



Resilience Coordination Working Group

Meeting Summary February 28, 2023

Meeting Agenda

Welcome, Roll Call and Agenda Review

Information Sharing: Current State of Resilience in Virginia with Presentations by:

- Virginia Dept of Transportation (VDOT)
- Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT)

Information sharing: Summary of Organizations' Resiliency Roles (PMG)

Summary of information provided to the Performance Management Group (PMG) by working group members including strengths and opportunities related to interagency collaboration and funding

Small Group Discussion on the Following Topics:

- Where do we see overlaps or gaps in organizations' resiliency roles?
- Which key partners are missing from the information collected so far?
- Which methods of communication have been effective in the past for interagency collaboration?

Reports From the Small Group Discussion to the Working Group

Public Comment

Next Steps and Subcommittee Topics

Adjourn

Overview of Discussion

Information Sharing: Current State of Resilience in Virginia

Angel Deem, Chief of Policy for VDOT, provided a brief overview of the first statewide transportation resiliency plan developed in November of 2022 which addresses the next 18 to 24 months. Chris Swanson, VDOT Environmental Division Director, then walked through the presentation of the plan details.

Questions regarding the presentation included:

Lewis Lawrence (MPPDC) asked about the VIMS maps and the measuring of flood levels at high tide (“mean high water”) versus low tide (“mean low water”) and the potential impact (e.g., time asset is flooded/underwater). Chris indicated VDOT will be working with VIMS on adjusting the models.

Sarah Taylor (City of Alexandria) commented on the likely need to acknowledge different definitions of resilience for different parts of the planning process (e.g., transportation versus land use versus public safety).

Jessica Whitehead followed up on the value of including end users in tool development so efficiencies can be capitalized upon and the number of tools developed is minimized. Chris Swanson indicated VDOT is working with VIMS on a potential portal and acknowledged there is a need for more external engagement for which he noted there is a strategy currently being developed.

Chris Stone (Clark Nexsen) listed some of the legislation from the current General Assembly including HB1634 which included a definition of resiliency and noted the adherence to the comprehensive plan is not mandatory. Adrienne Kotula (CBC) followed up that the definition used in this bill matches the resilient Virginia revolving fund from the previous year,

Jess Whitehead (ICAR-ODU) and Elizabeth Andrews (VCPC-WM) presented an overview of the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT).

Questions regarding the presentation included:

Martha Moore (VFB) asked about the availability of “model ordinances” and while a complete set of model ordinances does not exist, assistance is available by the RAFT team for localities looking to establish ordinances. Matt Dalon (DCR), in the chat window of the meeting, indicated the DCR has model ordinances available.

Whitney Katchmark (HRPDC) asked about staffing requirements. Elizabeth Andrews indicated state staffing was not beneficial at the scoring stage of the RAFT process but

RESILIENCE COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Summary February 28, 2023

there is value during the implementation stage. Jess Whitehead indicated they are currently working with CZM on the long-term sustainability of RAFT and the value of involving both the local government and the community. She also noted there is a need to understand different local communities have different needs and expectations which need to be incorporated into the RAFT process.

Rachael Peabody (VMRC) wanted to know if state agencies would benefit from the RAFT process. It was discussed the RAFT tool currently does not include the necessary functionality but it could be updated (but would take additional funding). The scorecard is currently being adapted to support both federally and state recognized tribes.

Information sharing: Summary of Organizations' Resiliency Roles (PMG)

Sarah Jackson of the Performance Management Group (PMG) reviewed the charge of the workgroup and then provided an overview of the environmental scan currently being developed.

A summary of the partnerships and collaboration between the workgroup entities based upon information provided prior to the meeting was also reviewed. Members who have not yet provided the information were encouraged to do so in order for a more comprehensive representation to be developed.

There was a high-level review of the strengths and opportunities for interagency collaboration and funding opportunities based on the currently available information. This information will likely be supplemented with details provided by the working group members after the meeting.

It was discussed there is likely value in having a data collection tool (Excel, survey, etc.) for the agencies to use to easily indicate their collaboration partners. PMG will investigate options and work to provide a flexible tool for providing this information. Jay Ford (CBF) asked about possible mechanisms for identifying the quality of the relationships and it was discussed how that will be factored into the analysis. Tom Crabbs (VADA) described the need to include federal stakeholders when reviewing interagency collaboration, specifically federal entities resident in Virginia, e.g., the military, as they are both stakeholders and partners.

Speaker Pollard (HBAV) talked about the "Coastal Resilience Business Consortium" that is working on some of these issues as well as other business trade groups that are working on these issues. Lewis Lawrence (MPPDC) mentioned the need to recognize Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and its codified responsibility to focus on coordinating interagency collaboration.

Small Group Discussion

The members of the workgroup were randomly placed in six breakout rooms to discuss the following questions:

- Where do we see overlaps or gaps in organizations' resiliency roles?
- Which key partners are missing from the information collected so far?
- Which methods of communication have been effective in the past for interagency collaboration?

