



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

August 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

Pocahontas Building, House Committee Room

<http://dls.virginia.gov/commission/jcots.htm>

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr., chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meetings webpage](#).

Presentation: Ethical Hacker

Chris Roberts, vCISO, Hillbilly Hit Squad

Mr. Roberts provided the Commission with an overview on cybersecurity, vulnerability detection, and counter threat intelligence. He recounted experiences of taking over an airline flight path mid-flight and relocating millions of cattle by exploiting GPS vulnerabilities in real time to demonstrate the wide scope of the failure to maintain adequate cybersecurity protocols. Members asked what individuals could do to secure their data and online presence as well as strengthen state infrastructures against potential bad actors. Mr. Roberts emphasized educating humans to "think before they click." He stressed the biggest vulnerability as well as the biggest area for growth is educating humans on proper cybersecurity practices. Mr. Roberts concluded his presentation by suggesting strengthening accountability for poor cybersecurity practices throughout the entire chain of data processes.

Presentation: Impact of Climate Change on Virginia's Coastal Areas Final Report

Dr. Jon Goodall, University of Virginia, co-chair, Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (VASEM) Coastal Flooding Study Committee

Dr. Goodall presented the final report created pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 47 (Sickles) and Senate Joint Resolution No. 38 (Cosgrove) from the 2020 Session for which the Commission created the VASEM Coastal Flooding Study Committee (the Study Committee). Multiple meetings were held throughout 2020 to research, outline, and draft a report. The final report sets forth recommendations and specific policy decisions for the General Assembly to consider implementing within the Commonwealth. The Study Committee recommended several legislative initiatives to address the impact of climate change such as:

- Establish a structure for more effective collaboration and coordination across government, business, and academia on intersecting challenges of climate change modeled on a statutorily created council such as the Council on Virginia's Future;

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin (vice-chair), Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr., Senator Barbara A. Favola (virtual), Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Terry L. Austin (virtual), Delegate Hala S. Ayala (virtual), Delegate Kathy J. Byron (virtual), Delegate Glenn R. Davis (virtual), Delegate Kenneth R. Plum, Delegate Danica A. Roem (virtual)

Members Absent: None

- Address gaps in policy and procedure by creating substantive budgetary policy and procedure for climate impact review as part of relevant state agency planning that:
 - Provides equitable opportunity for all stakeholders, including members of underserved or disadvantaged communities; and
 - Incorporates and facilitates feasible resilience strategies; and
- Create, fund, and staff a Climate Change and Resilience Resource Center for Virginia to coordinate and support critical data collection and technology transfer across the Commonwealth.

Dr. Goodall reported that the Study Committee was of one mind that the impact of climate change will not be restricted to coastal areas but will be Commonwealth-wide. The impact will first be felt on the coast because of sea level rise; however, weather patterns will affect the entire Commonwealth. He stressed that the effects of climate change are already occurring and will continue to affect the environment and economy for at least the next 30 years. Dr. Goodall concluded the presentation by emphasizing the importance of acting on the Study Committee's recommendations to coordinate a coherent response to the impending impact of climate change within the Commonwealth.

The Final Report can be found [here](#).

Discussion

At the conclusion of the presentations, members of the Commission thanked the Study Committee for their thoroughly researched study and discussed next steps. Several members requested links to disseminate the final report to their constituents. Additionally, members recommended that the Commission send a letter sharing the report with the Governor's Administration. The Commission generally seemed favorable to the recommendation, with many members expressing the importance of acting on the Study Committee's recommendations during the next session of the General Assembly.

Public Comment and Next Meeting

The Commission received no public comment.

The Commission's next meeting is September 13, 2021, at 10 a.m. It will be an in-person meeting in Richmond.

For more information, see the [Commission's website](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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