

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee

Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday February 5, 2025

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room
1111 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219

Virtual Access: [MS Teams Webinar Registration Link](#)

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order & Roll Call
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda
- 3) FOIA Training
- 4) Flood Committee Charter & Overview
- 5) Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan
 - a. Overview
 - b. Prioritization of Gaps to be Addressed
- 6) Agency Updates
 - a. DHCD/RISE SWVA Flood Insurance Challenges
- 7) Public Comment
- 8) Adjourn



Flood Resilience Advisory Committee

February 5, 2025



Photo: Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Full Name	Title	Organization
Matthew Wells (Chair)	Director	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Vacant (Vice-Chair)	Chief Resilience Officer	Office of Commonwealth Resilience
Martin D. Brown	Chief Diversity Officer	Office of Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion
Robbie Coates	Director, Grant Management and Recovery Division	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Shawn Crumlish [Peter D'Alema]	Executive Director [Director of Program Management]	Virginia Resource Authority
Bill Curtis	Assistant Director	Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Jamie Green	Commissioner	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
LJ Hansen	Director of Public Works, Virginia Beach	Virginia Municipal League
Fred Kirby	State Review Engineer	Virginia Department of General Services
Adrienne Kotula	Virginia Director	Chesapeake Bay Commission
Lewie Lawrence	Executive Director, MPPDC	Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
John Lawson	Director	Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment
Dean Lynch	Executive Director	Virginia Association of Counties
Alex Samms	Chief Deputy	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Chris Swanson [Angel Deem]	Director, Environmental Division [Chief of Policy]	Virginia Department of Transportation

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FOIA Training

Joseph Underwood, Esq.

Senior Attorney

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) For Local Officials

Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

<http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/>

foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov

(804) 698-1810

Training Contents

- Introduction
- FOIA requirements for local officials
- Public Records
- Public Meetings
- Remedies and Penalties
- Other resources for further questions

Introduction

- About the FOIA Council
- Purpose and policy of FOIA
- Structure of FOIA – how to find what you need within the Code
 - General Provisions -- §§ [2.2-3700](#) through [2.2-3703.1](#)
 - Records Procedures and Exemptions -- §§ [2.2-3704](#) through [2.2-3706.1](#)
 - Training Requirements -- §§ [2.2-3704.2](#) and [2.2-3704.3](#)
 - Meetings Procedures and Exemptions -- §§ [2.2-3707](#) through [2.2-3712](#)
 - Remedies and Penalties -- §§ [2.2-3713](#) through [2.2-3715](#)

About the FOIA Council

§§ [30-178 through 30-181](#)

- State legislative branch advisory council
- Legislative forum for studies and recommendations to the General Assembly
- Answer questions from government, citizens, and media
- Publishes advisory opinions and educational materials
- Provides FOIA training presentations
- Not an investigative or enforcement agency

Purpose & Policy of FOIA

§ [2.2-3700](#)

- Ready access to public records
- Free entry to meetings of public bodies
- FOIA is to be liberally construed to promote awareness of governmental activities and operations
- Any exemption from public access to records or meetings shall be narrowly construed
- No record shall be withheld or meeting closed to the public unless specifically made exempt

FOIA Requirements for Local Officials

Note: Constitutional officers are subject to FOIA for records purposes only. Other local officials who are members of public bodies are generally subject to both the records and meetings provisions of FOIA.

Requirements for Local Officials

§ [2.2-3704.3](#)

- Which local officials must receive training?
- Local elected officials; and
- The executive director and members of each industrial development authority and economic development authority; and
- Members of any boards governing any authority established pursuant to the Park Authorities Act.

Requirements for Local Officials

(continued) § [2.2-3704.3](#)

- Receive FOIA training from the FOIA Council or your local government attorney within two months of assuming office
- Training may be presented live or online
- Receive training again at least once every two (2) years since last training
- Clerk of the public body must keep records of training (name of the official, date of the training) for five years
- Note: There is no requirement to report training to the FOIA Council, only to keep your own records

Requirements for Local Officials

(continued) – § [2.2-3702](#)

- All elected, reelected, appointed, and reappointed officials must:
- Be furnished by the public body's administrator or legal counsel with a copy of FOIA within two weeks following election, reelection, appointment, or reappointment; and
- Read and become familiar with the provisions of FOIA.
- A current copy of FOIA may be found on the [FOIA Council website](#).

Other Laws May Also Apply

- Other laws may also affect access to public records and meetings, but which laws apply will vary depending on the type of record, type of meeting, and type of elected official.
- Because the FOIA Council's statutory authority is limited to providing advice and guidance regarding FOIA, there will be times when you need to consult others for advice.

Examples of Other Laws

- Court records are subject to laws in Titles [16.1](#) and [17.1](#) of the Code, as well as the [Rules](#) of the Supreme Court of Virginia
- Code §§ [15.2-1415](#) through [15.2-1421](#) set out specific laws for meetings of local governing bodies
- Various provisions in Title [15.2](#) address public hearings
- Code §§ [22.1-72](#) through [22.1-75](#) address school board meetings and procedures
- Code § [58.1-3](#) prohibits the release of certain tax information

Public Records

Recognizing and responding to FOIA requests

§§ [2.2-3704](#) through [2.2-3706.1](#)

Introduction to Records & FOIA

- All public records are presumed open unless specifically exempt
- Definition of “public record” ([§ 2.2-3701](#))
 - all writings and recordings that consist of letters, words or numbers, or their equivalent . . . however stored, and regardless of physical form or characteristics
 - prepared or owned by, or in the possession of a public body or its officers, employees or agents
 - in the transaction of public business.
 - Note: draft versions are public records

Debunking FOIA myths

- FOIA addresses access to public records ([§ 2.2-3704](#))
- FOIA does not require you to answer questions, give interviews, or provide explanations
- Inspect or Copy (requester's choice)
- Not free – public bodies may charge to produce public records
- FOIA exemptions generally do not prohibit release
- Informal vs. formal requests – no difference

Who has the right to make a request under Virginia FOIA?

- Citizens of the Commonwealth
- Representatives of newspapers & magazines with circulation in the Commonwealth
- Representatives of radio & television stations broadcasting in or into the Commonwealth

Requests from out-of-state

- Best practice is to respond to out-of-state requesters even if they do not have access rights under Virginia FOIA
 - Standardizes practices for internal consistency
 - Out-of-state requester can get a Virginia citizen to make the same request anyway
- Do not have to follow FOIA procedure strictly since out-of-state requesters cannot enforce Virginia FOIA

Requesting Public Records

- How requests may be made:
 - Requester must identify records with reasonable specificity
 - Public body may require the requester's name & legal address
 - A request does not have to be in writing or use any particular form
 - A request does not have to say "FOIA"
 - The requester's purpose does not matter
- Requester has the choice to inspect or to receive copies

Responding to Requests for Public Records

- Five working days to respond after request is received
 - The first day to respond is the day after the request is received
 - Weekends and legal holidays do not count as working days
- Failure to respond is deemed a denial of the request and a violation of FOIA
- Creation of new records not required
- Always allowed to make agreements with the requester on the production of records

Five Responses

- 1) Provide the requested records
- 2) Requested records are being entirely withheld
- 3) Requested records are being provided in part and withheld in part
- 4) Requested records could not be found or do not exist
- 5) Additional time needed to search for/produce records

Exemptions & Redaction

§ [2.2-3704.01](#)

- Most FOIA exemptions are not prohibitions – exempt records may be withheld, but they may also be released in the discretion of the custodian
- Only exempt portions of records may be withheld (redacted)
- An entire record may be withheld only if the entire record is exempt

Charges for Records Requests

- Public body may make reasonable charges not to exceed its actual cost incurred in accessing, duplicating, supplying, or searching for the requested records
 - Cannot charge more than the actual cost to the public body
 - Cannot charge for certain scholastic records if requested by parent or guardian (of minor student) or student (if 18 years or older)
 - Public body shall make all reasonable efforts to supply the requested records at the lowest possible cost

Charges for Records Requests (continued)

- Before searching for records, must notify requester of public body's right to charge and requester's right to a cost estimate
- Must provide an estimate in advance if requested
- Public body may require an advance deposit if estimate is > \$200
- If a bill goes unpaid 30 days or more, do not have to respond to new requests until the outstanding balance is paid

Exemptions of General Application

- Personnel records - § [2.2-3705.1](#) (1)
- Attorney-client privilege- § [2.2-3705.1](#) (2)
- Legal memoranda and other work product - § [2.2-3705.1](#) (3)
- Contract negotiations - § [2.2-3705.1](#) (12)
- Procurement exemptions - § [2.2-3705.6](#) (10) and (11)
- Account & routing numbers - § [2.2-3705.1](#) (13)

Public Meetings

Procedures for open, closed, and electronic meetings
§§ [2.2-3707](#) through [2.2-3712](#)

Introduction to Meetings under FOIA

- Policy: All meetings must be open unless closed following an exemption – § [2.2-3700](#)
- Definitions of “public body,” “meeting,” and “public business” – § [2.2-3701](#)
- Open Meetings – §§ [2.2-3707](#) through [2.2-3710](#)
- Closed Meetings – §§ [2.2-3711](#) and [2.2-3712](#)
- Electronic Meetings – §§ [2.2-3708.2](#) and [2.2-3708.3](#)

Definition of ‘Public Body’

§ [2.2-3701](#)

- Any legislative body, authority, board, bureau, commission, district or agency of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, including cities, towns and counties, municipal councils, governing bodies of counties, schoolboards and planning commissions
- Any committee, subcommittee, or other entity however designated, of the public body created to perform delegated functions of the public body or to advise the public body

Definition of “public body”

(continued)

- Also includes:
 - Other organizations, corporations or agencies in the Commonwealth supported wholly or principally by public funds (may include tax-exempt organizations, for example)
 - Constitutional officers are included, but only for records purposes

Definition of “meeting”

§ [2.2-3701](#)

-
- Includes meetings including work sessions, when sitting physically, or through electronic communication means as a body or entity, or as an informal assemblage of (i) as many as three members or (ii) a quorum, if less than three, of the constituent membership, wherever held, with or without minutes being taken, whether or not votes are cast, of any public body
 - “quorum if less than three” means two members , if they are a quorum of the public body (Ex. A subcommittee with only two or three members total would have a quorum of two members)
 - Must be discussing or transacting public business in real time

Definition of “meeting” - Exceptions

The following are not considered meetings subject to FOIA:

- Gatherings of employees (the meetings rules only apply to members of the public body, not staff)
- Gatherings where no part of the purpose is the discussion or transaction of any public business, the gathering was not called or prearranged with any purpose of discussing or transacting any business of the public body, and no discussion or transaction of public business takes place among the members of the public body
- A public forum, informational gathering, candidate appearance, meeting of another public body, or debate, the purpose of which is to inform the electorate and not to discuss or transact public business

Definition of “meeting” – “Public business”

- For purposes of public meetings only, “public business” means “any activity a public body has undertaken or proposes to undertake on behalf of the people it represents”
- Note: This definition of “public business” was added to the definition of “meeting” in 2024 in response to *Gloss v. Wheeler* (Va. 2023), in which the Virginia Supreme Court stated that “for a topic to constitute public business it must not just be something that conceptually could at some point come before a public body, but rather, the topic must be something that is either before the public body or is likely to come before the body in the foreseeable future”

Open Meetings - Requirements

- Notice to the Public
 - Note that notice to members is not covered by FOIA, but is often stated elsewhere in other laws
- Open to the Public
 - "Open meeting" or "public meeting" means a meeting at which the public may be present
- Minutes

Notice Requirements

§ [2.2-3707](#)

- Contents: date, time, and location of the meeting
- For local public bodies, FOIA requires notice to be posted in three locations:
 1. Official public government website, if any;
 2. Prominent public location in which notices are regularly posted; and
 3. At the office of the clerk of the public body OR at the office of the chief administrator

Notice Requirements (continued)

- Regular meetings – post three working days before the meeting
 - Note: Do not count the day of the meeting as one of the working days
- Special, emergency, or continued meetings – two elements:
 - Notice must be “reasonable under the circumstance” (varies with circumstances)
 - Public notice must be posted at the same time the members are notified
- Direct notice to those who request it (usually by an email list)

What does it mean for a meeting to be open to the public?

- Open meeting or public meeting means a meeting at which the public may be present - § [2.2-3701](#)
- Must allow public to record, photograph, film, or otherwise reproduce
- FOIA does not address logistics such as room capacity
- Public bodies are encouraged to use additional means to increase public awareness (Ex. Live streaming online, broadcasting using television or radio, posting recordings of meetings, etc.)

Meeting Minutes

- Only required to be taken at open meetings
- Not required for study commissions, committees, or subcommittees appointed by local governing bodies or school boards, except where the membership of any such commission, committee or subcommittee includes a majority of the governing body or school board
- Must be posted on the public body's official public government website within 7 days of final approval
 - If the public body has no such website, then must be made available at a prominent public location in which meeting notices are regularly posted or the office of the clerk or chief administrator

Meeting Minutes (continued)

- Contents must include:
 - Date, time, location of the meeting
 - Members of the public body present and absent
 - A summary of matters discussed, deliberated, or decided
 - A record of any votes taken
 - Any motions to enter into a closed meeting and certification after a closed meeting

Agendas

- At least one copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to members of a public body for a meeting shall be made available for public inspection at the same time such documents are furnished to the members of the public body
- FOIA does not have requirements regarding specific agenda items, agenda contents or agenda changes
- FOIA does not address parliamentary procedure

Closed Meeting Procedures

Motion, Discussion, Certification

§§ [2.2-3711](#) and [2.2-3712](#)

Motion to Enter into a Closed Meeting

§ [2.2-3712](#) (A)

- Public body must take an affirmative recorded vote in an open meeting approving a motion that:
 1. Identifies the subject matter for the closed meeting;
 - Must be more than quoting or paraphrasing the exemption
 2. States the purpose of the closed meeting; and
 - Quoting or paraphrasing the exemption does state the purpose
 3. Makes specific reference to the applicable exemption from the open meeting requirements

Closed Meeting Discussions

§ [2.2-3712](#)

- Restricted to those matters specifically exempted from the provisions of FOIA and identified in the motion (do not stray off topic)
- Minutes are not required, and if taken, are exempt from FOIA
- Who may attend?
 - Nonmembers if they are necessary or will aid consideration of the topic
 - Other members of public bodies may attend, but not participate in, closed meetings of committees, subcommittees, and other sub-entities of the parent body

Certification of a Closed Meeting

§ [2.2-3712](#) (D)

- At the conclusion of a closed meeting, public body must certify that the only things heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting were:
 1. Public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements, and
 2. Such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened
- Extra penalty for improper certification

Voting – §§ 2.2-3710 & 2.2-3711 (B)

- All votes taken to authorize the transaction of any public business must be taken and recorded in an open meeting
- No written or secret ballots
- May take straw polls or reach consensus in closed meetings
- Decisions made in closed meetings are not effective until a vote is taken at an open meeting (§ 2.2-3711 (B))

Commonly Used Exemptions

(Note: All meeting exemptions in FOIA are set out in § [2.2-3711](#))

- Discussion of personnel - § 2.2-3711 (A) (1)
- Discussion concerning scholastic records/students - § 2.2-3711 (A) (2)
- Consideration of acquisition or disposition of real property - § 2.2-3711 (A) (3)
- Discussion of prospective business or industry - § 2.2-3711 (A) (5)
- Actual or probable litigation - § 2.2-3711 (A) (7)
- Specific legal matters - § 2.2-3711 (A) (8)
- Public safety issues - § 2.2-3711 (A) (19)
- Discussion of award of public contract - § 2.2-3711 (A) (29)

