



Interagency Collaboration and Coordination

Resilience Coordination Working Group
May 31, 2023

 **VCU**
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Resilience Coordination Working Group

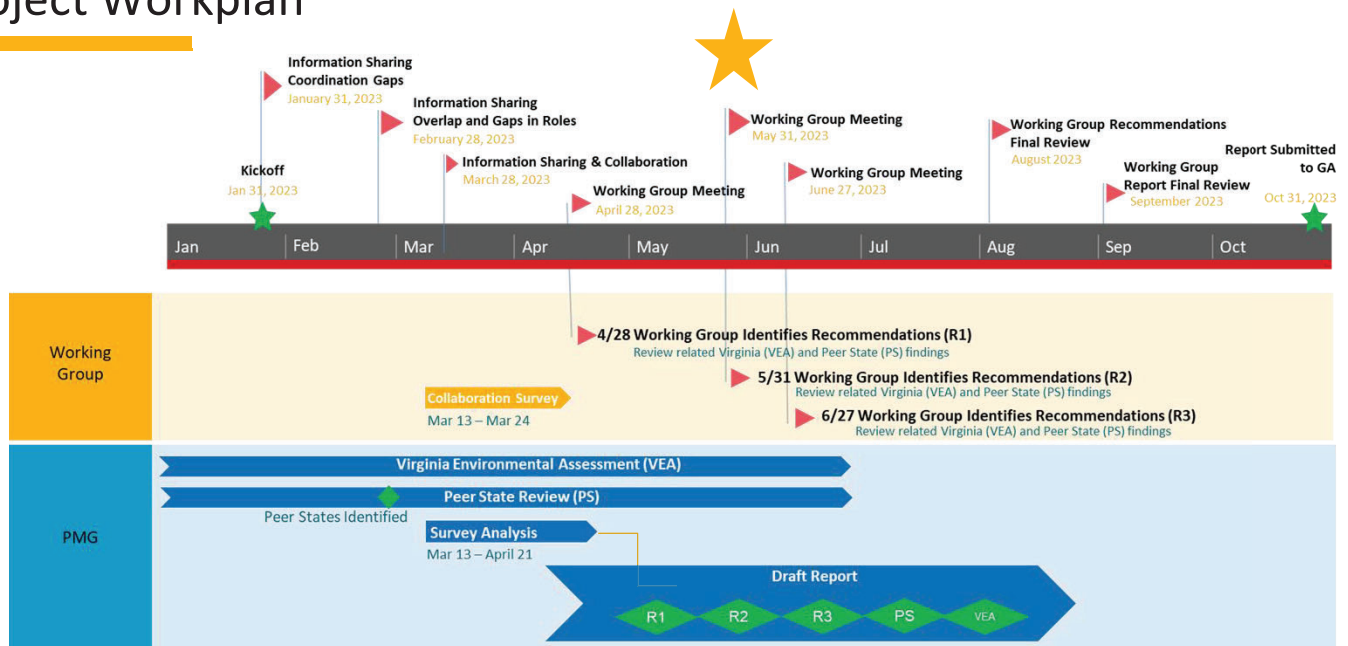
Working Group Charge

This Working Group, established by the Chief Resilience Officer, has the following goals:

- To consider and assess strategies and policies for the Commonwealth to improve **intergovernmental and interagency coordination**; and
- To maximize the procurement of **federal and private funding opportunities** in planning for and implementing flood resilience throughout the Commonwealth.

Resilience Coordination Working Group Plan

Project Workplan



Observations Recap

Based on feedback from the last meeting, the order of the observations has changed but for this meeting, the original numbers are being used.

Observation #3: There currently is no single coordinating entity to support resilience efforts across state agencies, academia, localities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, and community members.

Observation #2: The ability of localities to support resiliency planning varies widely across Virginia.

Observation #1: A one-stop source for resilience information, including an authoritative source for resiliency data, is critical for effective planning and decision making.

