)* of 2021, local Comprehensive Plans, NNPDC’s *CEDS*, and the *Regional Water Supply Plan* all serve as direct sources for context and action items listed in the *2023 Northern Neck Hazard Mitigation Plan*. *ASCE 24-5: Flood Resistant Design and Construction* provides a reference for several of the proposed planning items, as improved compliance with the NFIP and higher standards are critical elements for achieving resilience. Table 9.4 of *NNHMP* ranks the importance of each project and gives timelines for completion.

Element 5: Is based on the best available science, and incorporates climate change, sea level rise, storm surge (where appropriate), and current flood maps.

Meets criteria as written. Sections 6 and 7 of the *NNHMP* assess the current and future risks posed to member localities by climate change, sea level rise, and storm surge. In addition to firsthand experiential data, sources include “*The North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study*” from USACE, “*Future Sea Level and Recurrent Flooding Risk Report for Coastal Virginia*” from the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency, and other reports of both state and federal origin (listed in Appendix B).

VA DCR looks forward to working with you as you strive to make the NNPDC’s member localities more resilient. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact us at cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov. Again, thank you for your interest in the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angela Davis, State NFIP Coordinator and Acting Director
Division of Floodplain Management

cc: Darryl M. Glover, DCR