Electronic Meetings

§§ [2.2-3708.2](#) and [2.2-3708.3](#)

- As of September 1, 2022, there are three general categories:
 - Remote participation: “participation by an individual member of a public body by electronic communication means in a public meeting where a quorum of the public body is otherwise physically assembled”
 - All-virtual public meetings: “a public meeting (i) conducted by a public body, other than those excepted pursuant to subsection C of § 2.2-3708.3, using electronic communication means, (ii) during which all members of the public body who participate do so remotely rather than being assembled in one physical location, and (iii) to which public access is provided through electronic communication means”
 - States of emergency declared by the Governor or the locality

Electronic Meetings

Remote participation (may be used by any public body) - § [2.2-3708.3](#)

- Four allowed reasons for remote participation:
 - Personal matter that prevents attendance
 - Medical condition or disability that prevents attendance
 - Medical condition of a family members that prevents attendance
 - Principal residence is 60 miles or more from the main meeting location
- All of these require a physical quorum and a participation policy
 - Persons with disabilities and their care givers who participate remotely are counted as if physically present for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum
- Remote location does not have to be open to the public
- Personal matters may be used twice per calendar year per member or 25 percent of the meetings of the public body rounded to the next whole number, whichever is greater

Electronic Meetings

All-virtual public meetings - § [2.2-3708.3](#)

- May be used by any public body except “local governing bodies, local school boards, planning commissions, architectural review boards, zoning appeals boards, and boards with the authority to deny, revoke, or suspend a professional or occupational license”
- Requires a participation policy (but no quorum)
- Remote locations do not have to be open to the public unless 3 or more members present at that location
- All-virtual public meetings may be used twice per calendar year per member or 50 percent of the meetings of the public body rounded to the next whole number, whichever is greater
- Additional procedural requirements

Electronic Meetings

Policy for remote participation and all-virtual public meetings - § [2.2-3708.3](#) (D)

- Before using remote participation or all-virtual public meetings, the public body must adopt a policy on participation at least once annually that:
 - Is applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member or the matters to be considered or voted upon
 - Describes the circumstances under which an all-virtual public meeting and remote participation will be allowed and the process the public body will use for making requests to use remote participation, approving or denying such requests, and creating a record of such requests
 - Fixes the number of times remote participation for personal matters or all-virtual public meetings can be used per calendar year, not to exceed the limitations set forth in FOIA
 - Does not prohibit or restrict any individual member of a public body who is participating in an all-virtual meeting or who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the public body

Electronic Meetings

During declared states of emergency ([§ 2.2-3708.2](#) and State Budget)

- During a Governor-declared or local state of emergency:
 - *Purpose:* to provide for the continuity of operations of the public body or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities - [§ 2.2-3708.2](#) (A) (3) (version in FOIA amended in 2021)
- During a Governor-declared state of emergency ONLY
 - Different procedural requirements and limitations – State Budget Item [4-0.01](#) (g) (version in the state budget originally added in 2020)
- Both may be used by any public body
- No requirement for a physical quorum or to have a policy in place

Electronic Meetings

(continued)

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- Members may monitor (listen/watch) even if they cannot participate
 - Public & staff participation is always allowed – restrictions only apply to members
 - Please see our [Electronic Meetings Guide](#) for a more detailed discussion

A note about FOIA & Social Media

- Because the definition of “public records” includes all types of records that are in the transaction of public business, various forms of social media may be public records
- Because any assemblage of three or more members (or a quorum of two) of a public body discussing or transacting public business simultaneously is a meeting subject to FOIA, social media may also be used to conduct meetings
- Please see our guide on [FOIA & Social Media](#) for a more detailed discussion

Remedies and Penalties

What happens if something goes wrong?

Enforcement is through the courts

§ [2.2-3713](#)

- Petition for mandamus or injunction with affidavit showing good cause
- Mandamus: when the court orders a public official or employee to do something
- Injunction: When the court orders a public official or employee not to do something
- Petitioner may choose to file in general district court or circuit court
- Venue against a local body is in the county or city where the body is
- A single violation is sufficient to invoke the remedies

Petition for mandamus or injunction

(continued)

- Expedited hearing within seven days
- Petitioner must notify public body before filing
- If the petitioner wins, shall be awarded court costs, attorney fees, and any expert witness fees (paid by the public body)
- Public body bears burden to prove an exemption applies

Willful & Knowing Violations

§ [2.2-3714](#) (A)

- Willful & knowing violation of records and meetings requirements
 - \$500 to \$2000 civil penalty for first violation
 - \$2000 to \$5000 civil penalties for second and subsequent violations
 - Paid by the individual to the Literary Fund (not paid by the public body)
- May introduce advisory opinions of the FOIA Council as evidence that it was not willful & knowing - § [2.2-3715](#)

Improper alteration or destruction of public records - § 2.2-3714 (B)

- Records altered or destroyed before record retention period expires
 - With intent to avoid FOIA
 - Civil penalty up to \$100 per record
 - In addition to any other penalties
 - Paid by the individual to the Literary Fund (not paid by the public body)
- Note: Record retention periods are set by the Library of Virginia under the Virginia Public Records Act

Improper certification of closed meetings § [2.2-3714](#) (C)

- Improper certification of closed meeting
 - Civil penalty up to \$1000
 - Paid by public body to the Literary Fund
 - Mitigating factors: Opinions of the Attorney General, court cases, published Advisory Opinions from the FOIA Council

Additional Resources

- [FOIA Council](#) – Contact us with any FOIA questions
 - Telephone (toll free) 866-448-4100
 - Telephone (Richmond) 804-698-1810
 - Email: foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov
- [Library of Virginia](#) Records Management Section (for records retention questions under the Public Records Act)

Additional Resources

(continued)

- For members of municipal councils, county boards of supervisors, and school boards:
- [Virginia Municipal League](#)
- [Virginia Association of Counties](#)
- [Virginia School Boards Association](#)

Additional Resources

(continued)

For constitutional officers:

- [State Compensation Board](#)
- [Virginia Sheriffs' Association](#)
- [Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council](#)
- [Treasurers' Association of Virginia](#)
- [Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia](#)
- [Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia](#)
- [Virginia Court Clerks Association](#)

Flood Committee

Charter Overview

Committee Overview

Flood Committee Charter Overview

- Section 1 – Purpose and Basic Principles
 - Membership
 - Role of the Flood Committee
- Section 2 – Meetings
 - Policy for Remote Participation
 - Policy for All-Virtual Meetings
- Section 3 – Officers
- Section 4 – Conduct of Business
 - Order of Business
 - Public Comment
 - Robert's Rules of Order
- Section 5 – Agenda
- Section 6 – Flood Committee Appointments
 - Subcommittees
 - Advisor Appointments
 - Attendance

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

History

- Established via Virginia House Document 64 in 1989
- Codified in §10.1-602 with updates in 2022 GA (HB 516 / SB 551)
- Published in 1989, 1991, and 2005
(2005 included a Guide for Citizens and Localities)

Current Code Requirements

- The Plan shall be a place-specific plan for mitigating severe and repetitive flooding, [adhere to the Coastal Resilience Framework Principles], and include, at a minimum:
 - An inventory of flood-prone areas;
 - An inventory of flood protection studies;
 - A record of flood damages;
 - Strategies to prevent or mitigate flood damage; and**
 - The collection and distribution of information relating to flooding and floodplain management.
- Due no later than Dec 31, 2026 (5-year update cycle)
- Must use a watershed-based approach

The Floodplain Management Plan
of the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Prepared for:
Virginia Department of
Conservation & Recreation

DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

www.dcr.virginia.gov

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

§ [10.1-602](#) This Plan shall be a place-specific plan for mitigating severe and repetitive flooding; reviewed and updated at least once every five years and include:

Requirement	Include an inventory of flood-prone areas	Include an inventory of flood protection studies	Include a record of flood damages	Include strategies to prevent or mitigate flood damage	Include the collection and distribution of information relating to flooding and floodplain management	Use a watershed-based approach
VFPMP Approach	The updated plan will identify flood prone areas across the Commonwealth by communicating findings from analysis of flood hazard data procured from Fathom for this plan, as well as existing FEMA flood hazard data and data developed for the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.	The updated plan includes a data gaps analysis where key federal, regional, and state flood data is available to understand flood risk. Additionally, the DCR Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS) includes the results from FEMA flood protection studies.	The updated plan will include an analysis of estimated flood damages from severe and repetitive flooding under current and potential future scenarios. The updated plan will also summarize flood damages to provide context to the flood hazard impact analysis using the NOAA Storm Events Database.	The updated plan will develop new and revised strategies for state agencies to mitigate the impacts of flooding on people, the economy, and the environment. This is a focal point of the plan and being developed with stakeholder engagement.	The updated plan will include severe and repetitive flooding hazards and impacts at the locality and HUC10 scale. These place-specific results will inform the state strategy development.	The updated plan will include severe and repetitive flooding hazards and impacts summarized by both local government boundaries as well as watershed boundaries. These watershed-based impact analysis can inform watershed-based strategies.

Flood Committee

Roles and Responsibilities via [§10.1-659](#)

- The DCR Director, in coordination with the Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth, shall establish the Virginia Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (the Committee) to assist with developing, updating, and implementing the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan pursuant to § [10.1-602](#) and implementing the Commonwealth's flood resilience, preparedness, prevention, and protection programs.
- Members appointed to the Committee shall serve in an advisory role without compensation.
- The Committee shall meet at least two times per calendar year.
- DCR shall provide staff support to the Committee.
- The Committee shall receive updates to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, and other regional flood resilience plans.
- The Director may establish subcommittees or other bodies to advise on the development and implementation of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan and other regional flood resilience plans.

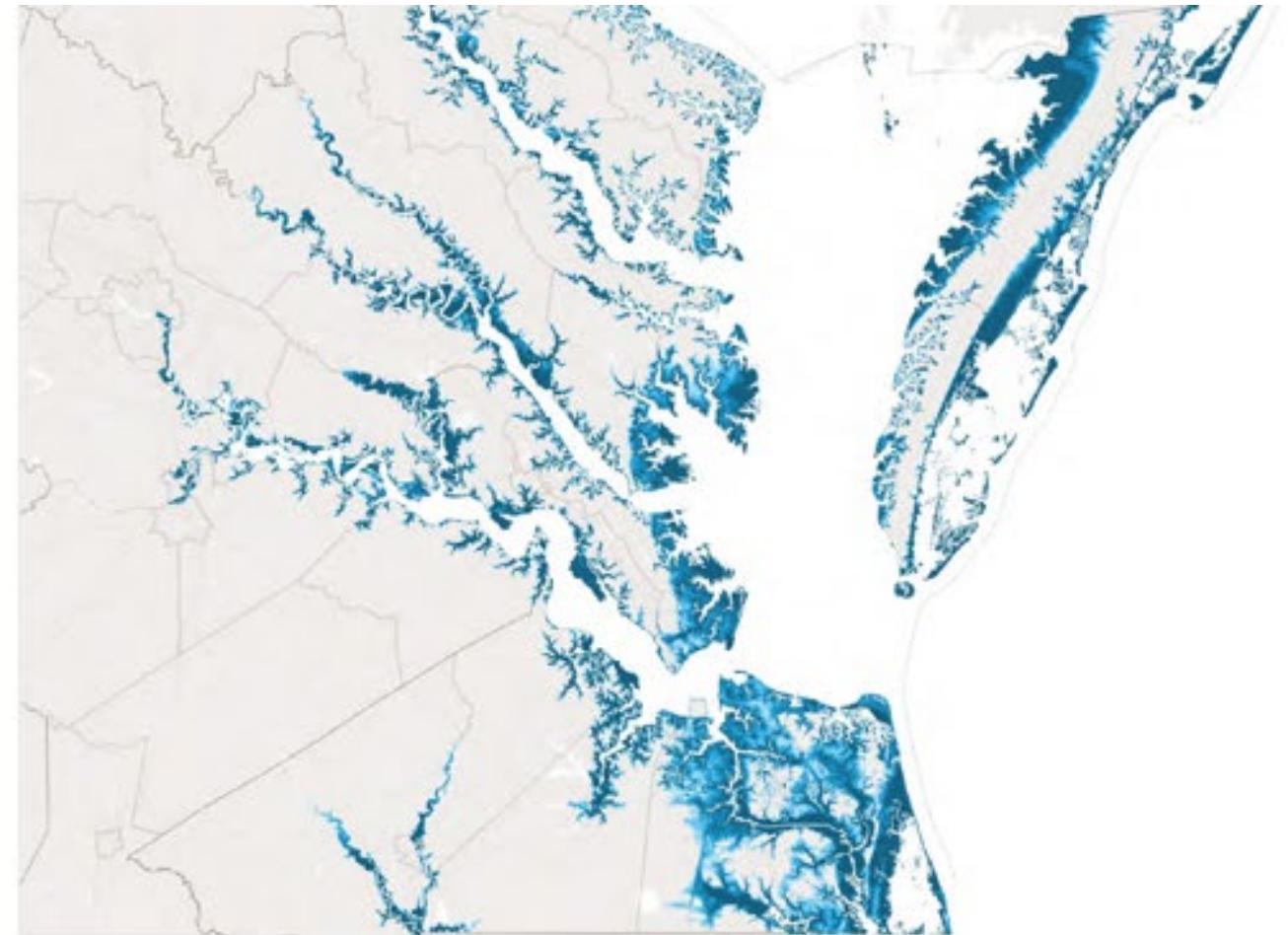
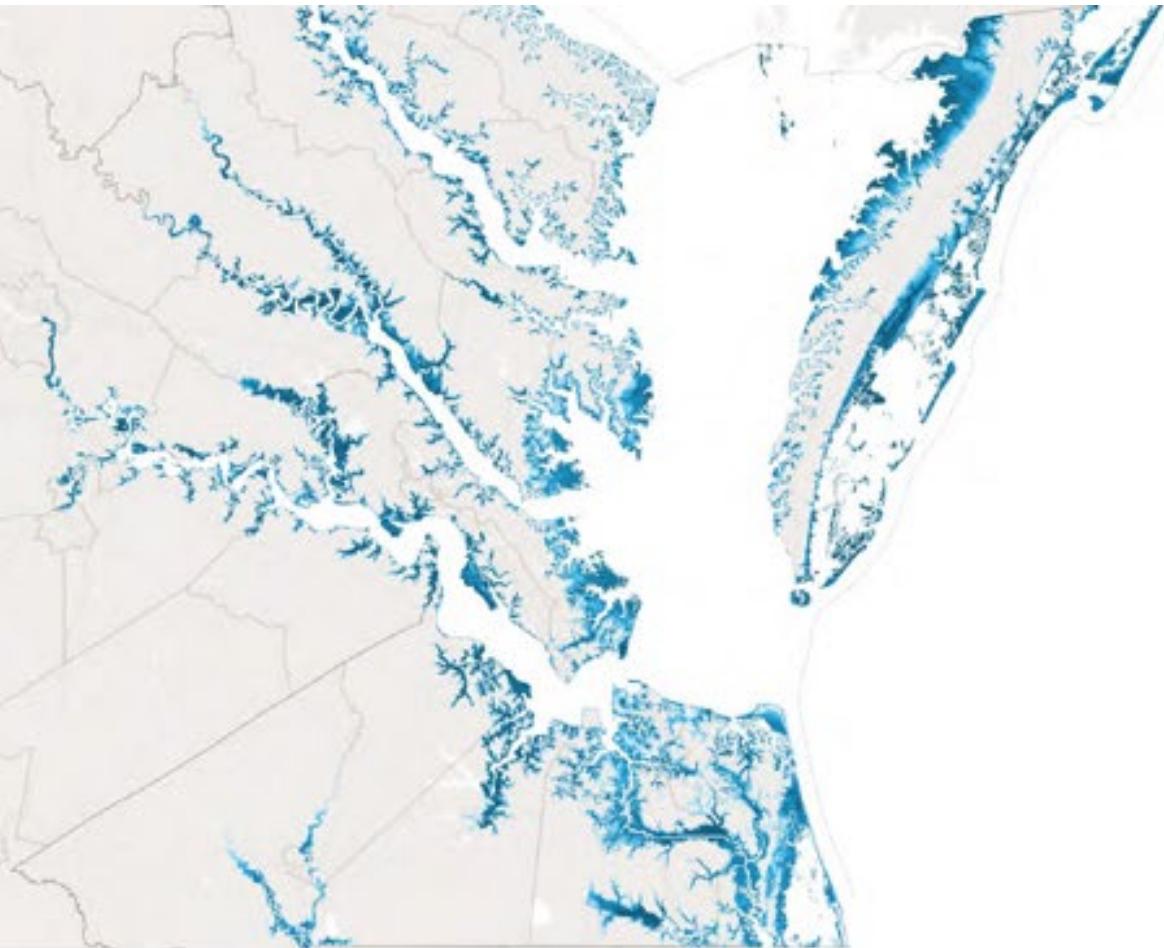
Flood Committee

Roles and Responsibilities via [§10.1-659](#)

The Committee shall advise the Department on:

- Assessing the impacts of flooding on people, the economy, and the environment;
- Establishing and measuring flood resilience goals and metrics for the Commonwealth;
- Prioritizing state policies, programs, funding, and other strategies to mitigate the impacts of severe and repetitive flooding;
- Enhancing intergovernmental and interagency coordination for flood resilience planning and strategy implementation;
- Conducting stakeholder outreach and engagement in support of flood resilience planning and implementation;
- Assisting local governments to minimize loss of life, property damage, and negative impacts on the environment resulting from flooding; and
- Issues relating to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan in accordance with the requirements established in § [10.1-602](#).