Resilience Coordination Working Group

Draft Recommendations Categories: Intergovernmental & Interagency Coordination

Coordinating entities and structures

- a. Overall governance structure
- b. CRO/SACAP roles
- c. Formalizing cross-agency, academic, government, private-sector coordination/collaboration structures
- d. Workgroups: TAC, etc.

Locality readiness and support

- a. Coordinating local/state implementation activities
- b. Monitoring implementation progress
- c. Grant coordination and support

Resiliency resources and data sharing

- a. Centralized data and information clearinghouse
- b. Ensuring new data/knowledge is incorporated into plans/funding

Flood Resilience Plans (to be discussed this afternoon)



Observation #3

Coordinating Entity

Observation #3 - Resiliency Coordinating Structure

Observation: There currently is no single coordinating entity to support resilience efforts across state agencies, academia, localities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, and community members.

History/significance of observation:

- 2018 Executive Order established Chief Resilience Officer (CRO). Position codified into law in 2020. 2018 VA General Assembly passed SB 265 creating Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection.
- Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee meets quarterly to support the development of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan (CRMP).
- Annual Flood Resilience and Preparedness Coordination meetings discuss funding and implementation of CRMP and Flood Protection Master Plan.
- No single entity is coordinating, or has line of sight into, resiliency funding and programmatic administration, coordination, data management, and planning.

Observation #3 - Resiliency Coordinating Structure

Draft Recommendations:

- 1) Combine the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection with the Chief Resiliency Office and provide resources to establish a dedicated, staffed office reporting directly to the Governor for managing and coordinating resiliency efforts across the Commonwealth.
- 2) Place Chief Resilience Officer position outside of the Governor's Cabinet but still reporting to the Governor as a political appointee.
- 3) Direct agencies to each create a Resiliency Coordinator position to ensure continuity during administration turnover coordinated by the Chief Resilience Officer.
- 4) Establish an interagency working group - led by the Chief Resilience Officer and consisting of state agency and local government officials as well as academic and university partners - to support interagency coordination and planning for resiliency efforts.



Observation #2

Locality Readiness

Observation #2 - Locality Readiness for Resiliency Planning

Observation: The ability of localities to support resiliency planning varies widely across Virginia.

History/significance of observation:

- Some Planning Districts work regionally to solve resiliency challenges of homeowners, businesses, and communities.
- Academic Institutions form collaboratives to conduct resiliency research and design innovative tools that support communities threatened by coastal and inland flooding.
- VDCR administers Community Flood Preparedness Funding and Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (VRA); Coastal Resilience Master Plan and Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan development and implementation; NFIP.
- VDEM administers FEMA funding to localities; coordinates emergency preparedness response; Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- VDEQ administers Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program; leads CZM network.
- VDHCD administers Community Development Block Grants.
- Virginia Department of Energy sponsored C-PACE financing programs for disaster resiliency improvements.

Observation #2 - Locality Readiness for Resiliency Planning

Draft Recommendations:

- 1) Establish “grant circuit rider(s)/ombudsman” positions for identifying, applying for, and managing resiliency-related grants for localities. (*Suggestions for position title?*)
- 2) Explore state support opportunities for the use of RAFT by localities especially the self-assessment component.
- 3) Establish state goals and metrics to define what effective locality readiness for flood resilience should look like.

Ancillary Recommendations:

- A. Authorize state resiliency programs to administer a set percentage of funds to awardees upfront to alleviate burden of 100% reimbursement for program activities and improvements --- similar to Virginia’s Conservation Assistance Program recently administering funds upfront for Hampton Roads to create natural living shorelines.
- B. Conduct vulnerability assessments at the state and local levels to determine needs and inform planning.
- C. Ensure that state agencies have internal clarity/review of flood resilience opportunities and challenges that will then trickle down through their technical assistance and grants programs.



Observation #1

Resiliency Data and Resources

Observation #1 - Resiliency Data and Resources

Observation: A one-stop source for resilience information, including an authoritative source for resiliency data, is critical for effective planning and decision making.

