Virginia Coastal Resilience TAC, Framework and Plan Evaluation

Please submit feedback regarding the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework (Framework) and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan - Phase 1 (Plan).

-	The results of this evaluation will be summarized and presented at the next TAC meeting.
* R	equired
	TAC Member Information
1.	Full Name *
2.	Title *
3.	Organization *
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	Did to the state of the state o
4.	Did you participate in the 2021 CRMP TAC? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	◯ No

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework

Please provide your feedback on the Framework.

5. Framework Principles

The Framework lists five guiding principles that will influence the Master Plan and related resilience initiatives:

- Acknowledge climate change and its consequences, and base decision making on the best available science.
- Identify and address **socioeconomic inequities** and work to enhance equity through coastal adaptation and protection efforts.
- Recognize the importance of protecting and enhancing green infrastructure like natural coastal barriers and fish and wildlife habitat by prioritizing nature-based solutions.
- Utilize **community and regional scale planning** to the maximum extent possible, seeking region specific approaches tailored to the needs of individual communities.
- Understand fiscal realities and focus on the most **cost-effective solutions** for protection and adaptation of our communities, businesses and critical infrastructure.

Do you agree with these principles?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Best Available Data					
Socioeconomic Inequities					
Natural and Nature Based Solutions					
Community and Regional Scale Planning					
Cost-Effective Solutions					

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 Identification of pr including both buil Establishment of a 	t and natural ass	ets at risk due	to sea lev	el rise and	flooding.
The Framework identifies of a Master Plan.	s four primary go	als that must	be achieve	d prior to ti	ne complet
Framework Goals					1

8.	Framework Goals - Additional Comments
9.	Master Planning Regions
	The Framework established 4 Master Planning Regions.
	Hampton Roads (Hampton Roads PDC)
	 Rural Coastal Virginia (Accomack-Northampton PDC, Middle Peninsula PDC, Northe Neck PDC)
	Fall Line North (George Washington Regional Commission and Northern Virginia
	Regional Commission) • Fall Line South (Crater PDC and PlanRVA)
	Do you agree with the organization of the Plan according to these regions?
	Mark only one oval.
	Strongly Agree
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Strongly Disagree
	Strongry Disagree

10.	Master Planning Regions - Additional Comments
11.	Framework Time Periods
	The Framework established 20 year planning horizons of 2020, 2040, 2060, 2080, & 21
	Do you agree with the use of these planning horizons?
	Mark only one oval.
	Strongly Disagree
	1
	2
	2
	3
	4
	5
	Strongly Agree

Other Framework Co	omments				
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Virginia Coastal Re	silience Ma	aster Pla	n - Phase 1		
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Technical Study					
Please rate the effectiv	eness of t	he Phase	1 Technical Stu	dy.	
Mark only one oval per r	ow. Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Verv good	Excellent
Exposure					
Impacts					
Community Context					
Project Database					
Project Evaluation					
Funding Database					

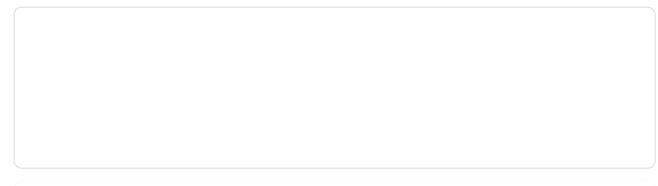
Mark only one oval per rov					
	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Very good	Excellent
DCR Website					
Plan Document (pdf)					
Coastal Resilience Web Explorer					
CRMP Data					
Plan Delivery - Additior	nal Comm	nents			

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan - Phase 2

Z1.	the CRMP.