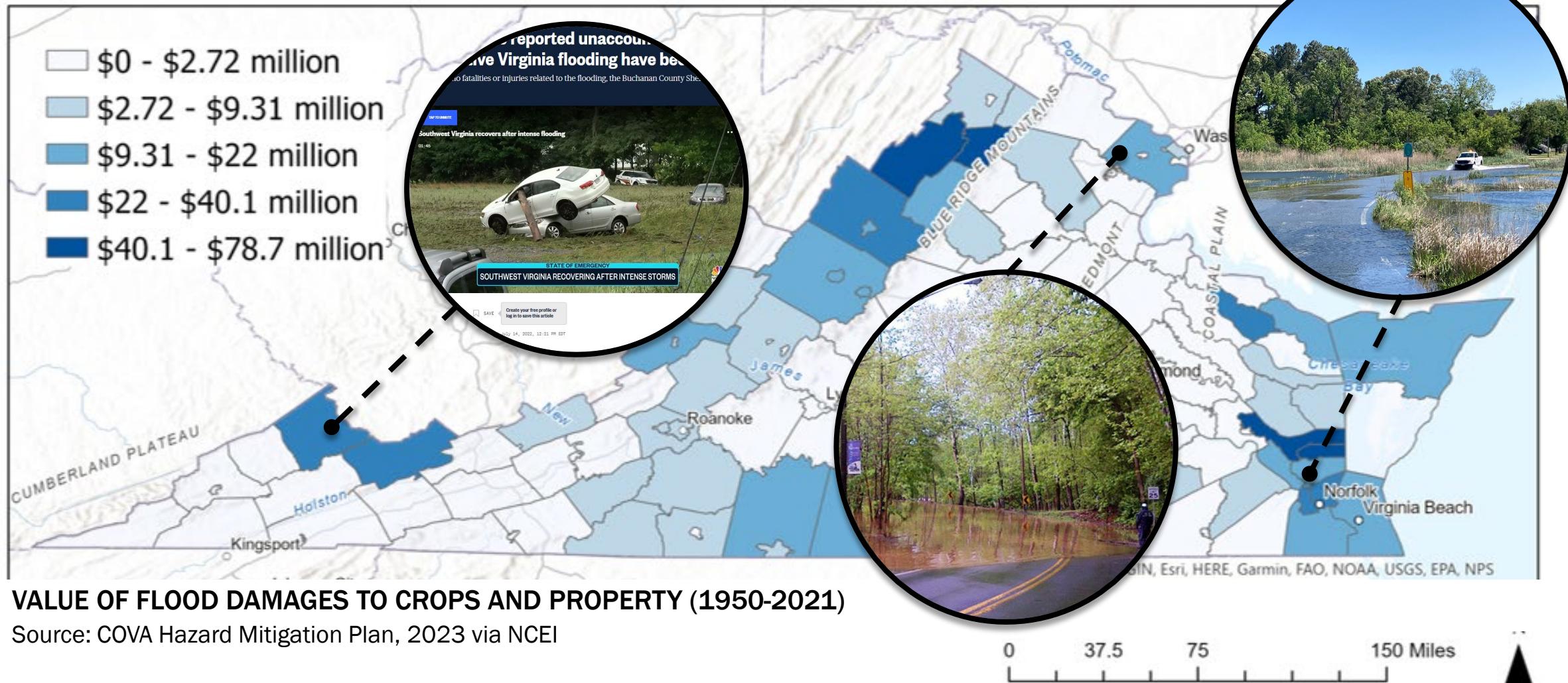
Coastal Flooding Projections – Coastal Resilience Master Plan Phase I



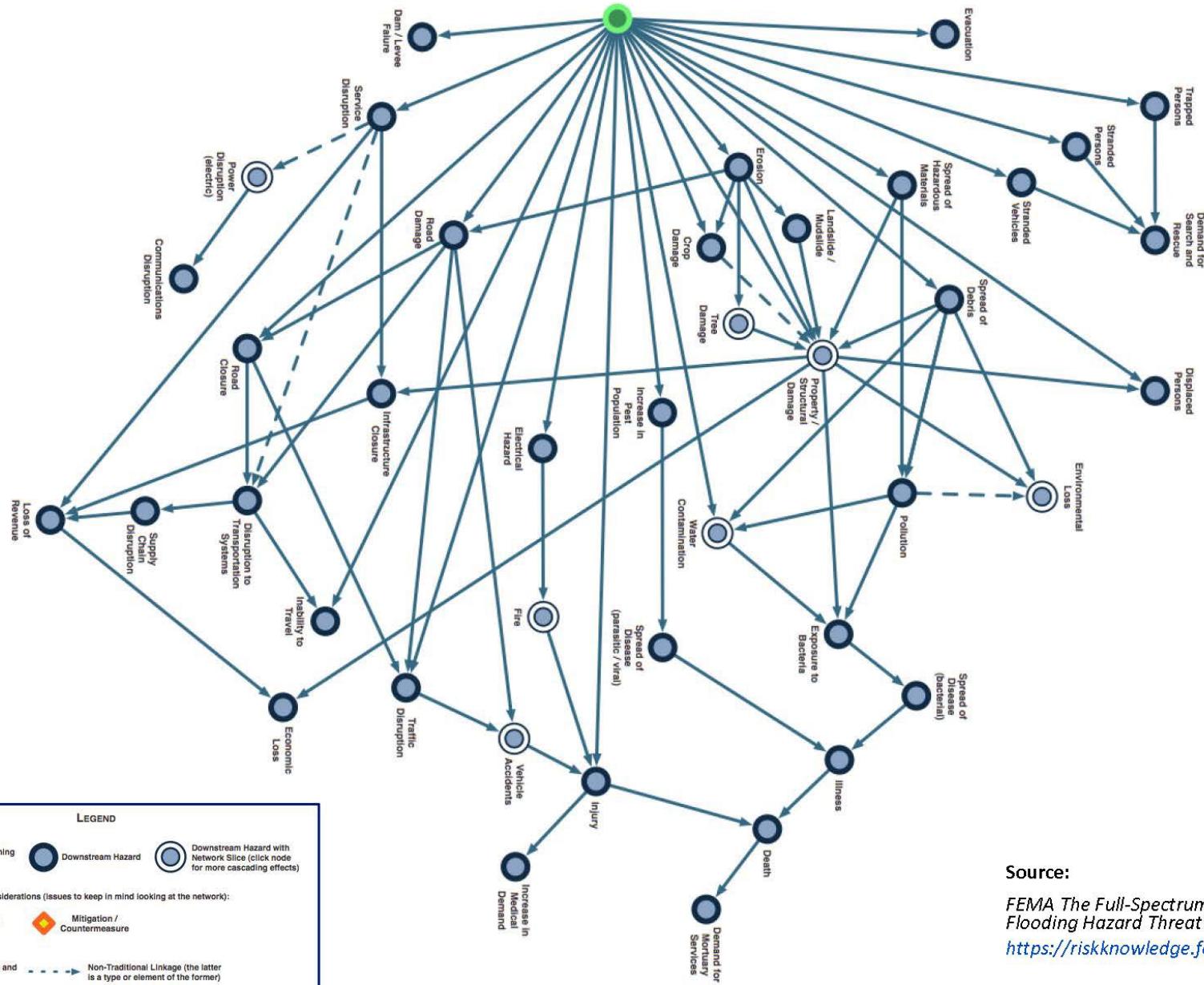
COASTAL FLOOD EXTENTS: 2020 VS. 2080

Source: Coastal Resilience Master Plan, Phase I

Flooding is a challenge across the Commonwealth



FLOODING



Source:

FEMA The Full-Spectrum Risk Knowledgebase
Flooding Hazard Threat Network
<https://riskknowledge.fema.gov>



Building Flood Resilience in Virginia

2020

Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework released

Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) is established

2021

Coastal Resilience Master Plan, Phase I released

CFPF Round 1 awards \$7.8M in grants

CFPF Round 2 awards \$24.5M in grants

2022

Coastal Resilience Master Plan codified

Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee codified

Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (RVRF) established

CFPF Round 3 awards \$65.4M in grants

2023

Office of Resilience Planning established

Status of Flood Resilience Report released

Resilience Coordination Working Group report recommendations

CFPF Round 4 awards \$53.9M in grants

RVRF receives \$100M in General Fund appropriation & Round 1 offers \$12.5M in loans

2024

CRMP, Phase II 20 TAC recommendations

Community Outreach and Engagement Plan released

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee established

Interagency Resilience Management Team established

Chief Resilience Officer strengthened and Office of Commonwealth Resilience established

CFPF receives \$100M in General Fund appropriation & Round 5 offers \$85M in grants and loans

State-Level Coordination for Resilience

FLOOD RESILIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Chaired by the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and staffed by DCR.
- Committee members represent state agencies, commissions, authorities, and localities responsible for **flood resilience**.
- Assists DCR with developing, updating, and implementing the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan.
- Meets at least twice annually
- Will convene after February 2025

INTERAGENCY RESILIENCE MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Led by the Chief Resilience Officer and staffed by the CRO's Office.
- Team is comprised of named “Resilience Coordinators” from state agencies.
- Supports the coordination of planning and implementation of **all-hazards resilience** efforts.
- Meets quarterly.

“**Resilience**” is 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.

Flood Resilience Master Plans for the Commonwealth

COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLAN

- A trusted resource to assist government entities in making evidence-based decisions to mitigate severe and repetitive flooding.
- Provides a unified baseline analysis of the threat of increasing flood exposure and impacts.
- Identifies opportunities to prioritize impactful flood resilience solutions.
- Phase I was released in 2021.
- Phase II is in progress. It will include the major sources of flooding, an updated impact assessment, an updated inventory of projects and initiatives, and 20 recommendations from the Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee.



VIRGINIA FLOOD PROTECTION MASTER PLAN

- An actionable framework for state government to align and craft policies and programs to mitigate the impacts of flooding on people, the economy, and the environment.
- Establishes flood resilience goals and metrics to track progress toward achieving them.
- Identifies strategies informed by a holistic picture of current and future flood impacts across the state, as well as identified gaps in data, resources and capacity.
- The VFPMP is in progress and scheduled to be released in December 2025.



Stakeholder outreach and engagement are important elements of both planning processes.

Existing Flood Related Plans and Programs



Virginia Coastal Zone MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

VIRGINIA SECTION 309 COASTAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIES

Draft submitted to NOAA July 2, 2020.
Final version submitted to NOAA January 27, 2021.
Approved by NOAA February 4, 2021.

Every five years the Virginia CZM Program assesses the Commonwealth's coastal resources and management efforts. High priority topics are then chosen and 5-year grant strategies are designed to result in new enforceable policies to manage better those high priority resources or issues.



Update in Progress

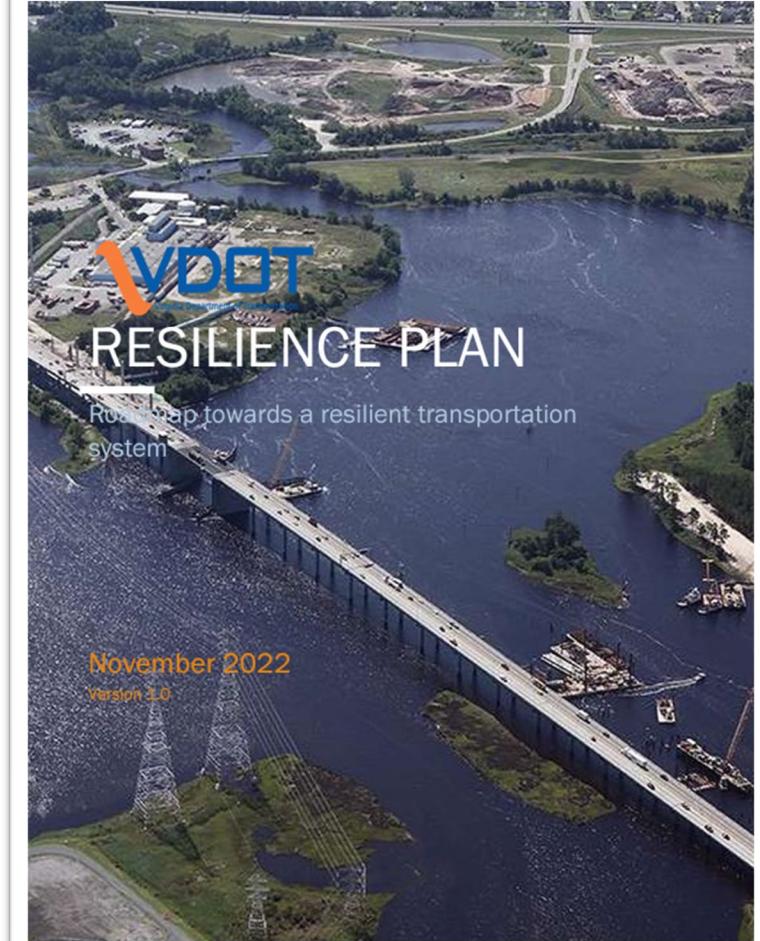


March 2023



Commonwealth of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

Update in Progress



Upcoming Flood Resilience Activities

Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

- Community Flood Preparedness Fund
Round 5 Applications Closed January 24
 - 70 applications seeking over \$65M in grant funding
- PDC Floodplain Management Training Feb 25
- Flood Awareness Week March 10-14
 - NFIP Training for State Agencies
 - Flood Insurance Roundtable
 - Risk Reduction Consultation
 - Virginia Silver Jackets Panel
 - School Visit w/Floodplain Model Demo
- State Floodplain Management Standards Update

Other State Agency Flood Related Activities

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 - Coastal Policy Team Meeting Feb 6
- Virginia Department of Emergency Management
 - State Hazard Mitigation Plan Workshop Feb 26

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Overview

Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Prioritization of Gaps to Be Addressed

Developing Flood Resilience Strategies

Planning Team Introduction



**emergent
method**



**Hirschman Water &
Environment, LLC**
Stormwater & Stewardship



**THE WATER
INSTITUTE**

**The Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan
(VFPMP) will be an actionable plan for the
Commonwealth to use in crafting policies and
programs to mitigate the impacts of flooding on
people, the economy, and the environment.**



Where we are going

Timeframe: 2025-2045

Vision



Long-term aspirations and desired outcomes for flood risk reduction across Virginia

Goals



Succinct statements of what needs to be accomplished to move towards the Vision

Objectives

Provide the basis for evaluating alternatives and measuring progress towards goals

How we get there

Timeframe: 2025-2030

Strategies



Actionable approaches to address gaps in the current state of practice and advance the plan's goals

Implementation Roadmap



Outline the specific steps and mechanisms to implement the strategies and actions identified

VFPMP Final Products



Written PDF Plan

The full plan document designed for state leadership, and appendices designed for use by practitioners.

