



***Moving Forward:
Resilience Coordination Working Group Proposals***

Chesapeake Bay Commission

Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
Travis Voyles

December 19, 2023



Overview

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES FOR A RESILIENT VIRGINIA

FUNDING TRANSPARENCY

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

RESILIENCE COORDINATION WORKING GROUP

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS



Administration Focus on Resiliency Strategic Principles for a Resilient Virginia

Principle 1: We are committed to addressing challenges relating to flooding and resiliency

Principle 2: We must address these challenges with programs that work for all impacted parts of Virginia

Principle 3: The programs we implement must work together as parts of comprehensive, cohesive plans

Principle 4: These programs and plans must be developed and implemented with transparency and input from the public

§ 10.1-603.28: "Resilience" means the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage to social well-being, health, the economy, and the environment.



Administration Focus on Resiliency Funding Transparency

DCR will make all grant and loan information available online in a location that the public can access:

- CFPF/RVRF applications within 15 calendar days of the grant or loan round application deadline
- CFPF/RVRF final scoring and approval decisions

DCR will hold a 30-day public comment period prior to each new grant offering to solicit feedback on proposed revisions to the CFPF Grant Manual (similar process for RVRF Loan Manuals)

DCR will establish a Review Panel to assist in the evaluation of CFPF/RVRF applications. The Panel will include representatives from other state agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and other impacted stakeholder groups.

April 2022 Letter to Sen. Lewis/Del. Bulova on Commitments – ALL COMPLETE



Resilience Coordination Working Group Legislative History

2018-2020 – Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection (SACAP) position was codified into law, after being created through Executive Order 24 (2018). The Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) position, also established in Executive Order 24 (2018), was codified shortly after in 2020.

2022 – In lieu of the below legislation, the Administration committed to administratively convening a working group to address the subject matter of the proposed study.

- *Administration proposed HB847 (Bloxom) and SB569 (Kiggans), creating a Virginia Resilience Authority under SNHR to administer multiple programs related to flood resilience and to support funding for resilience projects (including nonfederal sponsor).*
- *HB602 (Hayes) would have established a Virginia Flood Board, a Department of Flood Control, and a Commonwealth Flooding and Scientific Technical Advisory Committee.*

2023 – *HB1970 (Bennett-Parker) would have expanded the Coastal Resilience TAC to a statewide body, but after discussion, the general consensus of the proponents of the legislation was that a bill was not needed at this time, but that it could be **considered as a part of the Resilience Coordination Working Group**, and that a representative from the Northern Virginia PDC should be added to the Coastal TAC.*



Resilience Coordination Working Group

Virginia faces challenges related to coordinating state-level resilience planning, programs, and funding efforts, which are dispersed across multiple agencies and secretariats. Additionally, our current structure hampers our ability to capture federal dollars and does not provide localities with the support they need to address challenges at a local level.

The Administration convened a Resilience Coordination Working Group (RCWG), comprised of a broad group of 39 stakeholders, to develop recommendations to address these challenges.

Resilience Coordination Working Group Members				
Central Shenandoah PDC (CSPDC)	Home Builders Association of Virginia (HBAV)	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	Virginia Farm Bureau (VFB)
Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	Middle Peninsula PDC (MPPDC)	University of Virginia - IEN (UVA)	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)	Mount Rogers PDC (MRPDC)	Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)	Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Virginia Manufacturer's Association (VMA)
City of Alexandria	Old Dominion University - ICAR/CCRFR (ODU)	Virginia Agribusiness Council (VAC)	Virginia Department of the Treasury (Treasury)	Virginia PACE Authority (VPA)
Clark Nexsen	Port of Virginia	Virginia Association of Soil and Water Districts (VASWCD)	Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)
Cumberland Plateau PDC (CPPDC)	Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources (SNHR)	Virginia Association of Counties	Virginia Department of Energy (Energy)	Virginia Tech - CCS (VT)
Environmental Defense Foundation (EDF)	Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs (VADA)	Virginia Chamber of Commerce (VACHamber)	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)	Citizen Member
Hampton Roads PDC (HRPDC)	Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCB)	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)	Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)	



Resilience Coordination Working Group

The group adopted 23 recommendations with no opposition.

Series of recommendations around three key concepts:

- Improving Virginia's ***resilience coordinating structure*** by establishing a new Office of the Chief Resilience Officer (Office) reporting to the Governor and serving as a single coordinating entity for all resilience planning and efforts across the Commonwealth using a “hub and spoke” model, where the Office serves as the “hub,” facilitating coordination and communication between agencies (“spokes”). Programmatic, funding, and planning activities (and associated staff) will remain within the relevant agencies. The CRO and staff would be tasked with supporting interagency collaboration and locality resilience readiness, in part through the creation of an ongoing Interagency Resilience Working Group.
- Enhancing our ***resilience funding efforts*** by tasking the CRO and Office with maximizing federal funding opportunities and working to increase private sector investment in resilience across state, local, and regional levels.
- Supporting ***locality readiness for resilience*** by tasking the Office with providing knowledge-based support to local governments seeking to address resilience challenges within their communities.