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Google Forms



Virginia Coastal Resilience TAC, Framework and Plan Evaluation

14 responses

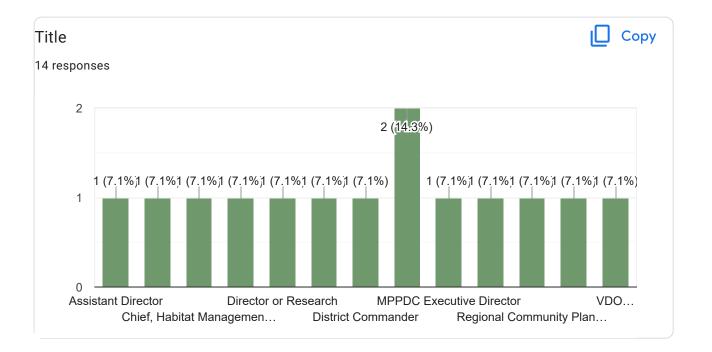
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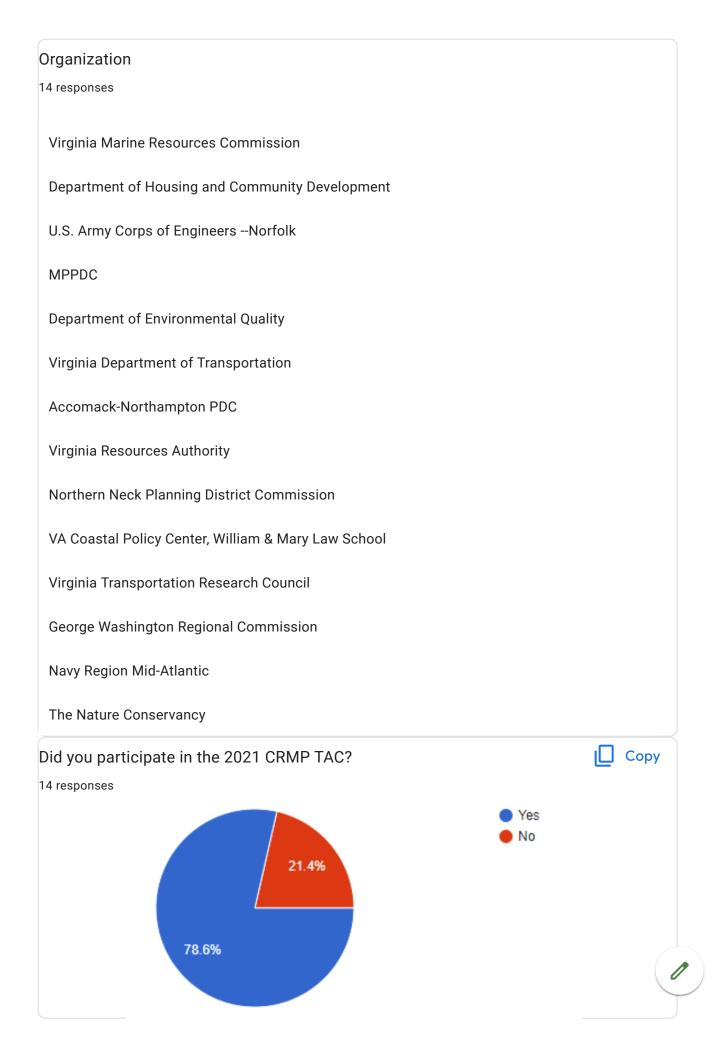
TAC Member Information



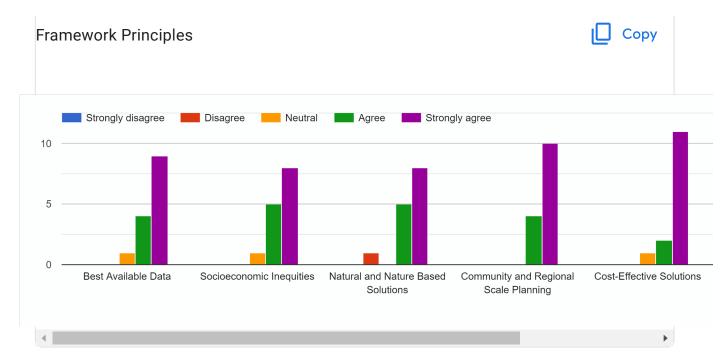
Full Name	
4 responses	
Randy Owen	
William Curtis	
COL Brian Hallberg	
Lewie Lawrence	
Evan Branosky	
Chris Swanson	
Jessica Steelman	
Shawn Crumlish	
John Bateman	
Elizabeth Armistead Andrews	
Michael Fitch	
Chip Boyles	
Joseph Howell	
Jill Bieri	







Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework





Framework Principles - Additional Comments

6 responses

"Best available science" is a subjective phrase. We should address the reality of the matter but must be very critical in selection peer reviewed documentation that reflects a spectrum of opinion.

Community and Regional scale need a definition, that's workable and implementable. 98% of the waterfront in the Chesapeake Bay and rivers are privately owned. Simply believing that one can reach consensus with private property owners for "community scale" whatever that means is a fool's errand. More focus needs to be placed on who the applicant of record will be and what does that mean in terms of private land ownership and participation in the project.