Audience:
Governor & GA



Implementation Guide

A summary of the policy and program strategy designed for quick reference.

Audience:
State Agencies



StoryMap & Data Viewer

A summary of the major plan elements that allows for interactive engagement.

Audience:
Public

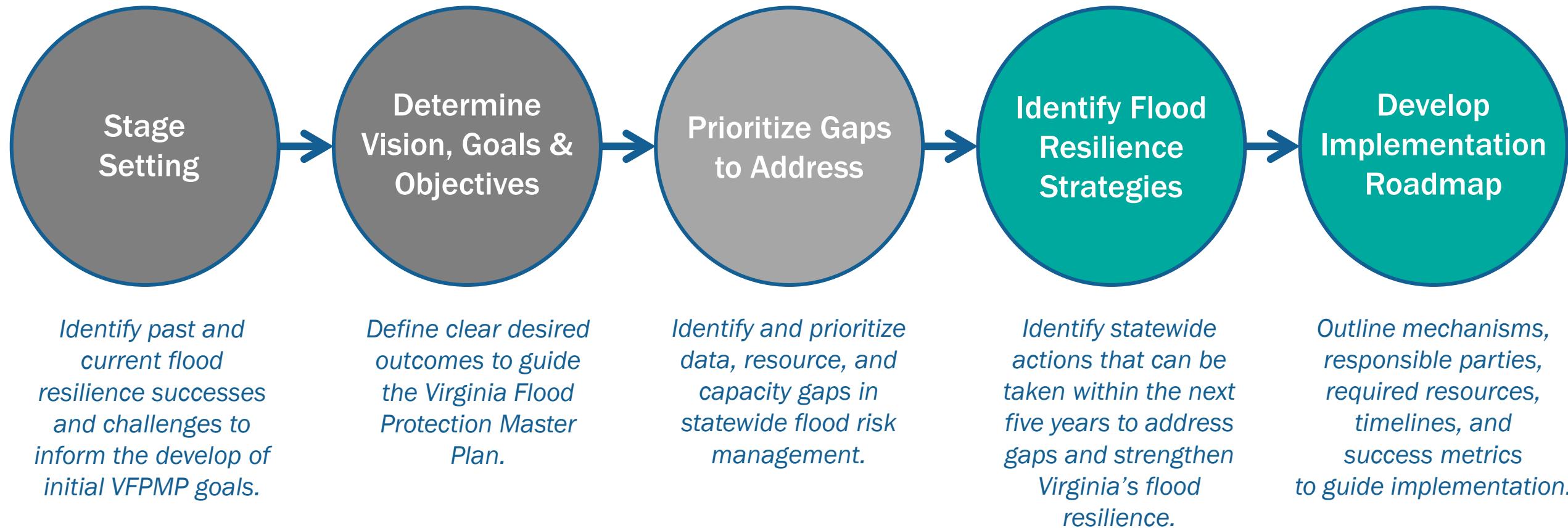


VFPMP Webpage

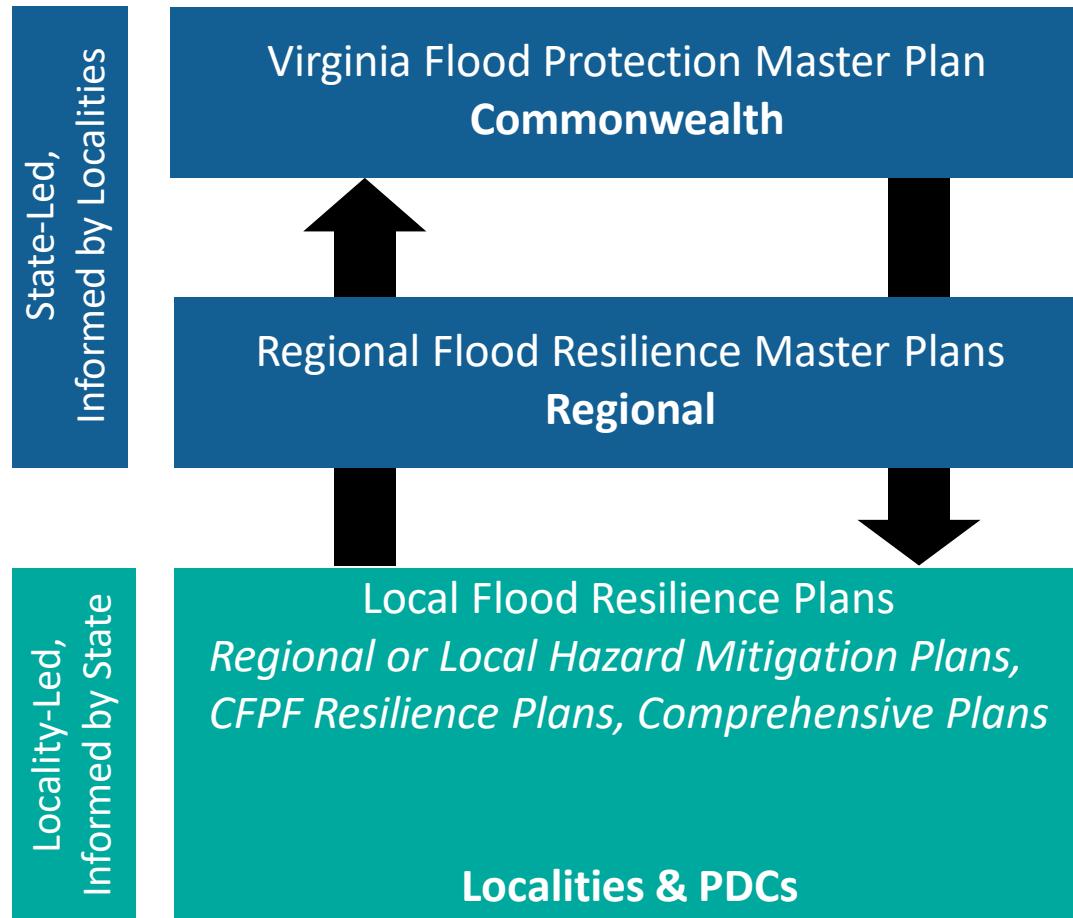
General plan information (purpose, process, & results). Periodically updated with progress/metrics tracking.

Audience:
Public

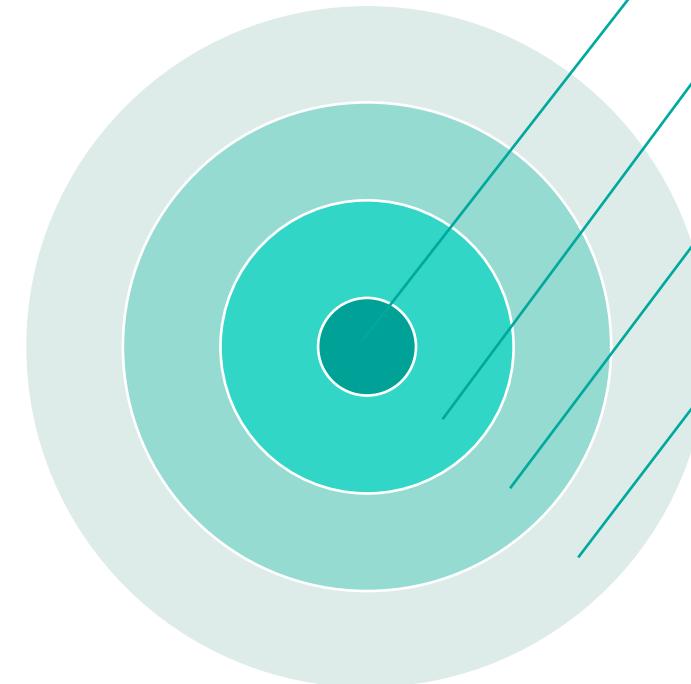
Key Points in Collaboratively Developing the VFPMP



Integrated Flood Resilience Planning & Stakeholder Engagement



VFPMP Stakeholder Engagement Groups



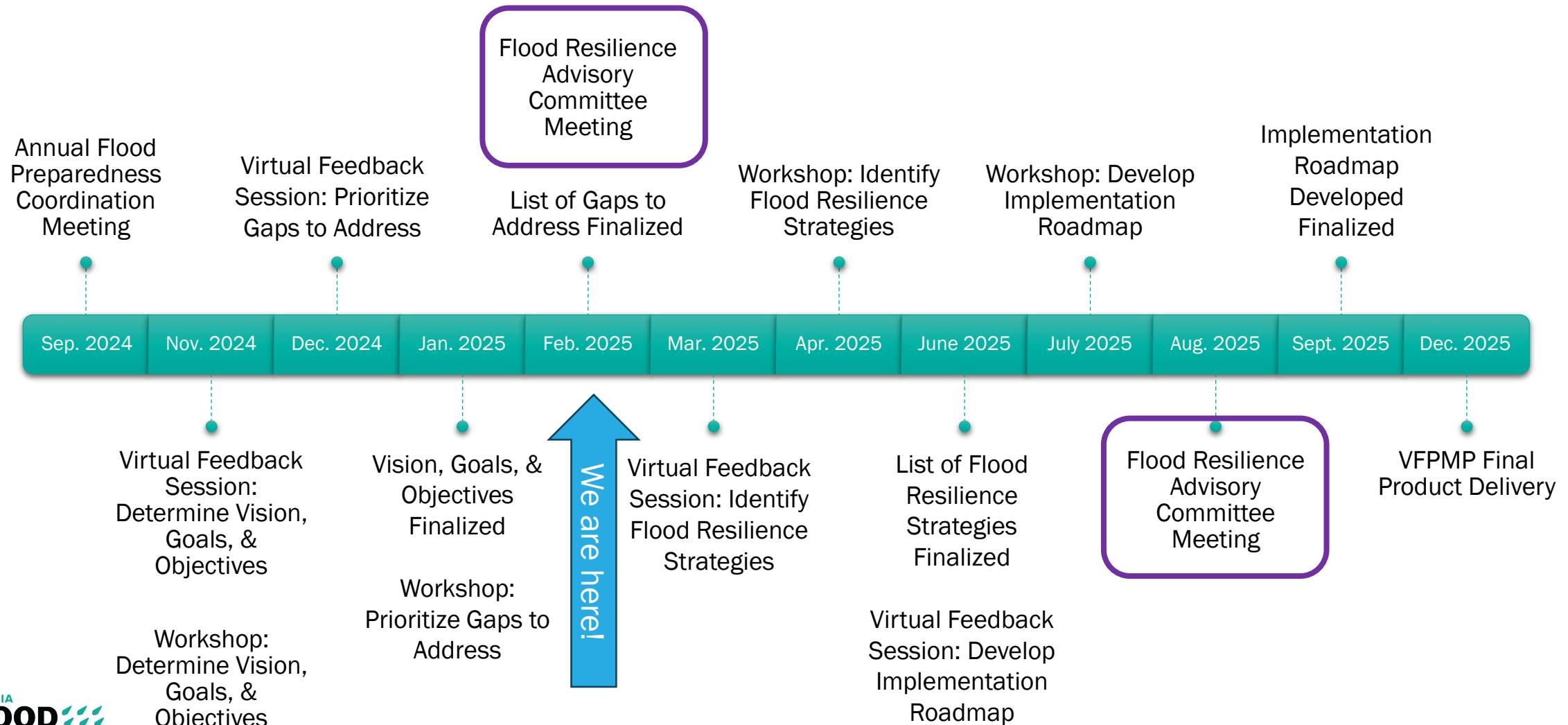
Planning Team
and Flood
Committee

Core
Stakeholders

Supporting
Stakeholders

General Public of
the Commonwealth

Overview of VFPMP Development Schedule & Engagement Points



Plan Vision, Goals, & Objectives

VFPMP VISION STATEMENT

A thriving Commonwealth proactively addressing flood risks to further strengthen the resilience of communities, the economy, and the environment now and into the future.



VFPMP Goals



Mitigate current and future flood risks statewide.



Advance lasting and unified strategies to address flood risk.



Capture additional benefits through flood resilience.

Goal



***Mitigate current and future
flood risks statewide.***

Objectives

- a. Reduce negative effects on human health from flooding.
- b. Reduce negative impacts to vulnerable populations from flooding.
- c. Reduce flood damage to buildings and infrastructure.
- d. Reduce economic disruptions and losses from flooding.
- e. Reduce negative effects to natural and cultural resources from flooding.

Goal



***Advance lasting and unified
strategies to address flood risk.***

Objectives

- a. Increase understanding of current and potential future flood risks.
- b. Strengthen the ability to prepare for and manage flood risks.
- c. Increase the adaptability and effectiveness of flood resilience strategies to potential future conditions and regional interests.
- d. Increase the return on public investments in flood resilience.
- e. Increase the accessibility of flood resilience resources, opportunities, and information for all Virginians.

Goal



***Capture additional benefits
through flood resilience.***

Objectives

- a. Improve health and quality of life through flood resilience.
- b. Boost the economy through flood resilience.
- c. Enhance the natural environment through flood resilience.

Prioritize Gaps to Address

Key Mechanisms and Gaps

In the context of this analysis, “gap” is defined as a practice that is not effectively being implemented across and/or within Virginia state agencies which in turn limits the Commonwealth’s ability to successfully execute flood resilience strategies statewide.

Each identified gap has been grouped into a category called a “Key Mechanism”

Key Mechanisms

The overarching categories of flood resilience strategies that can be implemented within a Virginia state agency’s scope.

Other Considerations:

Resources: The financial, physical, and technological tools utilized by a state agency to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flood events.

Capacities: The abilities and skills that state agencies possess or need to develop to effectively use their resources for flood resilience. This includes the dedicated staff, time, knowledge, expertise, organizational structures, and processes that enable agencies to plan, implement, and manage flood resilience activities.

Current Practice: The various flood resilience strategies that are currently implemented by Virginia state agencies.

