

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (Flood Committee)

Subject	Flood Committee Meeting 2025 – #4	Date	12/17/25
Chair & Vice Chair	DCR Acting Director, Andrew Smith Chief Resilience Officer, Greg Steele	Time	1:00pm
Location	Virtual – Teams Webinar	Scribe	Ellie Plisko

Flood Committee Members		
Name [Alternate Name]	Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Martin D. Brown	Chief Diversity Officer Office of Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion (ODOI)	[V]
Robbie Coates	Director, Grant Management and Recovery Division Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	V
Shawn Crumlish [Peter D'Alema]	Executive Director [Director of Program Management] Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)	V [V]
Bill Curtis	Assistant Director Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	V
Jamie Green	Commissioner Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)	
LJ Hansen	Director of Public Works, Virginia Beach Virginia Municipal League (VML)	V
James Hutzler	Government Relations Associate Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)	
Fred Kirby	State Review Engineer Virginia Department of General Services (DGS)	V
Adrienne Kotula	Virginia Director Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	V
Rachael Peabody	Acting Executive Director MPPDC Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)	V
John Lawson	Director Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI)	
Alex Samms	Chief Deputy Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	V
Chris Swanson [Angel Deem] {Chris Berg}	Environmental Division Director [Chief of Policy] {Director of Sustainability} Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	V [V] {V}

DCR Staff		
Name	Title (Organization Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Darryl Glover	Deputy Agency Director (DCR)	V

Matt Dalon	Resilience Planning Program Manager (DCR)	V
Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro	Senior Resilience Planner (DCR)	V
Emily Breen	Resilience Planner (DCR)	V
Ellie Plisko	VCU Wilder Fellow (DCR)	V

Invited Speakers	
Name	Title, Organization
Jay Ford	Virginia Policy Manager, Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)

Reference Links	
Item	Link
Meeting Agenda	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20251217-flood-committee-agenda1.pdf
Meeting Handouts/Presentation Slides	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20251217-flood-committee-presentation.pdf

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair of the Flood Committee, Acting Director Andrew Smith (DCR) started the call at 1:09pm and roll was taken by Resilience Planning Program Manager (DCR) Matt Dalon.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Acting Director Andrew Smith asked members to move to adopt the agenda and all members approved by voice vote.
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from 9/10/2025	Acting Director Andrew Smith then asked about the adoption of the minutes from 9/10/2025 and all members approved by voice vote.
4. Recommendations of the Subcommittee on Recurrent Flooding	Jay Ford then presented on the recommendations from the Joint Subcommittee on Flooding. On November 18 the Subcommittee met to recommend a set of bills moving forward. Recommendations include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Codification of a Habitat Committee to review and make recommendations on mitigation strategies, provide advisory input on habitat-related rulemaking and regulatory amendments, review consistency with state resilience plans and objectives, review proposed regulatory and procedural changes, and to make recommendations on strategies for the VMRC to advance the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. This was unanimously approved by the subcommittee. The bill will be carried by Delegate Alex Askew 2. A number of proposed changes to the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund in areas of nature-based design criteria, enhanced loan forgiveness, and an interagency review team. This was unanimously approved by the subcommittee. The bill will be carried by Delegate Michael Feggans.

	<p>3. Beneficial Reuse Bill: makes beneficial reuse the policy of the Commonwealth whenever “feasible.” This was unanimously approved by the subcommittee. The bill will be carried by Delegate Rob Bloxom.</p> <p>4. Precipitation Design Standards: directs SWCB to adopt NOAA Atlas 15 once published. All state agencies shall incorporate climate-adjusted precipitation values when establishing design standards for stormwater management, floodplain management, and other public infrastructure systems. This was unanimously approved by the subcommittee.</p> <p>5. Budget: \$100 million in General Fund for CFPF, \$50 million for Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Funding.</p> <p>Chris Swanson asked for clarification on the design standards for state agencies. This is for culverts and bridges, but VDOT doesn't use precipitation data for this, they use stream flow data. Was this considered? Jay Ford explained that the reason there isn't yet a firm sponsor on the bill is that it is a solid idea, but there needs to be more conversation on this, especially with VDOT.</p> <p>Mr. Swanson also asked if there was consideration of using regional data sets rather than Atlas 14 while waiting for Atlas 15 to be released. Mr. Ford responded that this bill was presented as drafted and there was no discussion of this, but members likely wouldn't oppose that. Mr. Swanson finally asked if this is more for construction or also maintenance. As of now it is for construction but adding maintenance would be a good amendment.</p>
5. Chief Resilience Officer Updates	<p>Vice Chair of the Flood Committee, Greg Steele then provided updates on the Virginia Office of Resilience (VOR). VOR has established a vision and mission, as well as a tagline for the office: “Safer homes, dryer roads, and stronger communities”. The IRMT just had its third quarterly meeting and has identified 73 distinct hazards across 13 buckets that different agencies address or are impacted by. Flooding remains front and center and the IRMT validated this.</p> <p>VOR is also facilitating VDOT assistance to DCR for reviewing PE aspects of CFPF and RVRF applications.</p> <p>Mr. Steele has been asked by the Secretary to serve as the point person for Norfolk CSRM projects.</p> <p>Mr. Steele traveled to SWVA recently and met with 6 PDCs to discuss challenges of flooding, the different impacts, and the path forward. He emphasized that the flood impacts and modalities are very different across the region, so these conversations are essential for moving things forward.</p>
6. Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan	<p>Darryl Glover then provided DCR updates.</p> <p>The Dam Safety Impoundment Structure Regulations will become effective on January 14.</p> <p>CFPF Grant History: DCR has gone through 5 rounds of CFPF, and round 6 applications just closed. Over \$200 million was awarded in Rounds 1-5, with 18 grants supporting locality staffing totaling \$4.6 million and 23 grants supporting</p>