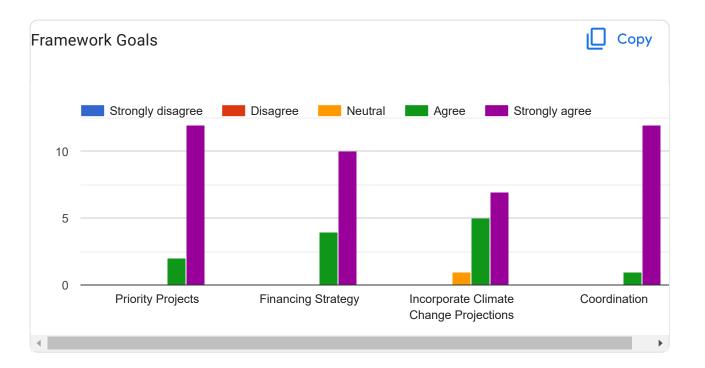
Community and regional scale planning should also consider statewide planning.

Neutral stance on cost-effective solutions with concern that "cost-effective" can sometimes inadvertently result in cheap alternatives, unnecessary shortcuts, and lack of initiative to seek or advocate for increased funding. Secondly, resilience projects should restore land acreage and be economic drivers for the region at risk. If the resilience project can be economically fruitful for the region, to the point of paying for itself - there is less (or no) concern to be "cost-effective."

prefer "best available data" over "best available science"...science is too vague and polarizing. Maybe reword "socioeconomic inequities"...it already says equity

Given many of the uncertainties regarding the use and ultimate effectiveness of nature-based solutions, it seems that there is a potential conflict between the emphasis on those types of enhancements and the emphasis on cost-effective solutions. Are these two really compatible. If in fact, the emphasis on nature-based solutions is one of the main guidelines, it should be stated in guideline #5 that the most cost-effective of the nature-based solutions should be utilized.





Framework Goals - Additional Comments

3 responses

Equity is an important consideration, but it must be subordinate to critical documented regional need that could have greater immediate impact to the respective area. Additionally, we must exercise the requisite degree of caution in our identification of governing climate change documentation. This is far too important to allow political or current cultural predispositions to have an inordinate influence.

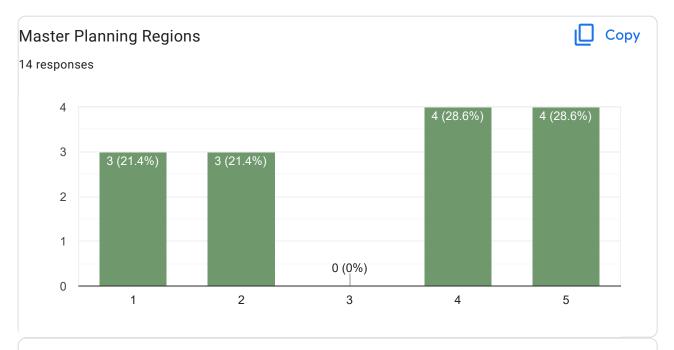
Question 1, who's priority? Commonwealths priority won't be the same as local governments priority or private property owners' priority. More specificity is need or this perpetuates the more of the same... confusion and inability to make meaningful progress.

Question 2- Financing strategy for who and what type? Grants and Loans and where you do projects on private and publicly owned land. These are the only four variables involved if using govt funding. Question 3 excludes units of Govt smaller than state government. Question 4-that does this even mean? Who does coordination and what would one be coordinating for or on?

Strongly agree with "priority projects" - with the contingency that priorities look very different depending on the location that is being assessed. What may be a priority for an urban locality is likely to look very different from what a priority in a rural locality looks like. There needs to be a method for ranking priority projects that takes this into very high consideration. Strongly agree with "coordination" in that resilience, sustainability, restoration efforts must align and work in tandem with each other across borders. These are federal-level issues that require looking at the big picture - the Chesapeake Bay & Atlantic Coastline - not just each locality's border.

Strongly agree with "financing strategy" - with the contingency that this goal also address the importance of resilience efforts being economically beneficial to the locality and region to the extent that the project may even generate a return on investment, so to speak, through increased transient occupancy tax, housing/full time residents, ability for large vessels to continue navigation through smaller channels when storms are imminent, bringing them in to local ports, etc.





