Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency

Joint Subcommittee on Coastal Flooding
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Elizabeth Andrews
Virginia Coastal Policy Center
William & Mary Law School

Dr. Mark Luckenbach
Dr. Carl Hershner
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Dr. Larry Filer
Old Dominion University
HB1774 Workgroup

• HB1774 (2017) directed the CCRFR to convene a workgroup to consider alternative methods of stormwater management in rural Tidewater localities.

• Workgroup facilitated by the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School. Included engineers and representatives of state agencies, local governments, developers, mitigation bankers, the environmental and agricultural communities, and others. Research support provided by VIMS and ODU.

• The bill provided that the Workgroup was to review and consider the creation of rural development growth areas, the development of a volume credit program, the payment of fees to support regional stormwater BMPs, and the allowance of the use of stormwater in highway ditches to generate volume credits.

• The bill requires the CCRFR to report the results of the Workgroup's analysis to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources by January 1, 2018.
HB1774 Workgroup

Split into two subcommittees:

• **Subcommittee 1**: Analysis of volume credit trading program, regional stormwater BMPs, and use of stormwater in roadside ditches

• **Subcommittee 2**: Analysis of alternative methods to manage stormwater, for use by rural Tidewater localities – *must be easier to administer but no less water quality protective.*
HB1774 Workgroup

Subcommittee 1:

- Found no market for Volume Credits Program & it is complicated to administer, requiring extensive staff.
- So looked at a large-scale program to reduce pollutants in the ditch water, to help the Commonwealth achieve its nonpoint source load allocation under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. VIMS research indicated there would not be sufficient pollutant load to make a significant difference, but found that most pollutant load comes from agriculture in these rural areas.
- So analyzed the development of targeted BMPs to reduce the agricultural pollutant load.
The Chesapeake Bay Program already is reviewing ditch maintenance as a stormwater management practice & considering what efficiency to assign to it.

The Subcommittee recommended, and the Workgroup approved, a draft list of recommendations of ways the Commonwealth could fund such a program once the Bay Program completes its review (2018).

This will create an incentive to address flooding from stormwater in unmaintained ditches in rural Tidewater localities.

At final Workgroup meeting on Nov. 29, will review CCRFR report containing their recommendations and supporting analysis from VIMS and ODU.
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Subcommittee 2:

• Rural localities said their concern is with administering the Energy Balance Method – requires an engineer on staff.

• After reviewing some alternatives, decided upon a **tiered approach to stormwater management only for these rural localities, based upon the percent of impervious cover** in a watershed. Localities may opt to be more stringent in areas of concern and use the current stormwater regulations’ Energy Balance Method instead of the tiered approach.

• The Subcommittee’s recommendations were approved by the Workgroup. At final Workgroup meeting on Nov. 29, will review CCRFR report containing their recommendations and supporting analysis from VIMS and ODU.
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The Workgroup also approved a recommendation to authorize only these rural localities to **accept stamped/sealed plans and supporting calculations**, as well as required inspection/monitoring reports, from a licensed professional retained by the applicant **in lieu of local plan review**.

*CCRFR goal: Submit report by Dec. 1.*
Raise, Raze or Relo?

Localities Are on the Front Lines

An Unfunded Mandate from Mother Nature & Father Time
• Provide state level leadership to plan for recurrent flooding & seek funding
• Conduct Relative SLR Impact Analysis (infrastructure/water/septic/natural resources/etc.)
• Educate the public about impacts (FEMA SFH Zone is not the only analysis) - AdaptVA
• State discretionary funding programs should require that resilience to recurrent flooding be taken into account when designing infrastructure or making resource management decisions, & discourage location of state-funded infrastructure in high flood risk areas

Planning

• Express authority for all Tidewater localities to plan & zone for predicted flooding risk (& Hazard Mitigation Plan)
• Develop state infrastructure design standards & authorize building code revisions as needed, including use of flood-resistant materials
• Funding (Shoreline Resiliency Fund; possible impact fee service area or service district with a tax; analyze existing funding programs (e.g., VRA) to determine if they can be used for flood resilience projects, or create a grant program like SLAF)