History/significance of observation:

- Unclear authoritative sources of resiliency data can affect the value of analysis based on obsolete or incomplete data.
- There is no centralized access to, or coordination of, locality resiliency plans, resources, and strategies.
- Existing resiliency data does not measure social vulnerability by locality.
- Open Data Portal is used in the Coastal Resiliency Master Plan and focused on projected coastal flood impacts and public and private funding sources (by Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program).
- ADAPTVA integrates data, policy, and planning strategies but long-term funding for this tool and locality-specific information is still needed.

Observation #1 - Resiliency Data and Resources

Draft Recommendations:

- 1) Leverage the Virginia Office of Data Governance and Analytics as a clearinghouse of data needed for resiliency planning.
- 2) Conduct a periodic survey of state agencies to identify their data needs, including:
 - Data required to be used
 - Data available for use
- 3) Establish a working group consisting of knowledgeable representatives from the organizations participating in the Resilience Coordination Working Group and TAC and informed by the results of an agency survey of resiliency to identify and address data needs and availability.

Remaining Questions for the Observations

1. Do the recommendations adequately address the observations?
 - Is the language clear (not wordsmithing!)
2. What action is required to allow these changes to occur?
 - Legislation?
 - State agency policy/procedure change?
 - MOA between organizations?
3. Who is responsible for implementing these changes?
4. What are the metrics for success for each change?

Breakout Groups

Group 1 – Main Room	Group 2 - Partner	Group 3 - Discover
Sharon Baxter	Jessica Whitehead	Bill Curtis
Shawn Crumlish	Angel Deem	Tanya Denckla Cobb
Becky Gwynn	Jay Ford	David Hawkins
Katelyn Jordan	Jamie Green	Whitney Katchmark
Lewis Lawrence	Adrienne Kotula	Brian Parker
Rachael Peabody	Robert Pickett	Wendy Stout
Nikki Rovner	Speaker Pollard	Chris Swanson
Emily Steinhilber	Chris Stone	Matthew Wells
Jordan Stewart	Travis Voyles	Carol Considine
Matthew Dalon (DCR Staff)	Carolyn Heaps-Pecaro (DCR Staff)	Darryl Glover (DCR Staff)



See you
June 27th
in
Richmond

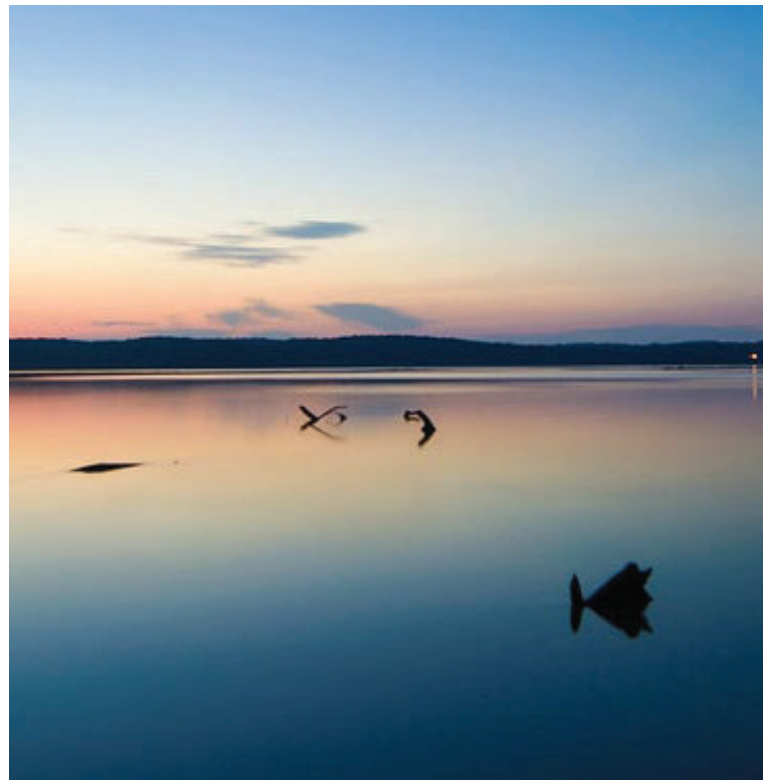
Flood Resilience Planning in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Presentation to the Resilience Coordination Working Group
May 31, 2023