Master Planning Regions - Additional Comments

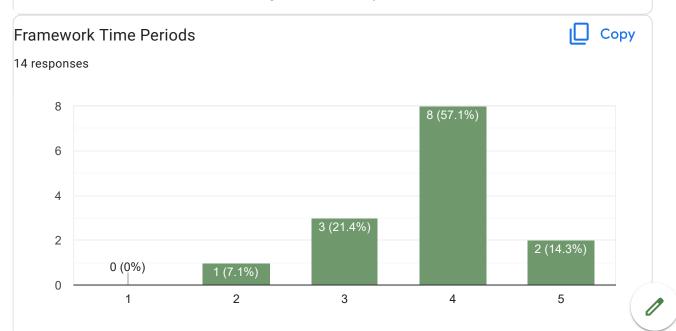
4 responses

We must have the flexibility to review this if necessary.

Will there be additional considerations to regions with additional efforts related to fluvial flooding and integration into the Master Flood Protection Plan.

While rural and coastal, the Eastern Shore (Accomack-Northampton PDC) is vastly different from the other rural coastal regions; the starkly apparent difference being that the Eastern Shore has an Atlantic Seaboard and the other rural coastal regions do not.

Not a fan of the label Rural Coastal Virginia as a descriptor



Framework Time Periods - Additional Comments

6 responses

This is a reasonable approach.

The plan needs to produce maps from Mean Low water for 2020, 2040, 2060, 2080, & 2100 to understand what is actually under water and for how long. 20 min under water or 1 hour under water is not the same as being under water for 6 hours.

Consider 50 year intervals which would match the recent NOAA update that extended to 2150 (e.g. 2050, 2100, 2150).

Neutral - while these are good milestones, the 20-year span between horizons leaves a lot to the imagination when it comes to planning and requiring more time-specific data and analyses. This finer-tuned data is needed to identify priority projects (especially with regards to ranking rural vs urban), and determine the best designs to ensure sustainability and transferability.

Adaptation may need to accelerate

The 20-year periods recognize the fact that predictions become less reliable the further out you go, in years, and enable communities to plan for the near future as well as a series of future conditions.

Other Framework Comments

2 responses

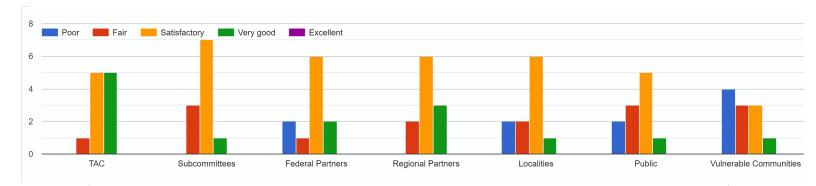
This is a well thought our framework and I support it.

More clarity on if the Commonwealth will undertake projects waterward of Mean low water to protect the people and land as the applicant is only the Commonwealth of Virginia. If projects are expected to happen between mean low water and uplands, then private property rights become intertwined. What is the Commonwealths perspective on protecting private property which accounts for 98% of the land area on the waterfront.

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan - Phase 1







Outreach and Engagement - Additional Comments

5 responses

As I have only recently joined the team, I cannot weigh in on this section. However, the phase 1 information I have reviewed is detailed and reasonable.

Vulnerable Communities does not exist in statute. The term means nothing without qualifiers and the ability to deliver \$ to individuals in need. Its a talking point that cannot be delivered upon. Most every state and fed program have different definitions which are at many times cross purpose.

The entire process of developing the VCRMP in tandem with the CFPF was rushed and not well-thought-out with regards to timeline and (in hindsight) critical details. Since the start, confusion continues to be the main theme when vulnerable communities, localities, and the public. While this responsibility can be filled by regional partners, the lack of straight-forward answers, rumored next funding round timeframes, and unclear understanding of the CFPF manual by program managers created a large obstacle when providing technical assistance to our vulnerable communities, localities, and the public. This was a result of poor outreach/public engagement on behalf of the federal partners and state partners. The TAC and Subcommittees provided constant outreach, however it swung too far the other way and too many subcommittees were formed, too many meetings were scheduled, and many efforts were being duplicated.

I am not sure what this question means. At first I thought you were asking about Outreach and Engagement conducted by the TAC and its subcommittees, but then the inclusion of the rest of the list of entities made me think you want to know about outreach to the TAC, the subcommittees, etc. -? Which begs the question of outreach by whom?

