

**Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory (TAC)
 RDI Subcommittee Q4 Meeting**

Subject	TAC Resource Data & Innovation (RDI) Subcommittee Meeting – Q4	Date	10/10/2024
Chair	Dave Davis (co-chair) Alexander Samms (chair) joined mid-meeting Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Time – START/ADJOURN	01:00pm / 3:44pm
Location	Hybrid. In person in Conference Room 1, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219	Scribe	Grady Hart, CPP

Committee Members		
Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Name [Alternate Name]	Attended? V = Virtual
Chief Deputy [Manager of the Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection] Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Alexander Samms (Chair) [Dave Davis] (Co-chair)	[Y]
Chief Resilience Officer [Principal Water Resources Engineer] Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)	Ben McFarlane [Whitney Katchmark]	Y
Director of Environment and Resiliency Planning [Coastal Zone Program Manager] Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)	Norm Goulet [Rebecca Murphy]	[Y]
Director of the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience [Director of Applied Projects, CCRFR] Old Dominion University (ODU – ICAR)	Jessica Whitehead – R [Carol Considine] – R	V
Director [Environmental Institute Program Manager] University of Virginia (UVA-EI)	Karen McGlathery – R [Jonah Fogel]	V
Associate Dean for Research and Advisory Services [Assistant Professor] Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)	Mark Luckenbach – R [Molly Mitchell] [Lyle Varnell]	[Y]
Director Virginia Sea Grant (Sea Grant)	Troy Hartley	
Director, Virginia Tech Coastal Collaborator Virginia Tech (VT – CCS)	Wendy Stout – R	Y
Acting Director Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC)	Michael Fitch – R	Y

Committee Members		
Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Name [Alternate Name]	Attended? V = Virtual
Executive Director [Policy Program Director] Wetlands Watch (Wetlands Watch)	Mary-Carson Stiff [Ian Blair]	[V]

Members of the Public Speaking During Public Comment		
Name	Attended? V = Virtual	Notes
None		

TAC Staff/Consulting		
Name	Title (Organization Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Andrew Smith	DCR Chief Deputy Director	V
Matt Dalon	Resilience Planning Program Manager, DCR	Y
Will Isenberg	Coastal Planner, DEQ	V
Wheeler Wood	Consultant, VCU Center for Public Policy (CPP)	Y
Ellie Plisko	DCR/VCU Wilder Fellow	Y
Linda Warren	Launch! Consulting	Y
Sidney Huffman	Launch! Consulting	Y
Sarah Girard	Launch! Consulting	Y

Reference Links	
Item	Link
Meeting Agenda	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/2024q4-tac-rdi-subcommittee-agenda.pdf
Meeting Handouts/Presentation Slides	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/2024q4-rdi-meeting-materials-(1).pdf
Video Recording of the Meeting	Link to video will be provided with final meeting minutes.

Agenda Item	Minutes
<p>1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Minutes</p>	<p>Dave Davis (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Wheeler Wood (CPP) called the roll. NOTE: There was a technical issue with the audio and the video has been edited for continuity.</p> <p>The Co-Chair requested a motion to vote on the meeting agenda and minutes from the Q3 meeting. Both motions were passed and the vote in favor was unanimous.</p>
<p>2. Old Business</p>	<p><u>Overview of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion began with an overview of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, emphasizing its role as a trusted resource for local and regional government entities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plan aims to assist in making evidence-based decisions related to severe repetitive flooding. ○ Key components include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A unified baseline of analysis of existing conditions and future projections regarding flooding from various sources, including sea level rise. ■ An assessment of the impacts of flooding on built and natural environments. ■ Coordination of resilience actions across the region to scale up successful initiatives and learn from challenges. ○ The plan is scheduled for release by the end of the calendar year, with subsequent editions every five years. ● Discussion on Key Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A discussion was initiated regarding the definition of "Key Stakeholders" in the context of the outreach and coordination subcommittee. ○ It was noted that earlier definitions included minority communities, tribal nations, the Department of Defense, critical infrastructure owners, and other federal facility owners. ○ There was a consensus that it may be beneficial to keep the term "Key Stakeholders" broad and consistent across all recommendations rather than listing specific groups. ○ It was emphasized that the importance of including tribes in the definition, stating that excluding them could complicate the work of the DCR. ○ The challenges of negotiating with sovereign governments were acknowledged, but the inclusion of tribes was deemed essential. ○ It was suggested that while the definition of key stakeholders should be established at a high level, individual recommendations could identify specific stakeholders relevant to their context.