Contents

- Existing code requirements for flood resilience planning
- DCR's flood resilience planning outlook
- Challenges and opportunities
- Discussion questions



Existing Code Requirements

Flood Resilience Planning



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Flood Protection Master Plan

(§ 10.1-602 & HB516/SB551)

Responsibility: DCR to **develop, administer, and implement** the Plan

Scale: **Statewide**, but must be “**place-specific**” and use a **watershed-based approach**

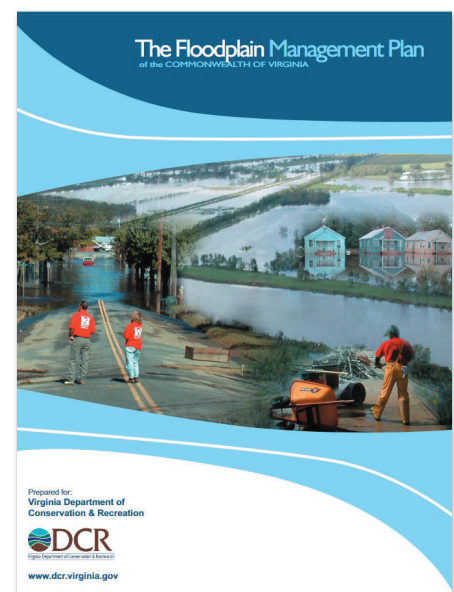
Purpose: **to mitigate severe and repetitive flooding.**

Requirements:

- An inventory of **flood-prone areas**;
- An inventory of **flood protection studies**;
- A record of **flood damages**;
- **Strategies** to prevent or mitigate flood damage; and
- The collection and distribution of information relating to flooding and flood plain management.
- Adhere to **principles** (best-available science, enhancing equity, nature-based approaches, tailored approaches, cost-effectiveness)
- **Integrate** with the Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Planning Horizon: **due by 12/31/26 (every 5 years thereafter)**; Last updated 2005. DCR plans update by 2025.

Format: **Online**, with links to other information sources



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Flood Protection Master Plan (DCR)	COVA Hazard Mitigation Plan (VDEM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers only flooding hazards (riverine, pluvial, coastal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers 17 hazards, including flooding (ranked #1 in overall risk)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online document and resources, designed to be highly accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 885 pages in full, PDF document, available online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of general public as well as invited stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement involves invited stakeholders; there is no public comment requirement from FEMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact assessment is based on current and future projected flood risk analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment uses best available historical flood data (includes some future conditions like sea level rise)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contents and principles are codified but lacks integration with CRMP and shared implementation/accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns with federal hazard mitigation planning requirements. Approved plan makes VA eligible for FEMA assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative planning approach: Seeks data, vulnerability assessment, implementation strategies from other state agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative planning approach: Seeks data, vulnerability assessment, implementation strategies from other state agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan to be integrated, and PDCs/local resilience plans conducted independently by PDCs and localities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional HMPs are conducted separately by PDCs and supported by VDEM/FEMA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated every 5 years, next update: 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated every 5 years, next update: 2028

Coastal Resilience Master Plan

(§ 10.1-658 & HB516/SB551)

Responsibility: DCR to **develop, administer, and implement** the Plan

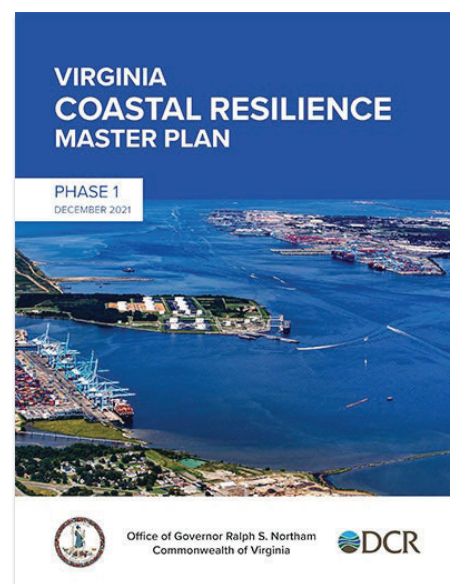
Scale: **Regional** (8 coastal PDCs), but must be **“place-specific”**