Because I was not involved with this effort during Phase 1, no scores were provided above.



Technical Study





Technical Study - Additional Comments

4 responses

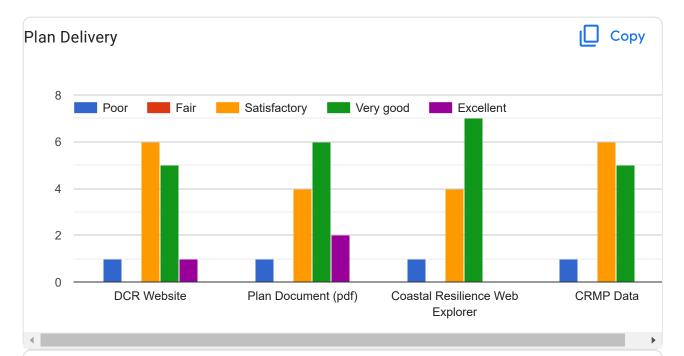
See comments above.

The question of public versus private projects and who is providing \$ and for what purposes make the project database, evaluation and funding database of little or no value.

Current and future exposure is limited to coastal flooding hazards. Other hazards exist and needs consideration (pluvial, fluvial, and compound flooding). Impacts to habitat migration (aquatic and T&E) not addressed in Phase 1. Is there intent to address in Phase 2? Does the project database capture/address privately owned properties?

The lack of projects for the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck - two rural, under-resourced areas on the front lines of sea level rise impacts - was a serious deficiency.





Plan Delivery - Additional Comments

2 responses

See comments above.

The entire process was rushed and confusing until the very end when the final products were presented.

Other Plan Comments

2 responses

Specificity is needed around public property versus private property and what role will government play and or wont play and who priority is the plan concerned about

The rubric and metrics for project evaluation provide a good way of prioritizing projects but there is still a need for a more comprehensive needs assessment as opposed to a compilation of independently identified projects to achieve increased strategic coastal flood resilience. Project prioritization needs to align with regional planning priorities. Will the Phase 1 analysis be updated to the latest NOAA 2022 SLR Technical Report? Discussion on relocation is limited. Future iteration should include more discussion and guidance regarding this topic. Nature based solutions discussion should include more emphasis on co-benefits water quality enhancements, aquatic connectivity, etc. and not merely on protection of infrastructure. Can there be consistency in the use of data statewide? Can the data in the list be relied upon as the authoritative data for the State? Is it intended to be? Is there an intention in future iterations to establish such?



Please provide any comments, recommendations, or considerations for Phase 2 of the CRMP.

5 responses

The impacts of both nature-based and non-nature-based solutions must be objectively evaluated as to their impacts on shallow water habitats and the Commonwealth's collective natural resources. These areas support a diverse ecosystem that provides spawning, nursery and foraging habitats for the multitude of species that support Virginia's recreational and commercial fisheries and a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

What has been identified in the survey is a well thought approach to phase 2.

- Include additional hazards (pluvial, fluvial, erosion, etc.)
- For pluvial analysis, will future conditions be based on MARISA or updated NOAA Atlas 14 and NOAA Atlas 15 (non-stationary)?
- Provide analysis for compound flooding
- Expand analysis statewide for hazards
- Will the Phase 1 analysis be updated to the latest NOAA 2022 SLR Technical Report? Similarly, will Phase 2 use this data for subsequent analysis?
- While the funding database is a good resource, there is still a gap in having an entity assist localities in determining appropriate funding mechanisms, grant writing, developing funding mechanisms, etc. Can this be considered as part of Phase 2?
- Funding availability is still a challenge and will continue to be a challenge for implementation of projects. Discussion of options and recommendations should be continued and incorporated in Phase 2.
- One stop warehouse for resilience related datasets recommended
- Comprehensive data gap analysis (information on climate, assets, etc.) should be included in Phase 2.

See notes for prior answers.

It will be very important in this phase to delve into CRMP implementation details such as assessing community capacity to apply for and manage funding, and discussing how to best increase resilience when so much of our shoreline is privately owned. In addition, it will be important to discuss options for addressing recurrently flooding roads, when VDOT controls most of the roads in rural areas; difficult decisions will need to be made about closing roads, or localities no longer providing emergency services, in flood prone areas that become increasingly impassable.

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