	<p>Recommendations Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Recommendation R-a: Coordination of State Agencies and Research Universities</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion emphasized the importance of collaboration between state agencies and Commonwealth research universities. It was suggested the original wording of the recommendation should reflect a supportive rather than authoritative relationship by proposing the phrase "support multi-institutional efforts" instead of "coordinate."○ Troy Hartley's written comments were read, highlighting that universities cannot be coordinated in a strict sense but can collaborate on projects. The need for financial incentives to foster this collaboration was also mentioned.○ Agreement existed regarding the need for a supportive approach, stating that building relationships over time would lead to better coordination. The members suggested that the recommendation should focus on sharing information and resources rather than imposing a top-down coordination model.○ The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring that the entities responsible for carrying out the recommendations are clearly identified and noted that the subject of the recommendation should be consistent and reflect the correct entities involved.● <u>Recommendation R-b: Engaging Key Stakeholders</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The conversation shifted to the engagement of key stakeholders in the resilience planning process. Reiterated the importance of defining "Key Stakeholders" clearly in the report to avoid ambiguity.○ There was a robust discussion about the types of stakeholders that should be included, with suggestions ranging from local community members to federal agencies. Emphasized the need to include tribal nations, stating that their involvement is crucial for effective resilience planning.○ Concerns were raised about the potential challenges of engaging with sovereign governments, acknowledging that it can complicate the process. However, members stressed that the inclusion of tribes is essential for a comprehensive approach to resilience.○ The Committee agreed that while the definition of key stakeholders should be broad, individual recommendations could specify relevant stakeholders based on the context of each project.● <u>Recommendation R-c: Data Needs and Inventory</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The discussion then moved to the recommendation regarding data needs and inventory and highlighted the necessity of identifying priority data needs to support ongoing planning and decision-making.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Members pointed out that local governments often have different schedules for updating their data, which can lead to inconsistencies. It was suggested the recommendation should include a call for regular communication between local governments and state agencies to ensure data remains current and relevant.○ The importance of establishing a regular inventory of data usage was emphasized, suggesting that this inventory should not only track what data is being used but also how it is being utilized in decision-making processes.○ A concern was raised about the implications of monitoring private projects, emphasizing that assessments should be voluntary and not perceived as intrusive. Members suggested that the recommendation should clarify the nature of data collection and ensure that it respects privacy and property rights.○ Will noted Recommendation R-c purpose included the terms measure and monitor that was not reflected in the recommendation text. Based on his feedback, the committee revised the recommendation.● <u>Recommendation R-d: Funding Opportunities</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The subcommittee discussed the need for identifying funding opportunities to support resilience projects. It was noted funding is a critical component for the success of any resilience initiative.○ Members suggested that the recommendation should include a strategy for leveraging existing funding sources while also exploring new opportunities. The importance of collaboration between public and private entities was emphasized as necessary to maximize funding potential.○ The Committee discussed the potential for creating a centralized database of funding opportunities that could be accessible to local governments and organizations and proposed this database should be regularly updated to reflect new funding sources as they become available.● <u>Recommendation R-e: Monitoring and Evaluation</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The final recommendation focused on the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for resilience projects. Members stressed that without proper monitoring, it would be challenging to assess the effectiveness of resilience initiatives.○ It was suggested the recommendation should outline specific metrics and indicators that could be used to evaluate project outcomes. Members emphasized the importance of using Virginia-centric data to ensure that the metrics are relevant to the local context.○ The Committee discussed the need for adaptive management, where projects can be adjusted based on monitoring results.
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	<p>Highlighted that this approach would allow for continuous improvement and learning from past experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The point was raised that the evaluation process should also consider social, economic, and environmental justice dimensions to ensure that resilience efforts are equitable and inclusive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conclusion of Recommendations Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After discussing all five recommendations, the subcommittee agreed to revisit each recommendation to incorporate the feedback and suggestions shared during the meeting. ○ Linda encouraged participants to think about how the recommendations could be phrased to ensure clarity and effectiveness in the final report. ○ The Committee concluded that the recommendations should not only address immediate needs but also lay the groundwork for long-term resilience planning in the Commonwealth. ● Linda recalled that Troy was unable to attend but had submitted written comments for each recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Troy's comments included a suggestion to avoid the term "success" in the context of project outcomes, as it is subjective and may not be necessary for the recommendations. ● Data Inventory Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The need for a regular inventory of data usage was discussed, with emphasis on understanding what data is most needed and how it is being utilized. ○ It was pointed out that local governments have varying schedules for updating data, which should be taken into account when planning for data inventory. ○ The importance of establishing a regular communication schedule for data updates was highlighted to avoid static data that may not be useful.
<p>3. Public Comment</p>	<p>Will Isenberg spoke to the members regarding recommendation R-c and it was revised to address his comments.</p>
<p>4. New Business</p>	<p>The following recommendations were presented to members for vote. A motion to vote on each recommendation was received and seconded. There was no discussion on the recommendations. All recommendations were supported unanimously by the voting members.</p> <p>[R-a] The Chief Resilience Officer should coordinate with the Commonwealth's research universities and the Interagency Resilience Management Team to regularly inventory existing data and to collect and share quantitative and qualitative flood resilience data, data production efforts, and assessments of data usage in decision-making applications across the Commonwealth. Purpose: Minimize duplication of efforts and effectively mobilize our collective capacity to support evidence-based flood resilience decision making with best available data.</p>