Reports From the Small Group Discussion to the Working Group

Group 1 as reported by Matt Dalon (DCR)

Overlaps and Gaps: A lot of resilience happens at a program level which results in challenges of visibility regarding who is doing what and how they are doing it. This makes identifying gaps and overlaps difficult. It was discussed that there is a need for consistent missions, visions, and goals across all state agencies (not program specific or reactive as that may result in unintended consequences). Integrated guidance and high-level coordination are needed, e.g., between VRMC and DEQ, where jurisdiction exists with overlapping areas.

Missing Key Partners: Localities are missing as key partners along with ways to capitalize on those localities that are leading in efforts. This information could help those localities that have challenges developing their plans. There is a need to leverage the skills and expertise of the PDCs. Advocates for vulnerable communities are also missing as key partners.

Communication: Goals should be specific which will facilitate communication. Centralized source of information for all agencies would be ideal. In-person meetings with collaborative agendas are considered more productive than virtual meetings.

Group 2 additional insights as reported by Jess Whitehead (ICAR-ODU)

Overlaps and Gaps: The group discussed gaps in working with non-profits and noted that RISE is working in western Virginia to act as a coordinator with non-profits regarding resilience. Funding coordination is also a gap and there needs to be refinement of goals and objectives regarding ownership (state or locality). Federal agencies with funding, e.g., USDA, are not being used in rural areas. Contractors are not readily available to respond to bids in southwest Virginia. There is a need for new flood maps using hydraulic modeling so they accurately present the information. It is difficult at the local or regional level to know who is in charge and especially when there are conflicting agency rulings, e.g., moving debris when

RESILIENCE COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Summary February 28, 2023

there is life at risk. It was discussed that additional training within the agencies is likely needed to help mitigate issues like this. It was discussed that academic focus can also overlap and there is a need to make sure the expertise is appropriately located and those involved have awareness where to find that expertise.

Missing Key Partners: Energy, rail and ports need to be strongly represented as they have significant connectivity issues during floods and disasters. Economic development should be included as projects can be developed in areas that are at flood risk.

Communication: There was unanimous agreement in favor of in-person meetings. There is a strong need to understand who needs to be engaged (who to call) during an event. It was proposed there by “resilience rosters” at the state, regional, and local level. Long term recovery groups (LTRG) are a good model during an immediate disaster recovery as well as during “blue skies” to help regions recover when a disaster occurs. Have groups that have experienced recent disasters share their lessons learned so current information is communicated rather than a historical and possibly out of date perspective.

Group 3 additional insights as reported by James Hutzler (VACO)

Overlaps and Gaps: It was discussed that “money moving through the government systems” is likely better handled by more sophisticated/experienced localities than others. There is a lack of clarity of federal dollars and how they can be used at the state and local levels and it can be difficult finding related information to address the confusion.

Missing Key Partners: Applied practitioners, flood insurance and insurance agents

Communication: For the localities, there needs to be clear communication of the meaning of resiliency and how actively participating the processes will benefit them. There needs to be increased focus on inland communities along with coastal communities.

Group 4 additional insights as reported by Carol Considine

Overlaps and Gaps: There exists a clear funding gap as well as there is a need for clarity on statutory roles across the agencies and a map of the statutory roles would be helpful. Also, it may be of value to look at creating a “resiliency information hub” to allow agencies to easily find information on what is being done.

Missing Key Partners: Federal partners are missing giving the numbers and types of “federal residences” with 30 installations in Virginia. We should explore increasing rural representation as well as key industry business associations.

Communication: Clear communication of the “lens of authority” of agencies needs to occur to better identify partnerships. It was suggested an “opt-in” directory of this working group be created to encourage discussion, collaboration, etc. where similar interests exist. Should also consider highlighting agencies with effective models, e.g., VDEM, that could benefit other agencies. Robbie Coates (VDEM) briefly described the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operation Plan which lists the roles and responsibilities of state agencies during an emergency and could serve as a model for this working group. He also offered to share a listing of grants available to local governments and related applications as that could provide information about locality resiliency plans.

Group 5 additional insights as reported by Emily Steinhilber (EDF)

Overlaps and Gaps: There needs to be a way for localities to share best practices, e.g., Sister Cities program, across the Commonwealth. There is an opportunity to identify and improve codes and standards. As for engagement and outreach, there needs to be clarity of ownership so local governments and residents understand plans. The costs and benefits of resiliency need to be better communicated.

Missing Key Partners: TAC, Joint Subcommittee, commercial and recreational fishing representatives.

Communication: Adapt communication mechanisms to best fit the situation (sometimes virtual meetings may be appropriate). It would be valuable to have a working group “official charge” as it could serve to motivate participation and engagement.