Purpose: **to mitigate severe and repetitive flooding.**

Requirements:

- Incorporate **all major flood hazards**, including **precipitation-driven** flooding;
- Include **a list of all projects** considered
- Include an update on the **status of all projects** previously implemented
- Include a **comprehensive risk assessment** of critical human and natural infrastructure.
- Adhere to **principles** (best-available science, enhancing equity, nature-based approaches, tailored approaches, cost-effectiveness)

Planning Horizon: **due by 12/31/24 (every 5 years thereafter)**; Last updated 2021



Bi-Annual Status Report

(§ 2.2-220.5. Chief Resilience Officer)

Responsibility: **CRO to prepare the Report** in coordination with the Director of Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion

Scale: **Statewide**

Purpose: report to the Governor and General Assembly on the **status of flood resilience in the Commonwealth**

Requirements:

- Serve as an evaluation of flood protection for critical infrastructure
- Include human and natural infrastructure
- Identify **risks to critical infrastructure**: transportation, energy, communication, water and food supply, waste management, health, and emergency services
- Include the **status of flood resilience planning**
- Assistance from all relevant Secretariats and agencies

Planning Horizon: **due by 7/1/23 (every 2 years thereafter)**; draft in progress.

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DCR's Flood Resilience Planning Outlook



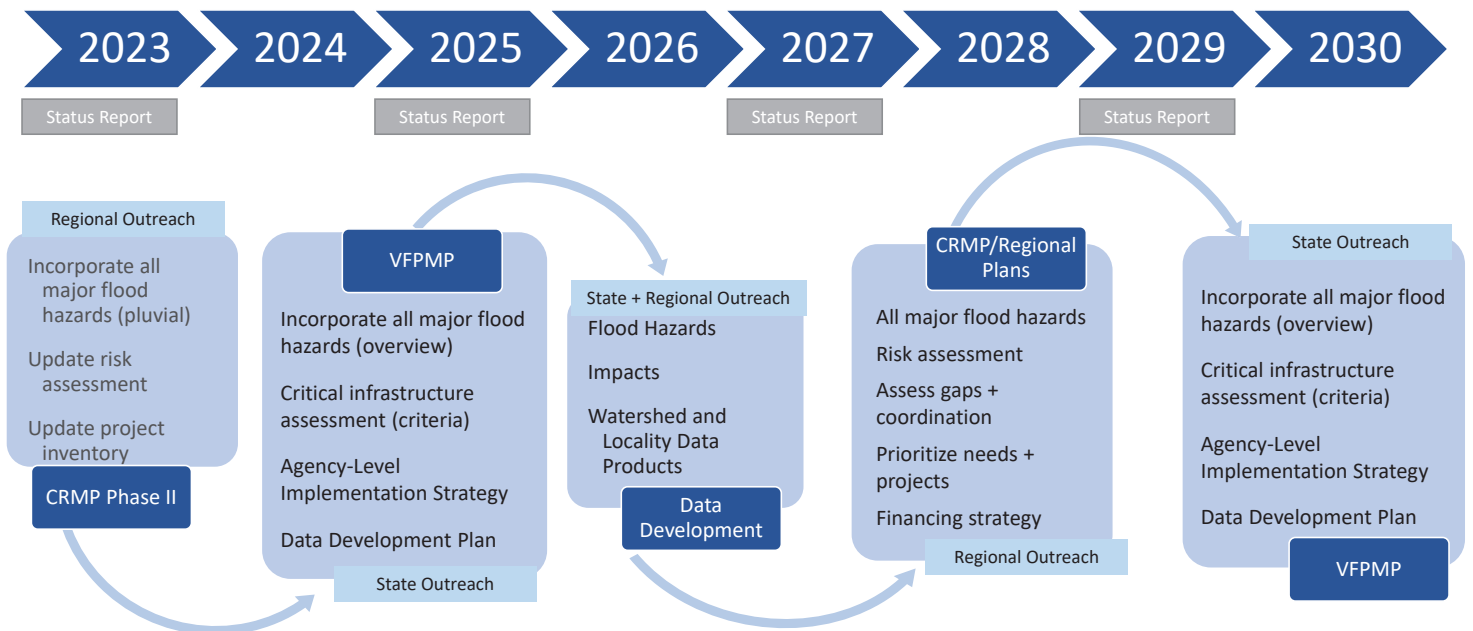
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How We Approach Resilience