Key Mechanisms

**Coordination –
Internal and
External**

Event Response

**Management –
Assets, Programs,
and Resources**

**Financial Support –
Grants, Loans, and
Others**

**Outreach –
Programs and
Resources**

**Planning –
Event Based and
Long Term**

Legal Instruments

**Technical
Assistance –
Long Term, Event
Based, and Training**

Gap Identification Process

Collection of state agency plans, resources, programs, and policies

Cross-analysis between documents and plan Objectives to identify initial gaps

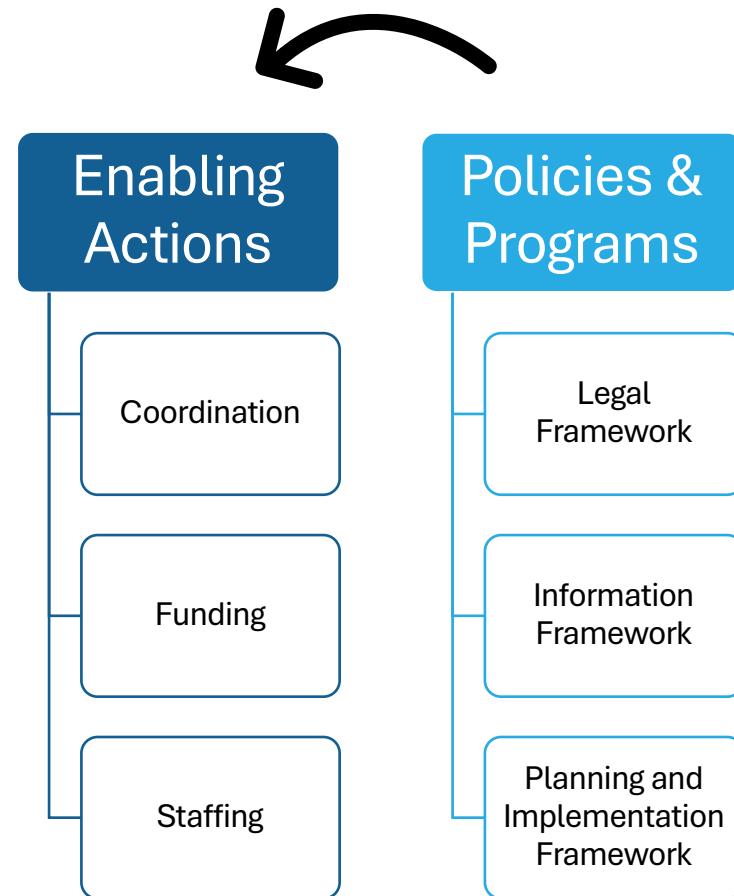
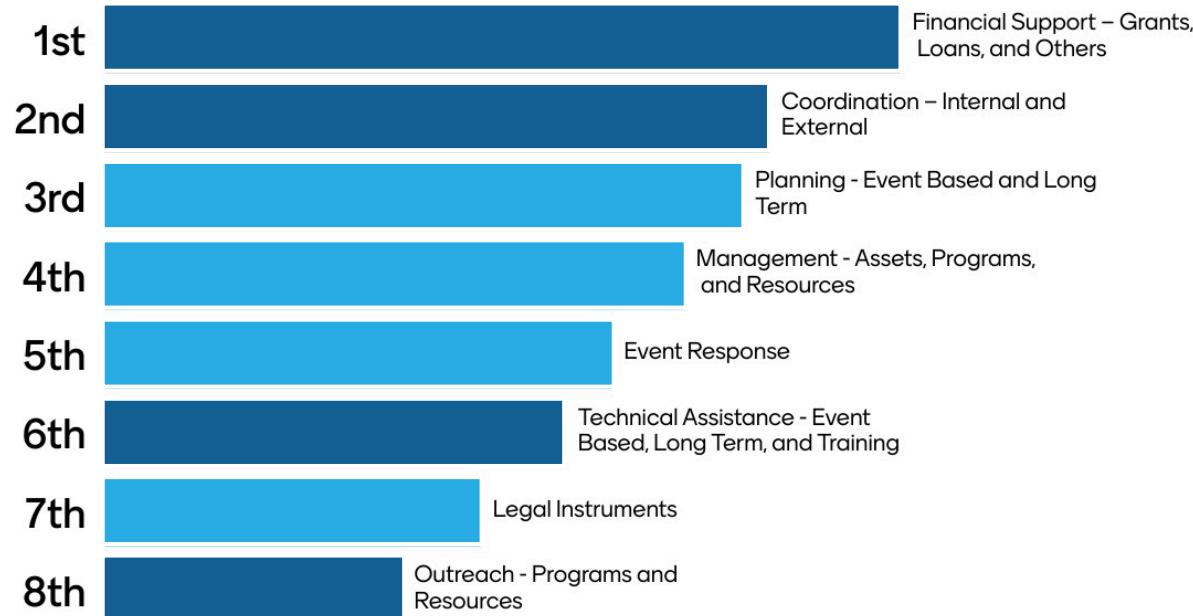
Interviews with select Core Stakeholders to verify and complete gaps analysis

In-person workshops and virtual feedback sessions with Stakeholders

Synthesis of input into draft Prioritization Gaps

Stakeholder Feedback on Gaps

Core Stakeholder's Ranking of Key Mechanisms



Priority Gaps to be Addressed

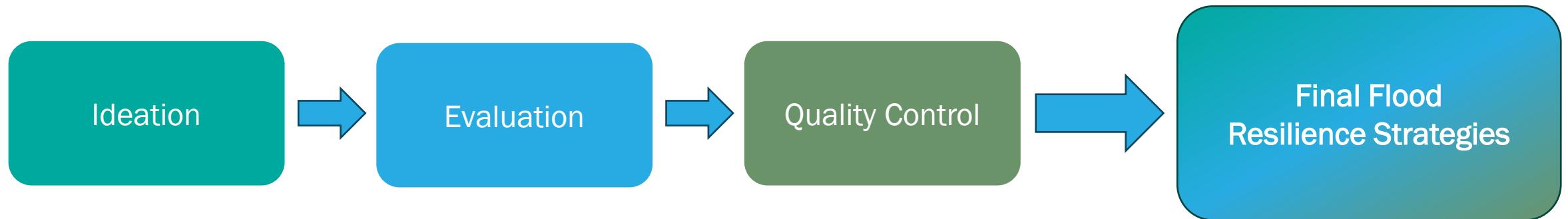
Primary Gaps to be Addressed	Key Mechanism
Coordination among state agencies to streamline flood resilience strategies and reduce redundancies	Coordination - Internal and External
Funding resources for long term resilience planning that supports a wide breadth of needs at both the state and local government level	Financial Support - Grants, Loans, Other
Access to up-to-date data resources that support long-term flood resilience planning and resource allocation decisions	Management - Resource
Staff capacity and resources for interdepartmental data aggregation and coordination for comprehensive flood risk assessments, including those for state-owned assets	Management - Resource
Community knowledge and capacity to take proactive steps to reduce vulnerability to flooding	Outreach - Program
Staff capacity hindering collaboration, technical assistance provision, and funding outreach efforts	Outreach - Resource
Robust decision-making frameworks and capacities to facilitate long-term planning efforts and resource allocation decisions	Planning - Long Term

Priority Gaps to be Addressed

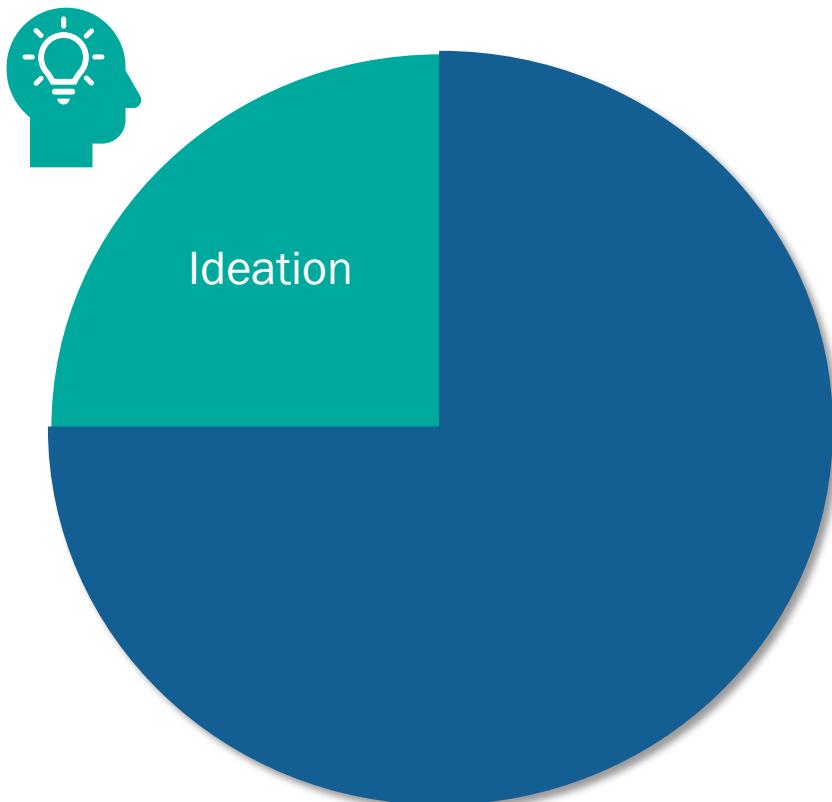
Secondary Gaps to be Addressed	Key Mechanism
Staff capacity and data management resources for coordination between federal, state, and local agencies during events to ensure targeted event response.	Event Response
Funding resources for asset maintenance	Management - Assets
Reliance on non-permanent federal funding posing challenges in sustaining flood resilience programs.	Management - Programs
Staff capacity for integration of flood resilience tools	Planning – Long Term
Staff capacity to address and assist with federal and state regulations	Legal Instruments
Staff capacity and resources to coordinate technical assistance for funding and program initiatives to address long-term flood resilience goals	Technical Assistance

Identify Flood Resilience Strategies

Developing Flood Resilience Strategies



Developing Flood Resilience Strategies: Step 1



Data Collection from Gaps Analysis

- Cataloged what data exists that can impact strategy creation
- Identified what data is still needed & how those needs can be integrated into strategies

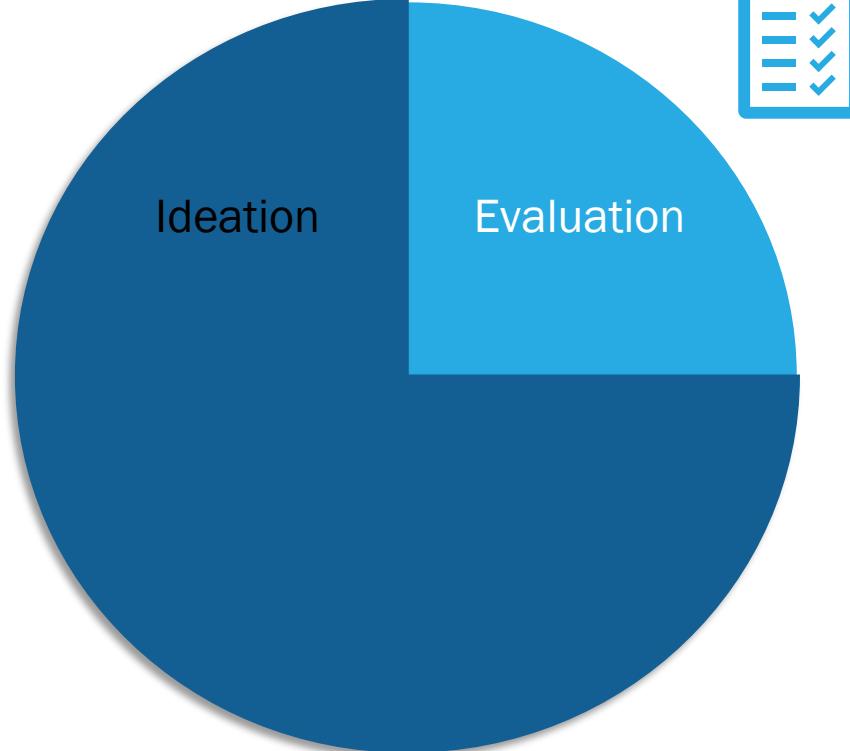
Stakeholder Engagement

- Interviews with select Core Stakeholders
- Potential engagement points with Floodplain Professionals, Environmental NGOs, & Commonwealth Universities
- Virtual Feedback Session with Supporting & Core Stakeholders

Analysis of Flood Resilience Best Practices from State & Federal Examples

- Includes resources from FEMA, the State Resilience Partnership, the American Institute for Research, and ASFPM

Developing Flood Resilience Strategies: Step 2



Plan Objectives

- Strategies will be informed by the Plan's Objectives to ensure their implementation helps achieve the Plan's Vision & Goals (subtasks 3.3 and 4.3)

Primary Gaps

- Strategies will strive to address the Plan's primary gaps that were identified by the Arcadis team & Stakeholders (subtask 3.4)

Feasibility of Completing by 2030

- Ensure that the strategies can be implemented within the 5-year scope of the Plan

Consideration of State Agency Scopes

- Confirm that all strategies fall into the responsibilities of Virginia state agencies

Developing Flood Resilience Strategies: Step 3



Arcadis Subject Matter Expert Review

- Arcadis will internally review & refine strategies to ensure they are innovative, feasible, and equitable

DCR ORP Review

- DCR's Office of Resilience Planning will review & refine strategies to ensure alignment with the office's principles

Stakeholder Review

- Core Stakeholders will review strategies and offer input & feedback to ground truth them during an In-Person Workshop
- This step supports garnering buy-in from Core Stakeholders, as well as initiating the workflow into the next step, Implementation Road Mapping (subtask 4.5)

Considerations to Define Policy & Program Strategy for the VFPMP

- Authority of Implementers – What is important to consider re: authority to make funding, staffing, or other resource changes to implement strategies?
- Distribution of Effort – What considerations exist regarding concentration of effort among agencies?
- Existing Efforts – What ongoing plans or programs are already happening that we might not be aware of?

Examples from Other Locales

Benefits and Challenges Posed by Different Levels of Detail

- What are the key details that must be included in a strategy.
 - Level of detail on roles/responsibilities in Implementation roadmap?
 - Framing as Recommendations rather than Stating as actions that will be taken?
 - Level of detail on connection between stakeholder input and strategy development?

	Low Level of Detail (Identifies a broad approach)	High Level of Detail (Identifies an approach and pathway)
Benefits	Allows for maximum flexibility in the interpretation, which means that efforts to achieve can be adjusted.	Identifies a clear strategy that is measurable and attainable within the five-year timeframe.
Challenges	May be difficult to identify pathways for implementation due to vague nature.	May feel too rigid and be met with roadblocks.

Considerations for Discussion

- Resilience plans vary in the level and type of detail included in the "strategies" of the plan –
 - Do any of the following example plans stand out as the right level of detail?
 - What aspects should we incorporate and what do we want to avoid?

City of Fort
Lauderdale,
FL

State of
Texas

City of
Jacksonville,
FL

State of New
Jersey



Infrastructure



GOAL 1

Build a sustainable and resilient community.

The City will continue our focus on improving our roadways and bridges, water and wastewater systems, and drainage infrastructure over the next five years. We will focus on improvements that make our City increasingly resilient to inclement weather, high-tides, future water demands, and a growing population.

The City will continue our priority of building a sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Sound investments, focused on both short-term and long-term economic and environmental viability, highlight our goal of increasing overall quality of life. Initiatives will be carried out to protect our water and natural resources that sustain our community.

OBJECTIVES

- Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, stormwater, road, and bridge infrastructure
- Secure our community's water supply and support water conservation measures
- Effectively manage solid waste
- Ensure climate change resiliency and implement local and regional strategies to reduce our carbon footprint
- Reduce flooding and adapt to sea level rise
- Actively monitor beach resiliency and support nourishment efforts
- Grow and enhance the urban forest
- Promote energy efficiency and the expansion of renewable energy sources

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Percent of budgeted project funds committed
- Utilities maintenance budget as a percent of overall utilities asset value
- Percent of citywide tree canopy coverage on public and private property
- Percent of households participating in waste diversion programs
- Aerial square footage of dune system
- Percent of catch basins proactively inspected

Administrative Resiliency Strategies

Plan: Develop long-term recommendations and guidance for key aspects of coastal resiliency.

- Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan
- Coastal Texas Study (now projects for Coastal Texas Program)

Policy: Establish or update state regulations, administrative codes, standards, or guidance related to coastal resiliency goals.

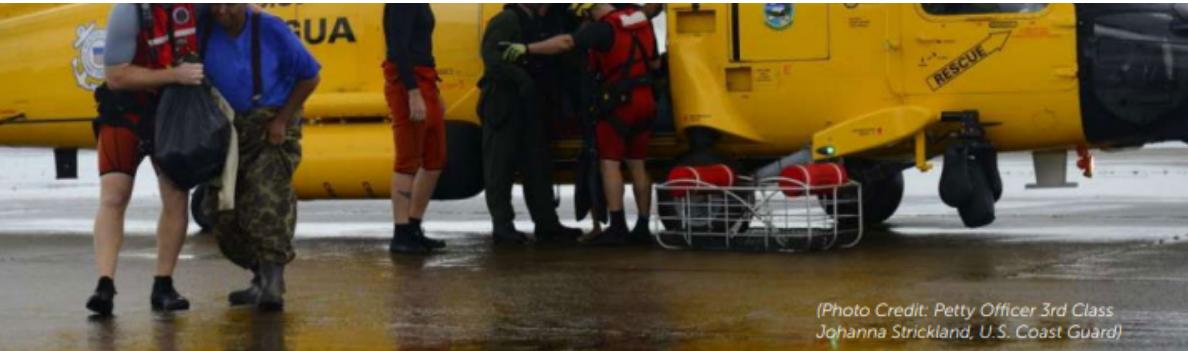
- Building codes
- Setback regulations

Program: Create ongoing, structured, and regularly-funded curriculum to enhance coastal resiliency in a particular focus area.

- Beach Monitoring and Maintenance Program
- Data collection and monitoring

Study: Identify the need for additional research and/or scientific or engineering analysis to support coastal resiliency.

- Sand source study
- Oyster habitat viability assessment



(Photo Credit: Petty Officer 3rd Class Johanna Strickland, U.S. Coast Guard)

5.5.8. Enhancing Emergency Preparation and Response

Emergency scenarios and hazard response are inevitable along the Texas coast. A range of hazards are possible, including those captured within other actions, but perhaps the most prevalent include major tropical storm and other heavy rainfall event response. Preparing for and responding to these hazards is important for the safety and wellbeing of coastal communities.

Many communities along the Texas coast are not well-equipped to prepare for or respond to major emergency scenarios. In many cases, this is due to increased risk caused by deteriorating critical infrastructure and facilities or lack of public awareness. Particularly in smaller communities, there may also be a lack of personnel capacity (for example, when local governments are short-staffed) to make proper preparations to prevent or reduce the impact (for instance, emergency personnel response time) of emergency situations.

Under the Enhancing Emergency Preparation and Response action, projects that increase community awareness, maintain and protect evacuation routes, improve critical data systems, enhance risk studies, and implement resiliency measures to protect critical facilities will be considered. This action is intended to promote proactive administrative planning to anticipate and respond to coastal disasters through improving vital coastal infrastructure, developing public education campaigns, and developing and enacting emergency response plans to lessen the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters on coastal communities.



ENHANCING EMERGENCY PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

Today's Opportunities

- Respond to RSLR
- Reduce flood risk
- Hazard Mitigation Funding availability (IIJA, BRIC, etc.)
- Regional flood planning
- Consider social vulnerability
- Plan for debris removal

Emerging Opportunities

- Parametric insurance
- Responsible Development (managing retreat)
- System-wide planning
- Pre-disaster mitigation

Related Actions

- Improving Community Resilience
- Adapting to Changing Conditions
- Addressing Under-Represented Needs



1 | Guide future growth in areas that are at low risk and well-connected to infrastructure.

Resilience and growth can be complementary goals if new development is guided to areas that are at lower risk of flooding and other climate threats and well-connected to the existing infrastructure necessary to support thriving communities, such as various modes of transportation and energy and water utilities. Multiple interrelated dynamics shape decisions around where growth and development happen, making it challenging to advance resilience objectives alongside other economic and social considerations. Jacksonville can guide growth in a resilient way by using a suite of planning, regulatory, and incentive-based tools in concert toward a common vision for the city's future. By guiding growth in locations well-suited for low-risk development, the City can avoid increasing the number of homes, critical facilities, and people located in flood-prone areas and thus avoid further increasing potential damages from flood events.

Resilient strategies for growth, like infill development, can also provide additional benefits. Infill development focuses growth on underutilized sites, such as parking lots or vacant properties, within an already developed area. It is a model of growth that "fills in," rather than expands from the existing urban fabric and supports increased density in areas where infrastructure and resources already exist. Infill development can reduce the distance that people need to travel to jobs and services; enable diverse modes of transportation, like public transit and bicycles; reduce urban sprawl and protect ecologically and recreationally valuable open spaces from development; make multi-unit housing options accessible for more residents; increase the return on investment in existing infrastructure; and reduce the extent and cost of infrastructure and services the City needs to provide and maintain.¹



Credit: Hallff

Shocks and Stressors Addressed

Flooding / Sea Level Rise / Chronic Flooding / Housing Instability

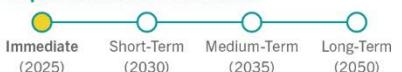
Implementation Partners

Planning & Development / JEA / JTA / North Florida TPO / Development Community

Potential Funding Mechanisms

CIP / Modified Fee Structure

Implementation Timeframe



Relative Cost



SUB-ACTIONS

1.1 Update the City's land development regulations.

The City's land development regulations govern multiple aspects of where and how land is developed, including allowable uses, site requirements, and building and construction standards. Jacksonville's land development regulations include the Zoning Code, the Code of Subdivision Regulations, and the Floodplain Management Ordinance. Jacksonville's current land development regulations were written when climate threats were not a major consideration and do not account for the full range of current and future conditions that climate change brings. New homes, businesses, services, and subdivisions are permitted in a manner that may be inconsistent with the goals of *Resilient Jacksonville*, placing residents at greater risk from climate hazards. Projections for how climate change will increase flood risks to certain areas of the city are now available and can be used to regularly update regulatory tools to reflect the best available data and science in a way that serves Jacksonville residents for generations to come. The City is working on updating its land development regulations over the coming year to account for future flood risk projections in where and how land and buildings are developed. Land development regulations will also be regularly updated to account for changes in the environment and exposure to risk over time.

1.2 Facilitate strategic infill development in areas of low flood risk.

The City of Jacksonville, in partnership with Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), JEA, the development community, and other partners, will explore and implement a range of tools to encourage infill development that is resilient to increasing climate impacts and located in high, dry, and connected

areas. These tools may include incentivizing redevelopment of vacant properties in high, dry, and connected areas; thoughtfully and strategically increasing allowable densities or providing density bonuses in those areas; partnering with developers to transfer development rights from one property to another; reducing utility connection fees in target areas; and reducing parking minimum requirements for new developments. City Council passed legislation in 2022 that expands where accessory dwelling units (ADUs), small housing units built on the same lot as a single-family home, are allowed in Jacksonville. This is another important tool that will support affordable infill development in Jacksonville. The City will combine tools for infill development with approaches for maintaining and expanding affordable housing (see Action 4) to ensure that making room for new neighbors improves conditions for existing residents and minimizes displacement.

1.3 Incorporate resilience considerations into future land use planning.

Jacksonville's 2030 Comprehensive Plan is a policy document required by Florida Statutes and the City's Code of Ordinances. This plan guides future growth and development with the goal of promoting public health, safety, and welfare. The plan also guides updates to the City's land development regulations. Jacksonville will incorporate resilience goals, climate threats, and risk considerations into updates of the Comprehensive Plan, including the Future Land Use Element and Future Land Use Map that describe the land uses and physical characteristics intended for all areas of the city.

03. IMPROVE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS FOR RECOVERY

Emergency

Recovery is the longest phase of any disaster. It may take a community months, years, and even decades to fully recover. Individual and Public Assistance funds that are provided by FEMA, along with SBA small business loans, can help municipalities, counties, utilities and infrastructure entities, as well as businesses, residents, and communities get back on their feet. Navigating the process can be difficult for all potential support and funding recipients. In the wake of the remnants of Hurricane Ida, Resilient NENJ, FEMA, and various other stakeholders hosted townhall meetings where people could go and apply for assistance in person. However, even months after Ida, Resilient NENJ heard from residents that they had not been able to apply or receive funding to cover their damages. Communication with residents during recovery should also be frequent, clear, and concise. Many of the outreach recommendations included in **Section 3.3.2** also apply to recovery operations. For example, information should be published on multiple communication channels, including websites, social media, newspapers, and radio. Resilience outreach ambassadors (see action **Outreach-05** in **Section 3.3.2**) can be leveraged to help spread information to people who may typically be excluded. Efforts to create a single source of truth (see **Outreach-01** in **Section 3.3.2**) will help connect residents with the right information. This should include providing information about steps to access funds, including the documentation needed such as pictures and receipts for damaged items.

Public education and outreach outside of the recovery period are also important, which are also covered in **Section 3.3.2**. For example, the Resilience 101 Campaign will increase community resilience by enhancing adaptive capacity and fostering empowerment through education and resources. As a coordinated body, Resilient NENJ can continue to develop and distribute materials covering various aspects of resilience.

Debris removal of damaged items is another aspect of recovery that can be burdensome, challenging, and frustrating for residents. Some residents reported that delays and limitations with debris removal after Ida led to health and safety concerns associated with lingering debris. Newark does regular bulk debris removal after flood events.

EASE
PROTECT
CONNECT

KEY PLAYERS



REGION

- Share information with community members about access to resources through the Resilience 101 Campaign and resilience hubs (see **Section 3.3.2** and **3.3.3**, respectively). Include information about flood insurance and how to access it



INDIVIDUALS

- Consider purchasing flood insurance even if not in a FEMA designated flood zone
- Follow guidance on proper documentation of damages from storms to support applications for funding and reimbursement



STATE & FEDERAL

- Establish single source of truth on information related to post-disaster recovery and funding (see **Section 3.3.2**)



CITY & COUNTY

- Establish post-disaster funding support contracts and develop processes to position for post-disaster public funding (see **Section 3.3.2**)
- Explore opportunities to expand bulk debris removal following storms



CBOs

- Partner with municipalities, state, and federal agencies to provide recovery support post-disaster (see **Section 3.3.2**)

Discussion and Q&A

Agency Updates

DHCD/RISE SWVA Flood Insurance Challenges

OUR MODEL



RISERESILIENCE.ORG

RISE BY THE NUMBERS:

175+

Jobs created
or retained

40+

Novel solutions
piloted

400+

Trained in climate
resiliency related
industries

300+

Submissions from 30
countries

\$8M+

In catalytic
funding and
support to
small
businesses

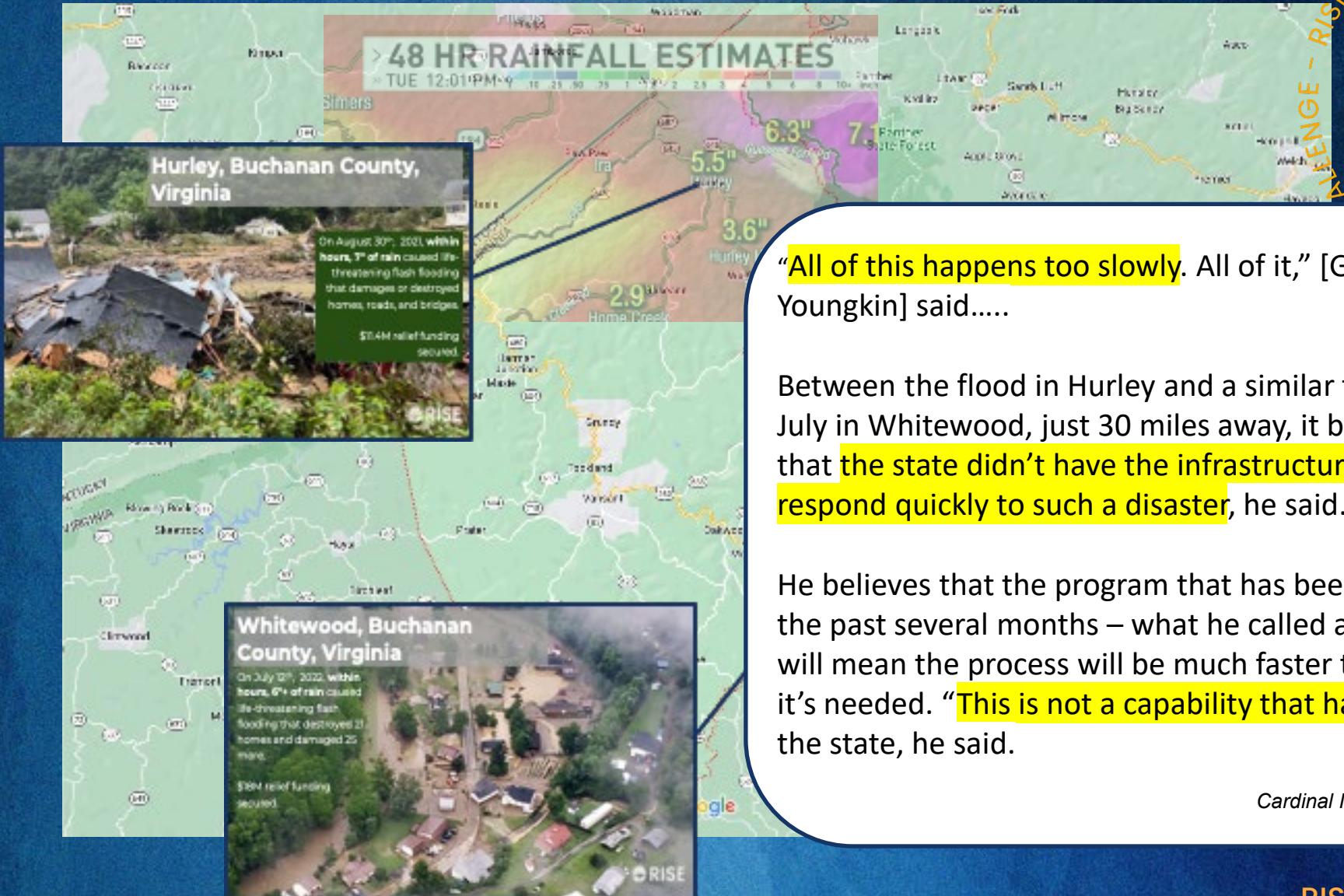
11

Innovation
Challenges

\$46M+

Raised by
RISE-funded
businesses

BUCHANAN COUNTY, VA



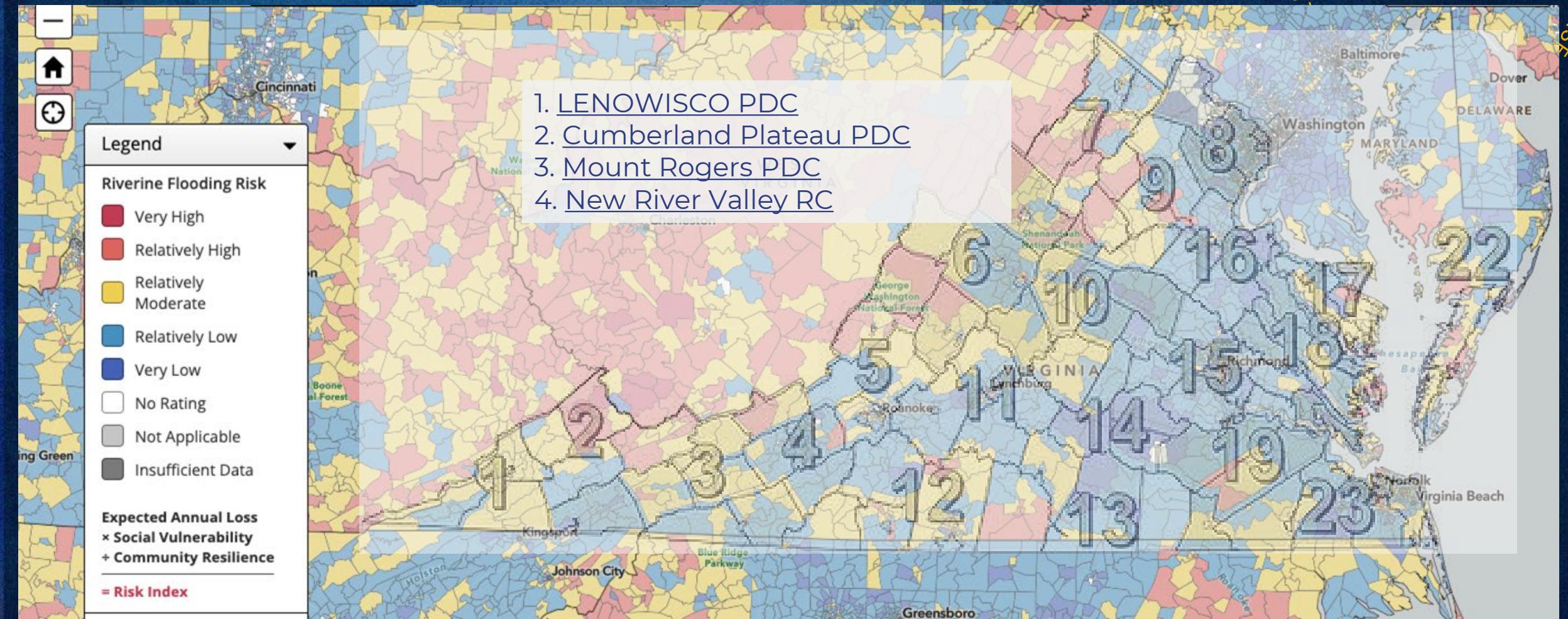
"All of this happens too slowly. All of it," [Governor Youngkin] said.....

