

Minutes: 2-22-21 Meeting of the Finance Subcommittee of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee

Roll Call of Members:

Laura McKay called the roll. Present were:

- Elizabeth Andrews, VCPC at William & Mary Law School
- Shawn Crumlish, VRA (alternate - later replaced by Peter D'Alema, VRA)
- Clyde Cristman, DCR
- Bob Crum, HRPDC
- Troy Hartley, VA Sea Grant
- Lee Hutchinson, DHCD
- Curt Smith, MPPDC (alternate for Lewie Lawrence)
- Erin Sutton, VDEM

Absent were Steven Moret, VEDP; Eric Letsinger, Quantified Ventures; and Richard Klein (USACE).

Elizabeth then read the required notice concerning electronic meetings, and the Subcommittee members voted that “the nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe” for the Subcommittee to assemble in a single location, so the meeting would proceed electronically.

Each Subcommittee member then noted what they can contribute to the discussion of financing and funding resilience projects:

Shawn noted that VRA has expertise in the municipal bond market, other finance partners in the state, and innovations like Environmental Impact Bonds (EIBs).

Clyde discussed DCR’s Dam Safety Fund and flood prevention efforts, as well as the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Bob said he would like to explore replicating in Hampton Roads for resilience what they have done with transportation; they have an extra gas tax, and an increase of less than 1% in the sales & use tax generates \$150-170M for regional transportation improvements.

Troy explained VA Sea Grant’s work with the federal Dept. of Homeland Security, HUD’s Community Development and Floodplain Management programs, and use of public-private partnerships to leverage public and private funds.

Lee discussed DHCD’s resilience grants and community development, housing, infrastructure and energy conservation programs.

Curt noted the MPPDC’s revolving loan funds and Fight the Flood program.

Erin said VDEM works with state hazard mitigation planning and funding, such as the FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities), which is a % set aside program and thus might generate significant funding next year.

FOIA/COIA Discussion:

Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General, provided the highlights of his FOIA/COIA training previously offered to all TAC subcommittee members. He noted that members have access to FOIA/COIA councils to assist with questions.

Subcommittee Discussion:

Elizabeth showed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Subcommittee's stated Mission:
Develop a financing strategy that recommends how to leverage and align existing resilience revenue streams to maximize impact, and how to create or tap into new revenue or financing sources.

She noted that they could perhaps split into two subgroups to handle these two tasks. She also showed examples of existing resilience revenue streams and new revenue or financing sources, and then asked who else is needed on the Subcommittee, noting that the Administration is seeking a VDOT representative. Clyde Cristman suggested a representative of the Secretary of Finance's office and/or Virginia Department of Planning and Budget. Troy Hartley suggested a UVA public financing professor, Mark White, and the Environmental Finance Centers in MD and NC (perhaps to give presentations at future subcommittee meetings). A representative of VA PACE also was suggested.

Monthly Meetings:

The group discussed having a normal meeting duration of 1.5 hours (this initial meeting is only one hour, due to another TAC subcommittee meeting starting at 11 AM), and dedicating each monthly meeting to a different funding/financing option. Clyde said he agrees with this approach, and offered that Russ Baxter from DCR could present an overview of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund final guidelines and the Dam Safety Fund as soon as the next meeting. Bob Crum said he supports the approach too but has two recommendations: 1) Do not use subgroups, and 2) It would be helpful to have the Commonwealth's consultant research what funding and financing methods have worked outside of Virginia. Ann agreed to have the consultant's economic analysis staff come to the Subcommittee meeting in April/May. Elizabeth suggested that the consultant will be at Subcommittee meetings, so perhaps a better option would be to have them give a culminating presentation in August, after the Subcommittee's meetings providing background on the various funding and financing options.

The group agreed that meetings will be held on the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. They also agreed on the following schedule of meeting topics:

March – Existing State Funding: DCR grant programs (Community Flood Preparedness Fund, Dam Safety Fund), DEQ funding programs

April – Bonds (Quantified Ventures, Hampton EIB, VRA to discuss their research on innovative bonds)

May – Federal funding: Grants such as BRIC (VDEM) and Community Development Block Grants, etc. (Housing); USACE

June – Insurance (parametric, private flood, NFIP, CRS), regional **Revolving Loan Funds** (MPPDC)

July – Fees and taxes (HRPDC); **C-PACE Funding**

August-- **Presentation by contractor re: financing and funding programs that have worked in other states**

Public Comments:

No one submitted comments or spoke up when asked if there were any public comments.

Adjournment:

Clyde Cristman moved to adjourn; Crum seconded; the motion carried unanimously.