Our Principles

- We are committed to **addressing challenges** relating to flooding and resiliency
- We must address these challenges with programs that work for **all impacted parts of Virginia**
- The programs we implement must work together as parts of **comprehensive, cohesive plans**
- These programs and plans must be developed and implemented with **transparency and input from the public**



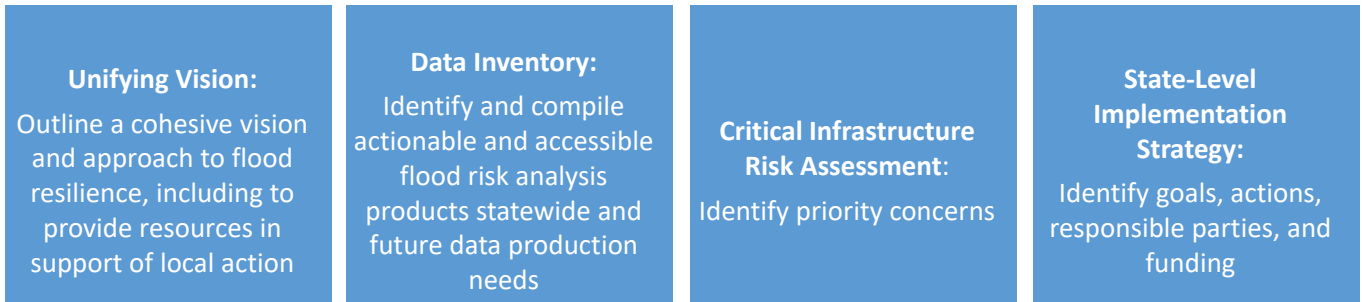
An adaptive management approach will provide improved flexibility.

Flood Protection Master Plan

Purpose:

1. Guide **state policy** to build flood resilience
2. Provide direction and resources to PDCs, localities and other stakeholders to **support and encourage local action**

Goals:



