Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting

May 6, 2021

Virginia Coastal Policy Center

William & Mary Law School

The Bay Program & Climate Change

▶ **EPA Expectations for WIP III:** *Account for Changed Conditions – including Climate Change; Incorporate Co-Benefits*

▶ **Work that's underway: the Climate Resiliency Work Group**

- **Connect climate change research & available data**

- **Assist with development of climate change indicators** for the Bay & watershed: *increasing temperatures, more frequent intense precipitation,* and *sea level rise*

- **Connect subject matter experts**

Climate Resiliency Work Group, cont.

- **Improve knowledge & capacity to implement and track priority adaptation actions**

- **Support BMP climate resilience assessment efforts** to better understand the performance of BMPs

Four Categories for Discussion

- **Land Use Planning and Zoning**
  - Incorporate sea level rise into comprehensive plans
  - Plan for preservation of marshes & upland migration
  - Zoning
    - Overlay Districts (Norfolk, VA; FL)
    - Coastal setback requirements (CA, E. Hampton, NY)
- **Creation of Entities / Funds to Address Resilience**
  - NJ Blue Acres Program
  - VA Public Access Authorities; MD Resilience Authorities
  - Buyout programs coupled with life estates or rentbacks (CA, SC)

Four Categories for Discussion

▶ **Green Infrastructure and Resilient Building Requirements**

  ▶ *Transportation*

  ▶ *Septic systems in flooding areas*

  ▶ *Building standards*

▶ **Research & Education**

  ▶ Modeling / mapping of septic systems and roads vulnerable to flooding

  ▶ Notification of flood map changes: Va. Code § 15.2-976

Main Takeaways:

- *We can't save everything.*
  - There's not enough money.
  - The federal government alone can't save us.
  - There's no silver bullet – it will take a combination of approaches
- *Being proactive is key.* Acting sooner rather than later is safer, cheaper, potentially less traumatic, and can result in better planned communities for everyone.
- *States can authorize local governments to act, and provide funding programs.*