Group 6 additional insights as reported by Chris Swanson (VDOT)

Overlaps and Gaps: Need to ensure local and PDC planning efforts are shared with DCR to increase awareness. There appears to be “similar working groups working in similar projects” and there may be an opportunity to consolidate efforts and identify appropriate ownership of those efforts. Having a data clearinghouse would likely be of value to increase awareness and consistent usage of currently available data. Should explore how other states are addressing governance issues, e.g., data, design criteria, etc. There needs to be a focus on communicating efforts and lessons learned at the locality and jurisdiction levels so others can benefit. The high level of outreach may be creating “fatigue” and people are disengaging. Matt Wells (VDCR) added it will be important to align the state plan with those agencies that have done extensive work, e.g., VDOT.

RESILIENCE COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Summary February 28, 2023

Missing Key Partners: Commonwealth Flood Board could better bring climatologists, engineers, etc. into the process for a statewide effort. There may be benefits including Utilities in the discussion.

Communication: There is an interest for in-person meetings where decisions need to be made as virtual meetings are better suited for building awareness.

Public Comment

After the group discussions, there was an opportunity for public comment. No public comment was received.

Next Steps and Subcommittee Topics

All future working group meetings will be in-person and the next meeting will be on March 28th in Lexington, Virginia. A request was made to the members for suggestions for subcommittees to focus on specific topics if necessary.

Working Group Members and Alternates in Attendance

Organization	Workgroup Representative	February 28 Meeting Attendance	Alternate
William and Mary - VCPC (W&M)	Elizabeth Andrews	Yes	
Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCB)	Chuck Arnason	Alternate	Stephen R. Hill
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)	Sharon Baxter	Yes	
Virginia Chamber of Commerce (VACHamber)	Kristin Burhop	No	
Home Builders Association of Virginia (HBAV)	Andrew Clark	Yes (+Alternate)	Speaker Pollard
Virginia Agribusiness Council (VAC)	Brad Copenhaver	Yes	
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs (VADA)	Tom Crabbs	Yes (+Alternate)	Jordan Stewart
Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)	Shawn Crumlish	Yes (+Alternate)	Peter D'Alema
VA Department of Housing & Comm. Development (VDHCD)	Bill Curtis	Yes (+Alternate)	Lee Hutchinson
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Angel Deem	Yes	
University of Virginia - IEN (UVA)	Tanya Denckla Cobb	No	

RESILIENCE COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Summary February 28, 2023

Organization	Workgroup Representative	February 28 Meeting Attendance	Alternate
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)	Jay Ford	Yes	
Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)	Jamie Green	Alternate	Rachael Peabody
Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR)	Becky Gwynn	No	
Virginia Department of Energy (VDE)	David Hawkins	No	
Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)	Angie Jenkins	Yes	
Virginia PACE Authority (VPA)	Abby Johnson	Alternate	Ellen Dickson
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC)	Rebecca Joyce	Yes	
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)	Whitney Katchmark	Yes	
Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	Adrienne Kotula	Yes	
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC)	Lewis Lawrence	Yes (+Alternate)	Curt Smith
Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)	Mark Lukenbach	Yes	
Virginia Farm Bureau (VFB)	Martha Moore	Yes (+Alternate)	Katelyn Jordan
Virginia Department of the Treasury	Brian Parker	Alternate	Bryan Chamberlain
Virginia Association of Soil and Water Districts (VASWD)	Pickett, Robert	Alternate	Kendall Tyree
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Nikki Rovner	Yes	
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC)	Aaron Sizemore	Yes	
Environmental Defense Foundation (EDF)	Emily Steinhilber	Yes (+Alternate)	Grace Tucker
Clark Nexsen	Chris Stone	Yes	
Virginia Tech - CCS (VT)	Wendy Stout	No	
Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	Shawn Talmadge	Alternate	Robbie Coates
City of Alexandria	Sarah Taylor	Yes	
Virginia Manufacturer's Association (VMA)	Brett Vassey	Alternate	Paige Wernig
Port of Virginia	Cathie Vick	Alternate	Scott Whitehurst
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (SNHR)	Secretary Travis Voyles	Yes	
Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (CPPDC)	Scotty Wampler	Alternate	Debbie Milton
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR)	Director Matthew Wells	Yes	
Old Dominion University (ODU)	Jess Whitehead	Yes (+Alternate)	Carol Considine
Agency Representative	Name		
Deputy Secretary of Finance	John Markowitz	No	

RESILIENCE COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Summary February 28, 2023

Organization	Workgroup Representative	February 28 Meeting Attendance	Alternate
Deputy Secretary of Higher Education	Sarah Spota	No	
Deputy Secretary of Transportation	John Lawson	Yes	
Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)	Joe Lerch	Yes (+Alternate)	James Hutzler
Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)	David Blount	No	
VCU Performance Management Group Facilitators			
	Gina Barber	Yes	
	Sarah Jackson	Yes	
	Wheeler Wood	Yes	