	<p>stormwater projects totaling \$48.5 million. CFPF loan demand is growing, the first requests were granted in Round 5. Round 6 has received 2 loan requests.</p> <p>Round 6 Application Summary: 78 applications were submitted by localities, PDCs, and tribes for a total of \$125 million in grant funds being requested – 70% of those coming from low-income geographic areas.</p> <p>The Virginia Floodplain Management Standards became effective 2 weeks ago. All state agencies, or anyone developing on state land, will need to adhere to these standards or the local floodplain ordinance, whichever is more stringent.</p> <p>Coastal Resilience Master Plan Phase II: the Plan is currently under executive review. It covers all localities in Coastal Virginia and provides a unified analysis of the threat of increasing flood exposure and identifies opportunities for impactful solutions. The Plan will be released very soon.</p>
7. Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan	<p>Matt Dalon then provided a status update on the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan. There have been a number of engagement meetings over the last 18 months to provide feedback to DCR for development of the final draft document. One item discussed at the prior meeting were the monitoring and metrics. Based on the feedback received, Mr. Dalon presented some changes and asked members for their feedback. He went through each of the 3 goals, the objectives within each goal, and the indicators being used to measure them.</p> <p>Goal A Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Injuries and fatalities (NCEI)• Property and crop damages (NCEI)• Number of cultural and historic sites impacted (DHR)• Duration of recovery period (TBD) <p>Rachael Peabody noted that using property and crop damage as well as injuries and fatalities will be a very useful metric in smaller localities. Fred Kirby mentioned that property damage data would be very helpful for their work monitoring damage to buildings.</p> <p>Bill Curtis asked why there weren't any metrics on economic impact. Mr. Dalon responded that he wasn't aware of any data sources specific to flooding. Alex Samms noted that power or water outage data can have a direct tie to economic impacts.</p> <p>LJ Hansen asked if tracking flooding roadways could be used as a proxy for economic impacts. Robbie Coates noted that when VDEM has a disaster, they have a planning team that collects power outage numbers, roadway impacts, and other metrics to report to the governor. It is less so a database and more event-by-event information.</p> <p>Rachael Peabody asked if annual maintenance and repair costs associated with flooding is data that can be collected from VDOT. She also noted that days that schools are closed or closed early due to flooding can be a useful metric. The number of emergency calls that can or cannot be completed due to flooding is another metric that can be used.</p>