Coastal Resilience Master Plan

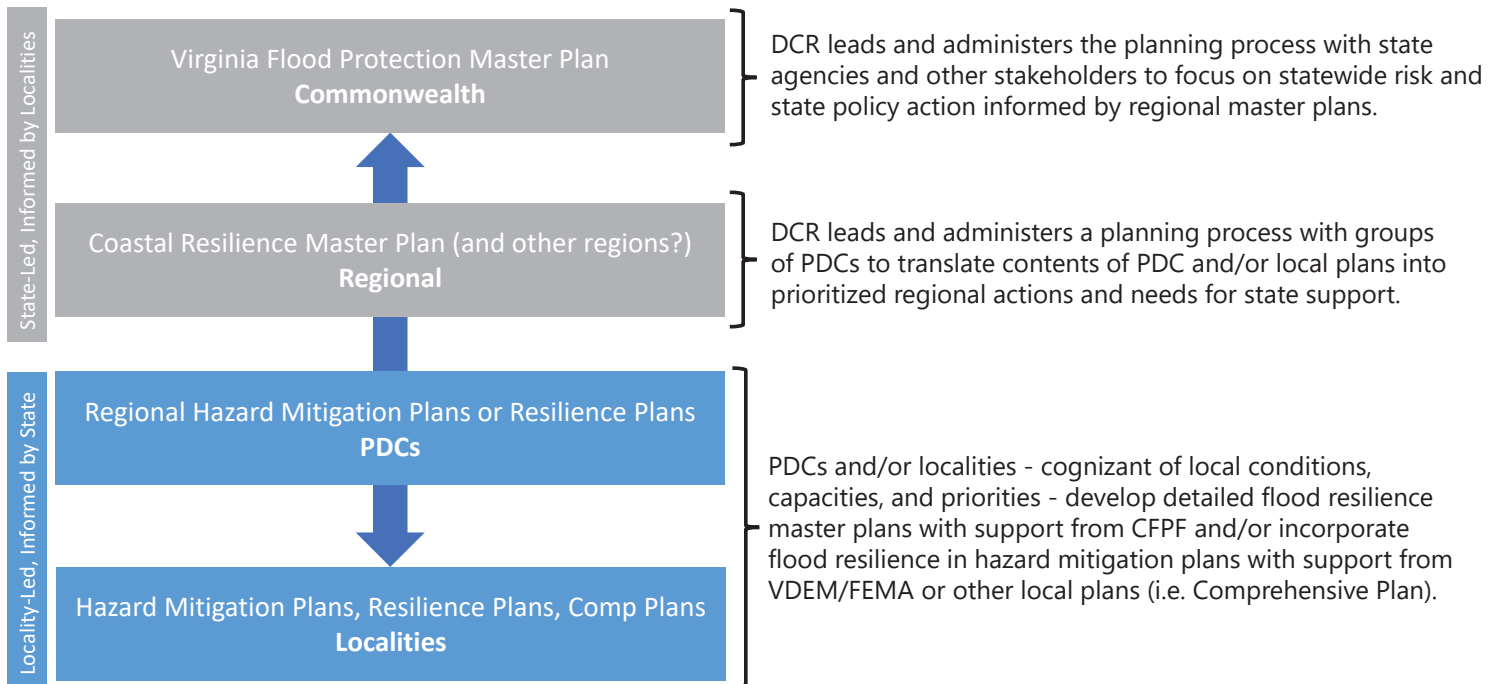
Purpose:

Provide **process, structure, and resources** to support regional and local actors to conduct place-based flood resilience planning in their communities.

Goals:



Multi-Level Plan Integration



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Consulting Approach

RFPs to support Flood Resilience Planning

Resilience Planning and Consulting Contract(s)

- Qualification-based
 - Range of needed skills and capacities
- Task order-based
- May award multiple contracts
- Maximizing flexibility and resources
- DCR is developing RFP
 - Anticipated release: Jul 2023
 - Anticipated award: Nov 2023