Between the flood in Hurley and a similar flash flood this July in Whitewood, just 30 miles away, it became clear that the state didn't have the infrastructure in place to respond quickly to such a disaster, he said.

He believes that the program that has been created over the past several months – what he called a "mini-FEMA" – will mean the process will be much faster the next time it's needed. "This is not a capability that has existed" in the state, he said.

Cardinal News, October 26, 2022

THE THREATS FACING RIVERINE COMMUNITIES



RIVERINE CHALLENGE TOPICS

- Flood resilient, affordable landscape and building adaptations design/retrofit.
 - Early-warning systems to alert of significant events and provide avoidance guidance.
 - A region-wide insurance and support program.

A blue vertical banner with white text "RISE CHALLENGE" repeated twice, positioned next to a vertical strip of water.



RIVERINE CHALLENGE WINNERS



RIVERINE CHALLENGE WINNERS		
Merak Labs	Flood monitoring and early warning capabilities with resilience and impact analytics.	MOU signed with Cumberland Plateau PDC
Floodmapp	An end-to-end scalable flood warning system with flood mapping technology, hydrologic gauging infrastructure, and emergency warning advice.	MOU signed with Botetourt County
Floodbase & Raincoat	A parametric community-based insurance program that can instantly trigger riverine flood payouts to the most vulnerable households and businesses of southwestern Virginia.	MOU signed with United Way
InnSure	A minimum viable product Total Cost of Risk Simulator for riverine flooding-related risks, for a pilot community in Southwestern Virginia.	MOU signed with the Town of Narrows
Ric Platform Services	Parametric Rainfall Flood Micro Solution, offering a transformative approach to flood insurance that prioritizes affordability, rapid response, and community resilience.	No MOU required

Pilot programs running through November 2025

RISERESILIENCE.ORG

RIVERINE CHALLENGE NEXT STEPS

SUMMARY

- Addressing resilience needs of riverine community
- Helping Virginia be a national leader in this space
- Other states have similar needs – future collaboration

NEEDS

- Points of contact in DCR and VDEM
- Advocacy, support, and participation in:
 - ✓ Pilot Programs
 - ✓ Future RISE Challenges

NEXT CHALLENGES

Riverine Challenge II (April)

- New topic areas
- Further development of current solutions
- Geographic expansion of current solutions

HUD Challenge (September)

- Focus on Hampton Roads regional efforts
- Participation in Pilot Programs
- Participation in future RISE Challenges

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Public Comment

Contact and Additional Information



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

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Flood Committee Website:
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/flood-resilience-advisory-committee>



Flood Committee Charter

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SECTION 1 -- PURPOSE AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

Section 1-1 Purpose of the Charter

- A. To enable the Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Flood Committee) to conduct meetings expeditiously and efficiently;
- B. To protect the rights of each individual;
- C. To preserve a spirit of cooperation among Flood Committee members; and
- D. To determine the pleasure of the Flood Committee on any matter.

Section 1-2 Five Basic Principles Underlying the Charter

- A. Only one subject may claim the attention of the Flood Committee at one time;
- B. Each item presented for consideration is entitled to full and free discussion;
- C. Every member has rights equal to every other member;
- D. In instances where the Flood Committee acts by majority decision, the rights of the minority must be preserved; and
- E. Flood Committee members should seek to act in the best interests of the Commonwealth.

Section 1-3 Membership

- A. The Flood Committee is an advisory committee pursuant to Section 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia.
- B. Members shall serve in an advisory role without compensation.
- C. The Flood Committee shall be comprised of representatives pursuant to Section 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia and any other representatives as needed.
- D. The Chair may invite any other representatives as needed to serve as a Flood Committee member.
- E. All Flood Committee members may designate someone within their organization to serve as their designee. Flood Committee members may identify an Alternate to serve as a proxy for the Flood Committee member. Both designees and alternates shall be consistent, documented, and are considered members of the public body.
- F. The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall provide staff support to the Flood Committee.

Section 1-4 Role of the Flood Committee

- A. Pursuant to Section 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia, the Flood Committee shall assist the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation with developing, updating, and implementing the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan pursuant to § 10.1-602 and implementing the Commonwealth's flood resilience, preparedness, prevention, and protection programs.
- B. The Committee shall receive updates to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, and other regional flood resilience plans.
- C. The Committee shall advise the Department of Conservation and Recreation on
 1. assessing the impacts of flooding on people, the economy, and the environment;
 2. establishing and measuring flood resilience goals and metrics for the Commonwealth;
 3. prioritizing state policies, programs, funding, and other strategies to mitigate the impacts of severe and repetitive flooding;

4. enhancing intergovernmental and interagency coordination for flood resilience planning and strategy implementation;
5. conducting stakeholder outreach and engagement in support of flood resilience planning and implementation;
6. assisting local governments to minimize loss of life, property damage, and negative impacts on the environment resulting from flooding;
7. issues relating to the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan in accordance with the requirements established in § 10.1-602.

SECTION 2 -- MEETINGS

Section 2-1 Meeting Frequency

- A. The Committee shall meet at least two times per calendar year.
- B. The time and place of the meetings of the Flood Committee shall be established by the Chair in coordination with Flood Committee members in accordance with Section 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia. Flood Committee support staff will send meeting invitations to all Flood Committee members as well as post meetings on Regulatory Town Hall and the DCR Website at least seven working days prior to the meeting.

Section 2-2 Special Meetings

- A. The Flood Committee may hold such special meetings, as the Chair deems necessary, at such times and places as it may find convenient. Where a special meeting has been called, the Flood Committee shall give such notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting as is feasible.

Section 2-3 Quorum and Method of Voting

- A. At any meeting, those members of the Flood Committee physically present shall constitute a quorum.
- B. All questions submitted to the Flood Committee for decision shall be determined by a recorded vote. The Chair may choose to have the vote by voice vote or by show of hands. Any member who votes or abstains on a matter shall have the option of asking for a roll call vote. Upon such request, the Flood Committee shall be polled and the name of each member voting and how he or she voted shall be recorded.
- C. Unless otherwise specified in this Flood Committee Charter, motions shall be decided by a majority of members present, physically and virtually (pursuant to Section 2-4), and voting.
- D. Provided that notice that a recommendation may be acted on (or voted on) is included in the agenda provided to members at least seven working days prior to a meeting, the Flood Committee may make recommendations consistent with the mission and purpose of the Flood Committee. When possible, these recommendations should be adopted by consensus. Where consensus is not possible, recommendations may be adopted by majority vote. However, members dissenting from the recommendation may provide a minority report that shall be included with the recommendation.
- E. A tie vote fails.

Section 2-4 Policy for Remote Participation in Flood Committee Meeting

- A. It is the policy of the Flood Committee that individual Flood Committee members may participate in meetings of the Flood Committee and Flood Committee Subcommittees by electronic communication means from a remote location that is not open to the public only as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3708.3, as amended, and this policy. This policy shall apply strictly and uniformly to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member

- requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.
- B. An individual member's request for participation from a remote location under this policy shall be considered approved upon receipt of the request by the Chair of the Flood Committee unless the request is in violation of Section 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. If a member's participation from a remote location is disapproved because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

Section 2-5 Policy for All-Virtual Meetings

- A. The Flood Committee and Flood Committee Subcommittees may convene a maximum of two all-virtual public meetings per calendar year or up to 25% of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. However, the all-virtual meetings cannot be held consecutively with another all-virtual meeting. These limitations shall apply separately with respect to the meetings of each of the Flood Committee's Subcommittees.
- B. All-virtual public meetings may be convened for the following reasons:
1. It is impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum of the Flood Committee in a single location, but a state of emergency has not been declared by the Governor or Board of Supervisors; or
 2. Other circumstances warrant the holding of an all-virtual public meeting, including, but not limited to, the convenience of an all-virtual meeting.
- C. All-virtual public meetings must meet the following conditions in accordance with §2.2-3708.3:
1. An indication of whether the meeting will be an in-person or all-virtual public meeting is included in the required meeting notice along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which a public body chooses to meet shall not be changed unless the public body provides a new meeting notice in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-3707;
 2. The phone number of the Chair or designated staff will be provided at the start of each meeting to alert the Flood Committee if the audio or video transmission of the meeting fails. The Flood Committee staff will monitor such designated means of communication during the meeting, and the Flood Committee will take a recess until public access is restored if the transmission fails for the public; and
 3. No more than two members of the Flood Committee are together in any one remote location unless that remote location is open to the public to physically access it.

Section 2-6 Flood Committee to Sit In Open Session

- A. The Flood Committee shall sit in open session and all persons conducting themselves in an orderly manner may attend the meetings.

SECTION 3 -- OFFICERS

Section 3-1 Chair and Vice-Chair

- A. Pursuant to Section 10.1-659 of the Code of Virginia, the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation shall serve as chairman of the Committee. The Chief Resilience Officer of the Commonwealth shall serve as vice-chairman of the Committee.
- B. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Flood Committee unless delegated to the Vice-Chair or other Flood Committee member. If the Chair and Vice-Chair are not present and their duties have not been delegated, the members present at the meeting shall nominate and pass a motion for a member to preside over the meeting.

- C. The Chair shall appoint Flood Committee members to serve on standing committees and ad hoc committees established by the Flood Committee.

Section 3-2 Preservation of Order

- A. At meetings of the Flood Committee, the presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum.

SECTION 4 -- CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Section 4-1 Statutory Requirements

- A. The Flood Committee will comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as contained within Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and the Administrative Process Act (APA) as contained within Chapter 40 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia.

Section 4-2 Order of Business

- A. The Flood Committee shall adopt an agenda for each meeting by recorded vote pursuant to Section 2-3. The adoption of the agenda shall be the first item for action following the Call to Order and Roll Call.

Section 4-3 Public Comment

- A. The Flood Committee shall set aside no less than twenty (20) minutes for Public Comment on each Flood Committee Meeting Agenda. Public Comment shall be held after the conclusion of the regular agenda. During this period the Flood Committee shall receive comment from any member of the general public on any non-agenda item or any agenda item not scheduled for public hearing by the Flood Committee, provided that the Chair can prohibit or proscribe the use of obscenity or other speech tending to create a breach of the peace; and provided further that no individual shall be permitted to address the Flood Committee for more than five (5) minutes. In the event that more than four (4) speakers wish to be heard during Public Comment, the Chair shall allocate the aforesaid twenty (20) minutes among speakers in an equitable manner. The time allocated for Public Comment may be extended by majority vote of the Flood Committee.

Section 4-4 Meeting Agenda Submissions

- A. Flood Committee agenda requests from Flood Committee members shall be submitted to the Chair at least fourteen calendar days prior to the Flood Committee meeting.

Section 4-5 Chair Suspending Rules

- A. One or more of these rules of the Flood Committee Charter may be suspended with the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the members present.

Section 4-6 Amendment of Rules

- A. This Flood Committee Charter may be amended by majority vote, provided that a proposed amendment may not be voted on unless the text thereof shall have been presented to the Flood Committee at a previous meeting at which the date for a vote on the proposal had been established. Any proposed amendment shall be subject to further amendment at the meeting at which the vote is taken.

Section 4-7 Robert's Rules of Order

- A. The proceedings of the Flood Committee, except as otherwise provided in this Flood Committee Charter and by applicable State law, shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTION 5 -- AGENDA

Section 5-1 Preparation

- A. The Chair shall prepare an agenda for the Flood Committee Meetings conforming to the order of business specified in Section 4-2 titled "Order of Business".
- B. Matters may be placed on a Flood Committee agenda only in the following manner:
 1. By the Chair; or
 2. At the request of a member, with the assent of the Chair; or
 3. By a majority of members present at a meeting and voting, provided that the matter shall not be considered for a vote until a subsequent meeting.
- C. All items that are requested to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the Chair at least fourteen calendar days prior to the meeting.

Section 5-2 Delivery of Agenda

- A. The agenda and related materials for Flood Committee meetings shall be available to each member of the Flood Committee and the public at least seven working days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 6 -- FLOOD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Section 6-1 Flood Committee Standing of Ad-Hoc Subcommittees

- A. The Chair may establish standing or ad-hoc subcommittees of the Flood Committee. Each subcommittee, once established by the Flood Committee, shall consist of at least two members of the Flood Committee appointed by the Chair annually or at the inception of the subcommittee for new standing subcommittees. The Chair may appoint individuals to subcommittees who are not otherwise members of the Flood Committee, with that individual's consent.

Section 6-2 Advisor Appointments

- A. All appointments of advisors, other than members of the Flood Committee, shall be made by the Chair.
- B. Advisors may participate in Flood Committee meetings and subcommittees but do not have standing for voting.

Section 6-3 Attendance

- A. Flood Committee and subcommittee members (either in person or through their designees or alternates) are expected to make good faith efforts to attend all scheduled meetings of the Flood Committee and subcommittees to which they have been appointed.

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Plan Overview

The 2025 Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP) will be an actionable plan for the Commonwealth to use in crafting policies and programs to mitigate the impacts of flooding on people, the economy, and the environment.

Groups Involved in the Plan

Planning Team

DCR leadership, staff and consultants responsible for developing the VFPMP.

Flood Committee

A public body established by the General Assembly in 2024 that is responsible for advising DCR on flood resilience coordination. The Committee will meet twice in 2025 to advise DCR on the development of the VFPMP.