	<p>[R-b] The DCR Office of Resilience Planning and other state agencies, in collaboration with research universities and local governments, should identify priority data needs to support ongoing planning and decision making, and recommend implementation strategies for fulfilling those needs. Purpose: Maintain the best available data to inform decisions in a changing environment.</p> <p>[R-c] The Flood Resilience Advisory Committee should actively support DCR in establishing clear and measurable resilience goals aimed at enhancing the Commonwealth’s capacity to withstand and recover from flood events. DCR should solicit the involvement of the Commonwealth’s research universities and other key stakeholders to contribute their expertise in developing relevant indicators and metrics to monitor progress toward these resilience goals. Purpose: Define, measure, and monitor the efficacy of resilience projects to support adaptive management. This should be based on Virginia-centric data and address ecological, infrastructure, social, economic, cultural, environmental justice, and other emerging dimensions of resilience performance.</p> <p>[R-d] DCR’s Office of Resilience Planning should engage with key stakeholders to understand local obstacles and gaps in state-level programs and develop a statewide strategy that leverages co-production of innovative state-level solutions to meet local needs. Purpose: Identify appropriate state-scale collective actions to support local resilience challenges through community engagement and innovation.</p> <p>[R-e] The Commonwealth’s research universities should evaluate the performance and co-benefits of existing and emerging nature-based and hybrid solutions for water quantity and water quality protections through collaborations with public and private stakeholders. These efforts should track progress, adapt approaches, and identify funding sources for continued collaborative efforts. Purpose: Understand the flood risk reduction and other benefits of existing and emerging nature-based and hybrid solutions through collaborative research efforts.</p>
<p>5. Action Items and Next Steps</p>	<p>Matt Dalon noted the final recommendations would be presented to the full Technical Advisory Committee for their consideration. The next (and last) TAC meeting is scheduled for November 13. Gratitude was expressed for everyone's input during the meeting and acknowledged the assistance in organizing the meeting.</p>
<p>6. Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:44pm.</p>

Voting Record:

Item	First	Second	Committee Vote
<p>Agenda</p>	<p>Ben McFarlane</p>	<p>Lyle Varnell</p>	<p>Unanimous Approval</p>
<p>Minutes</p>	<p>Ben McFarlane</p>	<p>Lyle Varnell</p>	<p>Unanimous Approval</p>

Voting Member Organizations Present	Recommendation				
	R-a:	R-b:	R-c:	R-d:	R-e:
Wetlands Watch	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Old Dominion University	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Virginia Tech	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
University of Virginia	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Virginia Transportation Research Council	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Northern Virginia Regional Commission	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support
Virginia Institute of Marine Science	Support	Support	Support	Support	Support

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