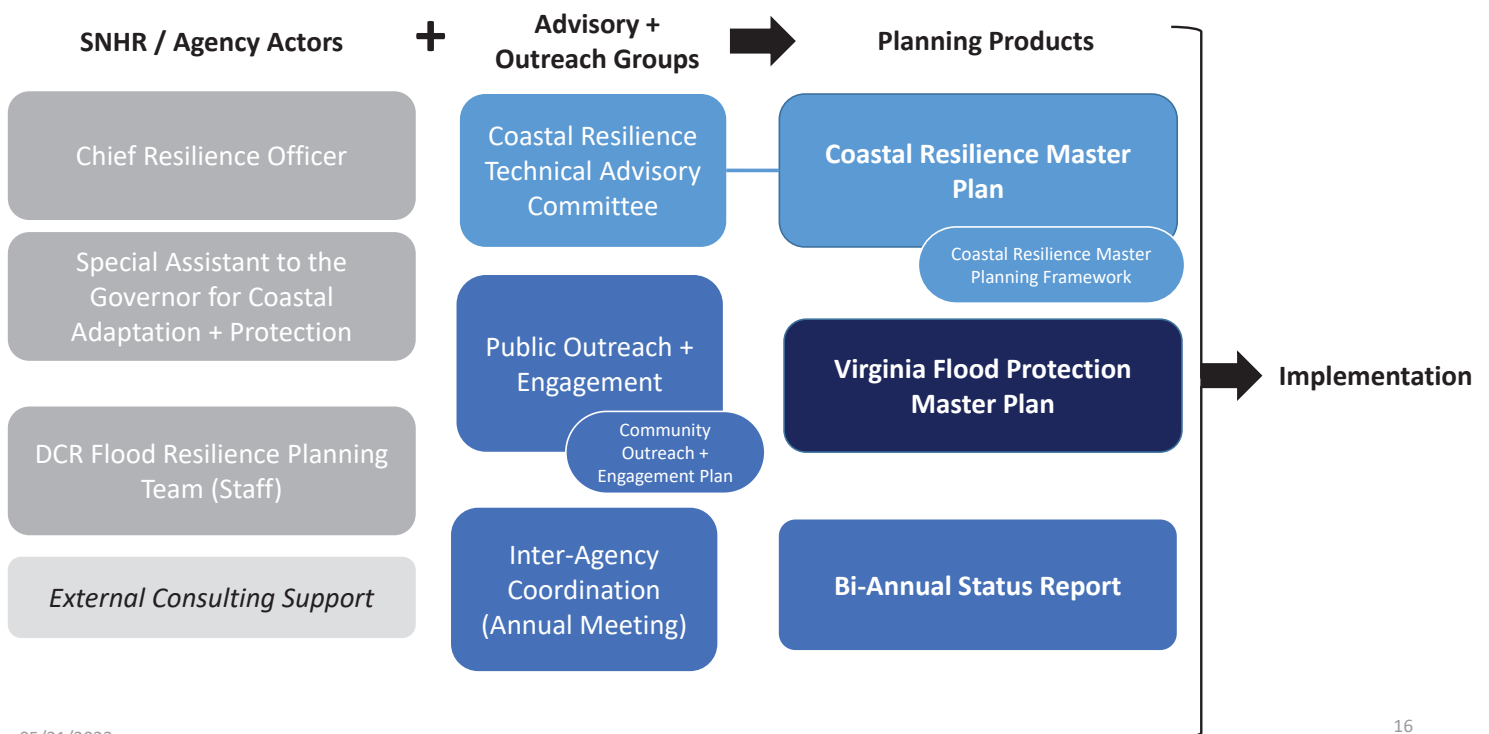
Ongoing Dewberry Contracts:

- Pluvial modeling in coastal region
- Project and funding web app development for coastal resilience web explorer

Additional RFPs possible for IT solutions and ongoing outreach and engagement support.



Challenges + Opportunities



Challenges

Vision + Purpose

- Lacking vision for the future that gives direction to plans and implementation
- State and regional planning scopes are not integrated
 - Regional plan for only one portion of the state
- Different beliefs exist about the state's role in resilience planning and implementation

Getting to Implementation

- Accountability: difficulties getting all stakeholders to the table and ensuring plan implementation
- Collaboration: ensuring stakeholders have meaningful opportunity to provide input in manageable format
- Continuity from planning to implementation across administrations is a challenge given planning timelines
- Not clear how plans will be tied to funding for implementation

Opportunities

This working group may wish to consider:

- Aligning recommended coordination and funding approach with planning and implementation process
- Focusing code on achieving desired outcomes, rather than specifying plan contents
 - CRMP Framework must be adhered to, but is otherwise not in statute (implementable strategy for coastal region)
- Adopting regional approaches outside of the coastal region
- Expanding/formalizing advisory structures beyond the coastal region
- Building more robust inter-agency collaboration



Key Questions

1. How will the proposed multi-level resilience plans meet your needs? Do you foresee any gaps or challenges with this approach?
2. Who should be involved in the development of the plans, and who is responsible for implementing the plans?
 - State vs. local governance responsibilities and authorities
3. How can we build accountability for implementing the plans?
 - Across responsible parties (agencies, regions)
 - Across administrations
4. Should elements of the plans continue to be defined in code?
 - If so, how?

