

Joint Subcommittee to Formulate Recommendations to Address Recurrent Flooding

Old Dominion University

November 5, 2014

Virginia Department of Conservation and
Recreation

Dam Safety and Floodplain Management

Who are we?

Department of Conservation and Recreation

State Parks, Soil and Water Conservation,
Natural Heritage, Outdoor Recreation
Planning, Trails and Grants, Dam Safety and
Floodplain Management, Environmental
Education, Land Conservation



Dam Safety and Floodplain Management

- **Dam Safety Program** provides for proper and safe design, construction, operation and maintenance of dams to protect public safety.
- Authority - The Virginia Dam Safety Act, Article 2, Chapter 6, Title 10.1 (10.1-604 et seq) of the Code of Virginia and Dam Safety Impounding Structure Regulations, established and published by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (VSWCB).
- Permit Requirements - No person or entity shall construct, begin to construct, alter or begin to alter an impounding structure until the VSWCB issues a *construction permit* or an *alteration permit*.
- All dams in Virginia are subject to the Dam Safety Act and Dam Safety Regulations including:
 - Twenty-five feet or greater in height and fifteen acre-feet or greater in capacity;
 - Six feet or greater in height and fifty acre-feet or greater in capacity;
 - Dams operated primarily for agricultural purposes which are greater than twenty-five feet in height or greater than 100 acre-feet in capacity.

Floodplain Management

- General Assembly amended the Flood Damage Reduction Act (§ 10.1-600 et seq.) in 1989.
 - This amendment was in response to several disastrous floods or coastal storms that hit the state between 1969 and 1985.
 - To improve Virginia's flood protection programs, DCR was:
 - Named coordinator of flood protection programs in the Commonwealth;
 - Designated coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program; and
 - Directed to develop a flood protection plan for the Commonwealth.
- Floodplain Management Program staff work with localities to establish and enforce floodplain management zoning.
 - Localities use the program's state model ordinances, in which minimum standards for local regulations are set, to write their own.

Virginia Floodplain Management

- Federal
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
 - National Flood Insurance Program

Virginia Floodplain Management

- State
 - Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management
- Liaison Between FEMA NFIP & Localities
- Localities - 288

National Flood Insurance Program in Virginia

- 113,219 NFIP Policies
- \$28.1 Billion Coverage
- \$84.9 Million Annual Premiums
- \$749 Average Premium Per Policy
- Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012
- Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014

Floodplain Management Plan

- §10.1-602 (1989) “Develop a flood protection plan for the Commonwealth.” Include
 - Inventory of flood-prone areas;
 - Inventory of flood protection studies
 - Record of flood damages
 - Strategies to prevent or mitigate flood damage
 - Collection and distribution of information on
 - Flooding
 - Floodplain management

Floodplain Management Plan - 2005

- Goals
- NFIP Compliance and Assistance DCR/FEMA
- Education and Training DCR/Localities/FEMA
- Flood Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Risk Reduction VDEM/DCR/FEMA
- Flood Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment DCR/FEMA
- State Sponsored Flood Risk Reduction Initiatives
 - Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund: 50% Match Grants to Localities

Floodplain Management Plan Update

- New Reports:
- VIMS Recurrent Flood Study, 2013
- Recommendations To The Secure Commonwealth Panel On The Issue Of Sea Level Rise And Recurrent Flooding In Coastal Virginia, September 5, 2014

Floodplain Management Plan Update

- Needs
 - 1 FTE Dedicated To Update
 - 12 Months
 - Input From:
 - Policy Holders, Localities, Associations of Counties, Building and Code Officials, Municipal League, Floodplain Management, Planning Districts, Lakes and Watersheds, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of General Services, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Bureau of Insurance, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Insurance Program, U.S. Geological Survey, National Weather Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Resource Conservation Service

Grant Program

- Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund
- 50% Annual Matching Grants to Localities
- Grant Applications Reviewed By DCR
- Grants Approved By Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Funds Administered By Virginia Resources Authority

Virginia Resources Authority Loans

- Since Creation in 1984 by the General Assembly, VRA has Funded Over 1,000 Critical Community Projects Exceeding \$5.5 Billion

Floodplain Management Ideas

- Real Estate Disclosure Act – Floodplains
- Higher Standards
- Grants to Localities to Join CRS

Floodplain Management Questions

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