Legislative Action Recommendations

Resilience Coordinating Structure

A.1: Adopt a “hub and spoke” model for resilience efforts in the Commonwealth, where the Chief Resilience Officer, reporting to the Governor and supported by a professionally staffed Office, serves as the “hub,” facilitating coordination and communication between agencies (“spokes”), who continue to administer their respective resilience-related programmatic, funding, and planning activities.

A.2: Create a new office (“Office”) of the Chief Resilience Officer as a dedicated, funded, and staffed Office established to support the CRO.

A.3: Task the CRO with promoting communication, coordination, and cooperation between state agencies, the federal government, local governments, other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and key stakeholders regarding resilience, as defined in § 10.1-603.28.

A.4: Task the CRO with producing deliverables on a regular basis to facilitate monitoring of resilience progress, adaptively manage outcomes, and transfer knowledge throughout the Commonwealth.

A.5: Establish an interagency resilience working group led by the CRO and consisting of Resilience Coordinators to support coordination and planning for resilience efforts, meeting not less than quarterly.

A.6: Direct relevant agencies to each designate or create a Resilience Coordinator position/role, based on the resilience planning needs of the agency, to ensure continuity between administration turnover coordinated by the CRO.



Legislative Action Recommendations

Supporting Resilience Funding Efforts

B.1: The CRO should be directed to take steps to maximize the availability and use of federal, state, and private funding for resilience activities.

B.2: The CRO should be authorized to serve, at the request of and in coordination with, an eligible funding recipient, as Virginia's non-federal sponsor or applicant for resilience related projects, depending on existing state agency activities and needs, USACE Civil Works Programs and other federal funding programs.

B.3: State resilience funds, including the Community Flood Preparedness Fund and the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund, should be administered with appropriate oversight and transparency, perhaps through establishment of a board.



Legislative Action Recommendations

Locality Readiness for Resilience

C.1: The state should provide capacity-building support to local governments seeking to address resilience challenges.

C.2: The state should consider funding resilience tools and processes that will help localities and state and federally recognized Tribes advance their resilience, such as the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT).

Flood Resilience Planning

D.1: Establish a new group (or re-scope the role of the Coastal Technical Advisory Committee) with appropriate statewide representation to support the development and implementation of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan.



Administrative Action and Future Consideration Recommendations

Supporting Resilience Funding Efforts

E.1: The state should evaluate creating streamlined mechanism(s) to accept and enable the use of private funding, charitable funding and/or public-private partnerships by state agencies and localities seeking to address resilience challenges.

E.2: The state should develop and maintain a catalog of resilience projects that can be quickly matched against grants as they become available, similar to what is available for coastal flood resilience through the Coastal Resilience Web Explorer.

E.3: The state should consider creating a “one stop shop” for business resilience to provide regulatory assistance, contractor connections, and other services to facilitate private sector resilience investments.

E.4: When providing support to local governments, the CRO should coordinate with other agencies where appropriate for existing grants to avoid duplication of efforts.



Administrative Action and Future Consideration Recommendations

Locality Readiness for Resilience Planning

F.1: The state should establish state goals, metrics, and best practices to define what effective locality readiness for resilience should look like.

F.2: The state should ensure that state agencies have internal clarity/review of flood resilience opportunities and challenges that can inform technical assistance and grants programs.

F.3: State resilience funding programs should be structured in a manner that provides support for start-up and up-front costs borne by local governments implementing resilience projects.

F.4: State agencies administering resilience programs should consider structuring programs to enable localities to leverage federal dollars by subsidizing the required match.



Administrative Action and Future Consideration Recommendations

Flood Resilience Planning

G.1 DCR should continue to explore ways to align the regional flood resilience master plans and the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan.

Resilience Data and Resources

H.1: The CRO should conduct a periodic survey of state agencies, regional entities, and localities to identify their coordination, planning, and funding needs as well as data needs including what data is required to be used and what data is available for use.

H.2: The state should establish a data mechanism for resilience planning and ensure that captured resilience data are coordinated and streamlined for ease of use by agencies and end users, perhaps by convening a data management working group. Consider opportunities to leverage the Virginia Office of Data Governance and Analytics for this purpose.



Resilience Coordination Working Group

Legislative Key Recommendations:

- Shifting the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) to report to the Governor and establishing an office to support.
- Adopting a “hub and spoke” model for resilience (as defined in § 10.1-603.28), where the CRO serves as the hub, facilitating coordination and communication between agencies (the “spokes”), who would retain their existing resilience-related responsibilities.
- Establishing an interagency working group, headed by the CRO, to support this coordination.
- Tasking the CRO with maximizing the availability and use of federal, state, and private funding for resilience efforts (including serving as the non-federal sponsor for USACE projects in some circumstances).
- Supporting localities by tasking the CRO with providing knowledge-based support to local governments seeking to address resilience challenges within their communities.
- Establish a new group (or re-scope CR TAC) with appropriate statewide representation to support the development and implementation of the VFPMP
- Adopting a statutory framework to ensure oversight and transparency for the CFPF and RVRF.