	<p>Angel Deem asked how VDOT can be responsive to the data requests. She noted all of the suggestions and will plan to follow-up with Matt Dalon after the meeting. Greg Steele added that based on conversations with DHR they would likely be willing to assist with cultural and historic sites impacted.</p> <p>Matt Dalon then asked if any agencies are tracking how long the duration of recovery from flood events is, or if any agencies have proxy data for this. Robbie Coates mentioned that VDEM tracks how many people assistance goes to, but nothing about whether the loop has been closed. Members do feel that this is an important metric to be tracked and keep an eye on. Rachael Peabody suggested looking into Dominion Energy outages and school closures. Chris Swanson agreed that road closures will be a good indicator for this. Bill Curtis added that DHCD has data on the numbers of homes and families supported in post disaster recovery. Rachael Peabody added that even basic metrics such as the number of days with flood advisories will provide simple, but important context to this.</p> <p>Matt Dalon then shared indicators being tracked for the VFPMP regarding flood impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The percent of population in areas subject to major flooding• The percent of buildings in areas subject to major flooding• Average annualized losses from severe and recurrent flooding. <p>Rachel Peabody noted that natural resource monitoring would also be beneficial for this, possibly data from VIMS or AdaptVA. Alex Samms added that DEQ's annual water quality report could potentially be tied into this. Rachel Peabody added that tracking government stability over time in terms of critical facilities is another important aspect.</p> <p>The final metric discussed for Goal A is tracking acres of conserved lands, Rachael Peabody noted that there needs to be a better connection to flooding. She recommended it could be tracking conserved lands that are in the floodplain.</p> <p>Matt Dalon then went over goal B, noting that the first indicator is the most quantifiable.</p> <p>Goal B Metrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State funding invested in flood resilience• Usage of DCR flood resilience data resources• Incorporation of flood resilience best practices into applicable governing and guidance documents• Number of local, regional, and tribal governments receiving CFPF funds. <p>LJ Hansen noted that there may be value in tracking if state funding unlocks other local or federal funding. Matt Dalon responded that this data may not be regularly available. The goal is to find low hanging fruit that is readily available to use as a starting point. He added that these metrics are meant to be readily available and accessible for a starting point, and then we can build from them at future Flood Committee meetings. LJ Hansen asked that in terms of CFPF funds, will other funds being used in that project be tracked? Yes, Matt Dalon agrees that tracking the</p>
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	<p>match that state funding unlocks is important. Rachael Peabody thinks there could be a dataset that may show how good the state is at unlocking federal money.</p> <p>Rachael Peabody added that the number of projects happening is a great first step, but the types of projects that are happening and what leads to construction verse nature-based solutions would be very beneficial. Matt Dalon agreed that optimizing and tracking funding is an important aspect.</p> <p>Matt Dalon then went over Goal C and how DCR is capturing the co-benefits of flood resilience planning. He asked if there were any comments and whether committee members found them beneficial.</p> <p>Goal C Metrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of state funding programs considering different co-benefits including positive human health, quality of life, economic benefits, and nature-based solutions. <p>Rachael Peabody said this is a good start, she added that from the nature-based solutions aspect, it could get more specific to link Bay goals. LJ Hansen added that in Virginia Beach they are looking at discounts under FEMA's CRS program in terms of tracking economic benefits. Greg Steele asked if we have a means of tracking costs prevented because flood mitigation measures were implemented. LJ Hansen shared that Virginia Beach is spending \$1.5 billion on flood protection and part of that is trying to identify how much flooding is mitigated when prevention is done. The challenge is how complex and different every situation is and creating a comprehensive model is difficult.</p>
8. Committee Member Updates	<p>Matt Dalon then asked committee members to provide any updates.</p> <p>Robbie Coates (VDEM): last week VDEM got information on court ruling that overruled the cancellation of FEMA's BRIC Program. Still waiting to see what this mean in terms of projects that were identified for further review when it was cancelled. In terms of documenting the effectiveness of projects, he noted that it could be worth looking at what project type we have the most funding for and then building from there.</p> <p>LJ Hansen (VML, VB): No updates</p> <p>Fred Kirby (DGS): Got their first variance permit from DCR for ODU which is going well.</p> <p>Alex Samms (DEQ): The Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook Version 1.2 is under public comment period and open for comments.</p> <p>Angel Deem (VDOT): VDOT is finalizing their key resilience tools and implementation of their Resilience Plan. Created a tool to look at assets against current and future risks and exposure intended to support planning, operations, maintenance, and construction. Also created a cost-benefit analysis tool to look at resilience practices under consideration and see what the return is. Evaluated enhanced design criteria to be used for highly vulnerable assets. Pilot for nature-based solutions underway, current project in Richmond County where a roadway experiencing recurrent flooding is being retrofitted with a living shoreline. Also</p>

	<p>working on a USDOT grant project for resilience along evacuation routes, installation expected next year.</p> <p>Shawn Crumlish (VRA): No updates</p> <p>Rachael Peabody (VAPDC): No updates</p>
9. Public Comment	<p>Andrew Smith then asked members of the public to provide any comments should they wish to do so.</p> <p>Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro read a comment in the chat from Doug Moseley: In re VFPMP Goal C - Positive economic co-benefits: Is there a way to capture the "value" of retaining a preferred municipal or public bond rating? Resilience to climate impacts - with an emphasis on flooding among other factors - is now a visible consideration not just for actuarial purposes (insurance), but also for credit rating agencies (Moody's, SP, etc.) for municipal bond issues. Given the need for ongoing bond financing at the local level for resilience and other priorities, the difference in borrowing costs can likely be captured as a co-benefit.</p> <p>There were no other public comments.</p>
10. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 3:16pm.

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
