



**CRS Workgroup Meeting Zoom Chat
July 26, 2023**

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: Kristin Owen, Henrico County - actively joining CRS

Liz Scheessele: Liz Scheessele, Timmons Group

Mark Kluck: Mark Kluck - Town of Smithfield - not currently in CRS

Tom Coghill: Tom Coghill, James City County, Class 5

Keri Ragland: Keri Ragland, Town of Ashland CRS 8

Whitney McNamara: Whitney McNamara, City of Virginia Beach, Class 7

Darryl Walker: Darryl E. Walker, City of Petersburg VA, not currently in CRS

Alyssa Flatt: Alyssa Flatt, City of Norfolk, Class 5

Debrah Gaskins: Debbie Gaskins, City of Portsmouth, Class 5

Nathan Bowman: Nathan Bowman, City of Norfolk, Class 5

Rachel Pence: Rachel Pence, City of Roanoke Stormwater, will be Class 6 effective Oct 1, 2023.

Annette MacConnell (VDEM): Annette MacConnell - Recovery and Mitigation Specialist - VDEM Region 5

Tammie Clary: Tammie Clary - Town of Smithfield - not CRS

Rich Sobota: Rich Sobota, FEMA Region 3 Backup Regional CRS Coordinator

Rebecca Murphy: Rebecca Murphy, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Katelyn Sinclair: Katelyn Sinclair, Henrico County - actively joining CRS

Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro: Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro, VA DCR, Office of Resilience Planning

Tom Brockenbrough - Accomack County: Tom Brockenbrough, Accomack County. Class 5 as of October 1 (25%)

Madison Teeter, Wetlands Watch: Reminder to please mute if you are online & not speaking!

Emily Schmidt, ISO Verisk, CRS Specialist: Emily Schmidt, ISO Verisk, CRS Specialist for VA Communities

Nora Jackson: Nora Jackson, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Grace Tucker: Grace Tucker, Environmental Defense Fund

Whitney Thomas: Whitney T, Timmons Group

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: Abstract form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcfR7C1ogUBaALKysnL9ZW4bzzAoLSUKBE-KVXR_pmW_oQaw/viewform

Grace Tucker: Kristin, can you repeat those training dates?

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: CRS Training: Dec. 11-14, 2023 in Henrico

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: I'll make a registration form real quick and send the link out 😊

Rich Sobota: ISO=Insurance Services Office

Madison Teeter, Wetlands Watch: New EC:

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/find-form/underwriting>

Madison Teeter, Wetlands Watch: Resilience Coordination Working Group website:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/resilience-coordination-working-group#:~:text=The%20RCWG%20convened%20for%20the,the%20opportunity%20for%20public%20comment.>

Nora Jackson: Not all PDCs are represented. I found it difficult to join..

Grace Tucker: There is one rep from City of Alexandria but she hasn't been able to join the last several meetings

Grace Tucker: Full member list is here:

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/document/RCWG-List.pdf>

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: 4-day CRS Training (L-278 Course) Registration Link:

<https://forms.office.com/g/cR9A8Spxn8>

Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro: I need to leave to go to a different meeting shortly, but I just want to acknowledge that I am present and have been listening to this input. If you are interested in this topic, I would encourage you all to take a look at the presentation from the Annual Flood Preparedness Meeting on Commonwealth Flood Resilience Planning (PDF slides and recording) to learn more about DCR's ideas for the state's flood resilience plans.

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/annual-flood-meeting>. Please email us at flood.resilience@dcr.virginia.gov if you have other feedback on how these state plans/planning processes can better integrate with your roles, responsibilities, and plans at the local level.

Tom Coghill: I don't see the survey.

Debrah Gaskins: Sorry, I have to step away for about 15 minutes...BRB

VA CRS Workgroup: Tom - it should be there - click on polls in your zoom controls

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: I think it is completely ridiculous to require that a CFM be employed by the locality. We previously provided data on the number of CFMs in the state, and the majority of localities and PDCs do not have CFMs, and it is not reasonable to expect localities to have resources to obtain and maintain a CFM. We had issues with requiring a CFM at all, but at least they could utilize a consultant in the past. There is also a significant lack of training available. I also agree with Ben that just because there's a CFM on staff doesn't actually mean that they're familiar with the project or what is needed. I think the idea of having a CFM on staff has value because it, in theory, implies that they would have a level of understanding and connection to the floodplain management program, but that isn't necessarily the case in practice. I think this is going to severely limit the number of communities that can be eligible for funding.

Kristin Owen, Henrico County: RE: \$5 million cap - I second everything Ben said.

Darryl Walker: There could be a requirement to have some legal mechanism to require the owner to keep the land as conserved open space - similar to a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement - that runs with the land.

VA CRS Workgroup: Yes Darryl - there is a line about use of easements, which gets to your comment

Kelly Hengler: Acknowledging Ben/Kristin's CFM comments. As part of a separate community based volunteer policy analysis workgroup, the known workforce strains of skilled persons for CFM at locality levels is an issue. As the need to assure policy outcome includes the factor of skilled persons to meet the need. Identifying and stratifying the highest flood risk localities/regions as a first and literal "triage" to ascertain Localities/Regions current skilled CFM personnel can be fairly straightforward in execution with minimum cost.

Darryl Walker: That's fine...I was thinking more of a legal binding agreement for the entire parcel than an easement, but either way is fine as long as it releases the locality from ownership (and perpetual maintenance) requirements. 😊

VA CRS Workgroup: Oooh - understood. The “conservation easements” or deed restrictions being used actually go across the entire parcel! I should have clarified

Darryl Walker: No worries...I'm fine either or. 👍

John Bateman: ...the perpetual maintenance/liability is the bottom line issue

Tom Brockenbrough - Accomack County: Not sure an entire parcel is necessary. Works in urban areas but in rural areas with larger parcels, an entire parcel may not even fall in a Special Flood Hazard Area

John Bateman: Good point, Tom. Flexibility should be encouraged so that it meets local needs.

Tom Brockenbrough - Accomack County: Have been hearing from surveyors on the new EC that do not have the full version of Adobe

Annette MacConnell (VDEM): From VDEM - Debbie Messmer announced last week that she has accepted a promotion within the agency. A new SHMO will be announced once it has been filled.

Darryl Walker: True...the agreement would not have to apply to the whole parcel....just could be a certain area can be specified by plan or language.

Tom Brockenbrough - Accomack County: Thanks, Ben!

Darryl Walker: Yes I have noticed the PDF version issue.

Grace Tucker: Recent article:

<https://www.wtkr.com/news/why-some-insurance-companies-are-pulling-out-of-hampton-roads>

Tom Brockenbrough - Accomack County: Thanks, M-C, everyone. Good luck with the new job Madison!

Madison Teeter, Wetlands Watch: Thank you!

Emily Schmidt, ISO Verisk, CRS Specialist: Thank you

Sarah Stewart: Thank you!

Debrah Gaskins: Thank You 😊