Core Stakeholders

State agencies and other entities that will play a critical role in the VFPMP. These groups will contribute actionable input and feedback during multiple stages of plan development. Additionally, they can play a leading role in implementing the plan after its development.

Supporting Stakeholders

PDCs, universities, localities, non-profits, and other organizations who possess a vested interest in the plan and bring specialized knowledge, experience, or perspectives. These stakeholders will provide valuable expertise to support the plan's development and implementation.

Public

There will be formal opportunities for all Virginians to provide public comment during plan development. Some of the final plan products will be suitable for public use to encourage whole community adoption and dissemination of flood resilience knowledge.

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback on plan elements throughout the VFPMP's development through Virtual Feedback Sessions, Post-Meeting Surveys, and In-Person Workshops. Lists of stakeholder groups can be found on the following page.

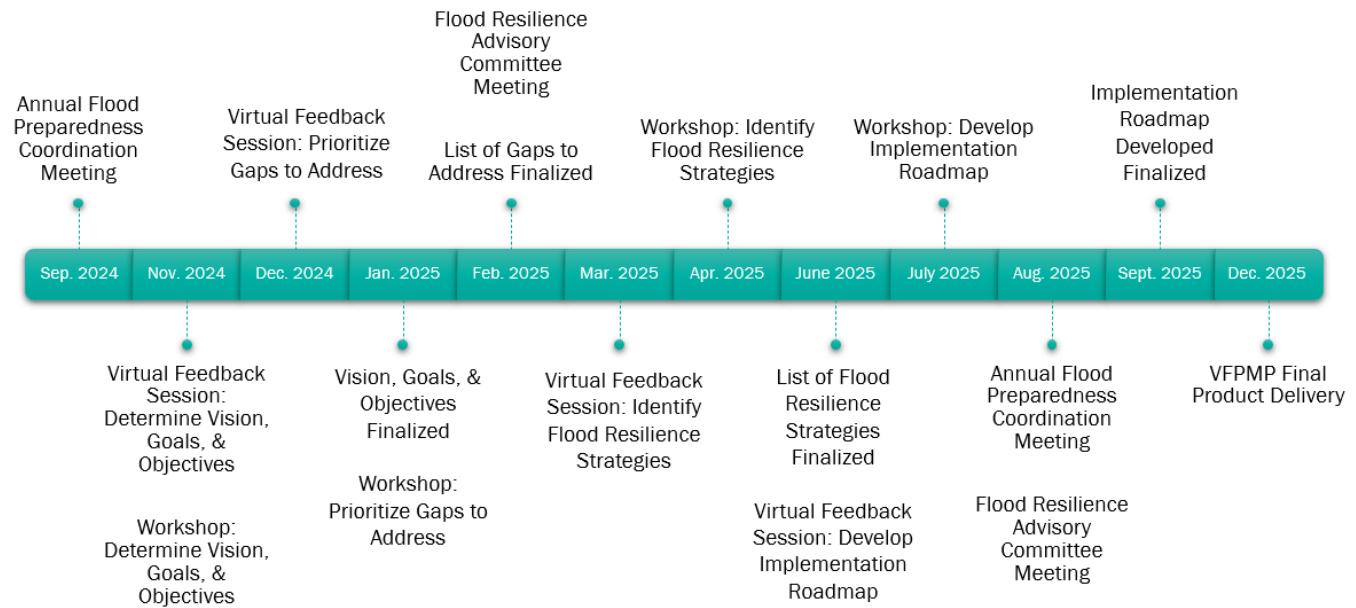
Virtual Feedback Sessions

- **Core and Supporting Stakeholders invited.**
- Meet virtually with the planning team.
- Provide feedback on key elements of the plan in real-time and with post-meeting surveys.
- Sessions occur about two-weeks prior to In-Person Workshops.
- Planning team will use feedback to revise draft plan elements ahead of the In-Person Workshops.
- We will host **four 90-minute** Virtual Feedback Sessions for the plan.

In-Person Workshops

- **Core Stakeholders invited.**
- Meet in-person with the planning team.
- Discuss, collaboratively problem-solve, and provide real-time feedback on plan elements.
- Workshops occur after Virtual Feedback Sessions and incorporate input received during Virtual Feedback Sessions.
- Planning team will use feedback to revise and finalize draft plan elements.
- We will host **five 3-hour** In-Person Workshops for the plan.

Engagement Schedule



Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Flood Committee Members

- Chair - Director of Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Vice-Chair - Commonwealth Chief Resilience Officer
- Director of Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- Director of Department of Environmental Quality
- Director of Department of Housing and Community Development
- Commissioner of Virginia Department of Transportation
- Commissioner of Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Director of Department of General Services
- Executive Director of Virginia Resources Authority
- Director of Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment
- Virginia Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Director of the Office of Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion
- Representative of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
- Executive Director of the Virginia Municipal League
- Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Counties

Invited Core Stakeholders

- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Emergency Management
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Forestry
- Department of General Services
- Department of Historic Resources
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Wildlife Resources
- Office of Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion
- Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment
- Virginia Association of Counties
- Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Virginia Municipal League
- Virginia Resource Authority
- Virginia Silver Jackets

Invited Supporting Stakeholders

State Agencies: Department of Health • Department of Rail and Public Transportation • State Corporation Commission • State Council of Higher Education • Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services • Department of Energy

Universities: George Mason University • Hampton University • Norfolk State University • Old Dominion University • University of Virginia • Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences • Virginia Tech • Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences University • Virginia State University • William & Mary

Tribal Authorities: Cheroenhaka Nottoway India Tribe • Chickahominy Indian Tribe • Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division • Mattaponi Indian Tribe • Monacan Indian Nation • Nansemond Indian Nation • Nottoway Indian Tribe • Pamunkey Indian Tribe • Patawomeck Indian Tribe • Rappahannock Indian Tribe • Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe

Agriculture Community: U.S. Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Virginia Agribusiness Council • Virginia Farm Bureau • Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts • Virginia Cooperative Extension

Economic Development Community: Home Builders Association of Virginia • Virginia Chamber of Commerce • Virginia Economic Development Partnership • Virginia Manufacturers Association

PDCs: Accomack-Northampton • Central Shenandoah • Commonwealth • Crater • Cumberland Plateau • George Washington • Hampton Roads • LENOWISCO • Middle Peninsula • Mount Rogers • New River Valley • Northern Neck • Northern Shenandoah Valley • Northern Virginia • PlanRVA • Rappahannock-Rapidan • Roanoke Valley-Alleghany • Southside • Thomas Jefferson • West Piedmont

Non-Governmental Organizations: American Council of Engineering Companies • American Flood Coalition • Appalachian Voices • Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Elizabeth River Project • Environmental Defense Fund • Resilient Virginia • Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project • Southern Environmental Law Center • Virginia Conservation Network • Virginia Floodplain Managers Association • Virginia Interfaith Power & Light • American Planning Association, Virginia Chapter • Virginia Sea Grant • Wetlands Watch

Federal Partners: Bureau of Land Management • Department of Defense • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • U.S. Navy Region Mid-Atlantic • Representatives of Federal Facilities located within the Commonwealth

Additional supporting stakeholders may be invited to participate throughout the planning process.

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Vision Statement: A thriving Commonwealth proactively addressing flood risks to further strengthen the resilience of communities, the economy, and the environment now and into the future.



Goal A: Mitigate current and future flood risks statewide.

Objectives:

1. Reduce negative effects on human health from flooding.
2. Reduce negative impacts to vulnerable populations from flooding.
3. Reduce flood damage to buildings and infrastructure.
4. Reduce economic disruptions and losses from flooding.
5. Reduce negative effects to natural and cultural resources from flooding.



Goal B: Advance lasting and unified strategies to address flood risks.

Objectives:

1. Increase understanding of current and potential future flood risks.
2. Strengthen the ability to prepare for and manage flood risks.
3. Increase the adaptability and effectiveness of flood resilience strategies to potential future conditions and regional interests.
4. Increase the return on public investments in flood resilience.
5. Increase the accessibility of flood resilience resources, opportunities, and information for all Virginians.



Goal C: Capture additional benefits through flood resilience

Objectives:

1. Improve health and quality of life through flood resilience.
2. Boost the economy through flood resilience.
3. Enhance the natural environment through flood resilience.

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Relationship between VFPMP Vision Statement, Goals, and Objectives

To provide the intended guidance and alignment for the VFPMP, the Vision Statement, Goals, and Objectives must function in specific ways with relation to each other. A description of each element and a generalized diagram of these relationships are shown below.

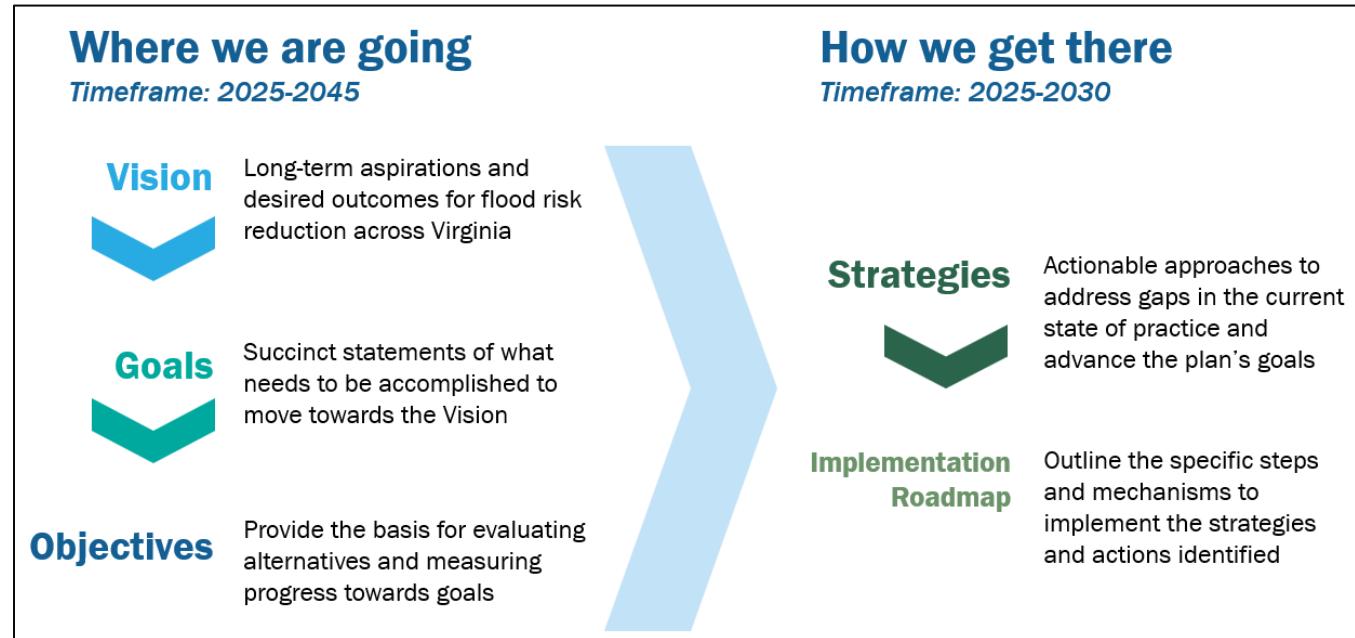


Figure 1 - VFPMP Decision-Making Framework

Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Key Mechanisms & Identified Gaps

Gaps:

In the context of this analysis, “gap” is defined as a practice that is not effectively being implemented across and/or within Virginia state agencies which in turn limits the Commonwealth’s ability to successfully execute flood resilience strategies statewide.

Key Mechanisms:

The overarching categories of flood resilience strategies that can be implemented within a Virginia state agency’s scope.

Coordination – Internal and External

Definition: Formal or informal systems for coordinating both within and across state agencies (or with outside entities) regarding flood resilience efforts

Gaps:

- A. Coordination among state agencies to streamline flood resilience strategies and reduce redundancies
- B. Staff capacity to support improved coordination between federal, state, and local agencies required for appropriate event responses

Event Response

Definition: Direct response to flooding events during or shortly following the hazard

Gaps:

- C. Staff capacity and data management resources for coordination between federal, state, and local agencies during events to ensure targeted event response

Financial Support – Grants, Loans, and Others

Definition: Providing, managing, and/or coordinating on grants, loans, or other funding opportunities to both state and non-state agency actors in support of flood resilience efforts

Gaps:

- D. Funding resources for long-term resilience planning and disaster response to address state and local needs
- E. Staff capacity and funding resources for additional grant application and management support to local governments
- F. Flexibility in allocating state funding to support the breadth of needs, local needs in particular, required to build local flood resilience including use for personnel or overhead costs
- G. Dedicated, recurring hazard mitigation/recovery funding resources for flood resilience work affecting long-term strategy implementation

Management – Assets, Programs, and Resources

Definitions: Assets - Oversight and maintenance of state assets (e.g., buildings, properties, etc.) with regard to flood resilience efforts; Programs - Oversight and management of state agency programs that are directly focused on or indirectly impact flood resilience efforts; Resources - Oversight and management of agency resources that support agency or interagency flood resilience efforts

Gaps:

- H. Up-to-date data resources on state-owned assets and their associated flood risk
- I. Funding resources for asset maintenance
- J. Staff capacity and resources to support coordination between state agencies and local governments in managing flood risk to assets
- K. Staff resources and high turnover rates impacting effective management of flood resilience programs
- L. Staff resources affecting real-time information intake during disaster events, thereby influencing response efforts
- M. Staff capacity to train on new resilience tools and integrate flood resilience policies effectively
- N. Reliance on non-permanent federal funding posing challenges in sustaining flood resilience programs
- O. Data resources (data collection and data management) to support flood resilience planning
- P. Staff capacity and resources for interdepartmental data aggregation and coordination for comprehensive flood risk assessments

Outreach – Program and Resource

Definitions: Program: Administration of a program that conducts outreach to individuals or communities regarding flood resilience; Resource: Creation and distribution of a flood resilience resource (e.g., booklet, FAQ, guide, website, etc.)

Gaps:

- Q. Public awareness to empower communities in taking proactive steps to reduce vulnerability to flooding
- R. Publicly available information resources about flood resilience
- S. Staff capacity hindering collaboration, technical assistance provision, and funding outreach efforts

Planning – Event-Based and Long Term

Definitions: Event Based: Responsibility for developing, producing, and implementing flood resilience plans for the short term; Long-term: Developing, producing, and implementing plans with a planning horizon of more than 1 year in length that are directing policies or programs that are not directly responding to flooding events, but are focused on mitigation, prevention, or other strategic flood resilience goals

Gaps:

- T. Access to up-to-date data resources for making resource allocation decisions
- U. Staff capacity for integration of flood resilience tools
- V. Robust decision-making framework necessary for resource allocation and prioritization to facilitate long-term planning efforts

Legal Instruments

Definition: Responsibility for developing and/or enforcing compliance with state and/or federal regulations, standards, laws, codes, or ordinances related to flood resilience

Gap:

- W. Staff capacity to address and assist with federal and state regulations

Technical Assistance – Long Term, Event-Based, and Training

Definitions: Event Based: Providing capacity and/or resources to local entities for post-flood event recovery management efforts (not inclusive of Grants/Loans/Financial support); Long Term: Providing capacity and/or resources to local entities for long-term flood resilience efforts (not inclusive of Grants/Loans/Financial support); Training: Developing and providing training related to flood resilience, either internally, for professional groups, or for the public

Gaps:

- X. Staff capacity and resources to coordinate technical assistance for funding and program initiatives to address long-term flood resilience goals
- Y. Staff capacity to collaborate with localities and communities for effective technical assistance provision for flood resilience planning and mitigation
- Z. Staff capacity for, and training resources on, available online and modeling tools to support complex and large-scale flood mitigation projects