

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS & CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON THE MIDDLE PENINSULA



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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Climate Change is contributing to rising sea levels in the middle peninsula impacting low lying areas causing excessive flooding and coastal changes.

There is a need for local resiliency plans and flood preparedness targeted to private landowners, businesses, churches, disenfranchised communities, and others .



Story from 2016 and some homes did benefit

POLICY CONTEXT

Located in Tidewater Virginia, the Middle Peninsula consists of six counties and three towns occupying 1,387 square miles – counties within the region include Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, and Middlesex and the Towns of Tappahannock, Urbanna, and West Point. With 1,055 miles of shoreline and 88,064 acres of land, the Middle Peninsula is rich in natural resources. (mppdc.com)

Mathews County is located at the eastern tip of the Middle Peninsula.

Governmental agencies have been created to address regional issues such as flooding.

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) and Middlesex - and 3 towns - Tappahannock, Urbanna, and West Point - of the Middle Peninsula.



POLICY FORMATION

Currently, there is a Virginia Coastal Resiliency Master Plan (Phase One), created under the Administration of Past Governor Ralph S. Northam.

“The impacts of sea level rise and climate change will be felt across the Commonwealth and beyond. Phase One of the Master Plan establishes where we are and sets the course for what we must do to adapt and protect our coast by identifying viable strategies for resilience that are practical and equitable” (DCR. 2019).



Source: DCR. (2019). Virginia Coastal Resiliency Master Plan Phase 1. Office of Gov. Ralph S. Northam Commonwealth of Virginia.

Source: <https://www.wavy.com/news/storms-snap-trees-cause-flooding-and-cancellations-around-the-area/>

POLICY FORMATION

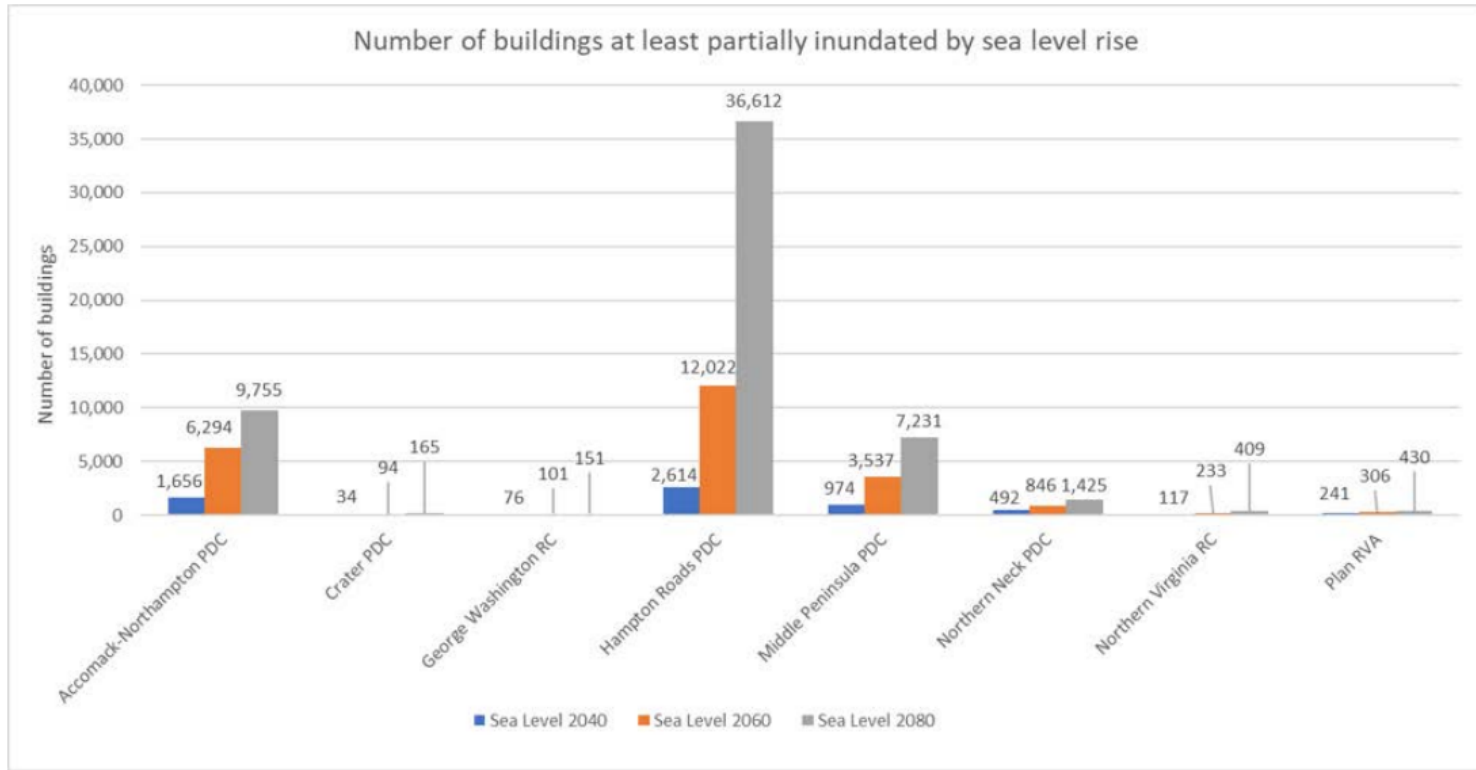
The purpose of Planning District Commissions (PDC), as set out in the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-4207, is... *to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance... to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.*

- promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future.

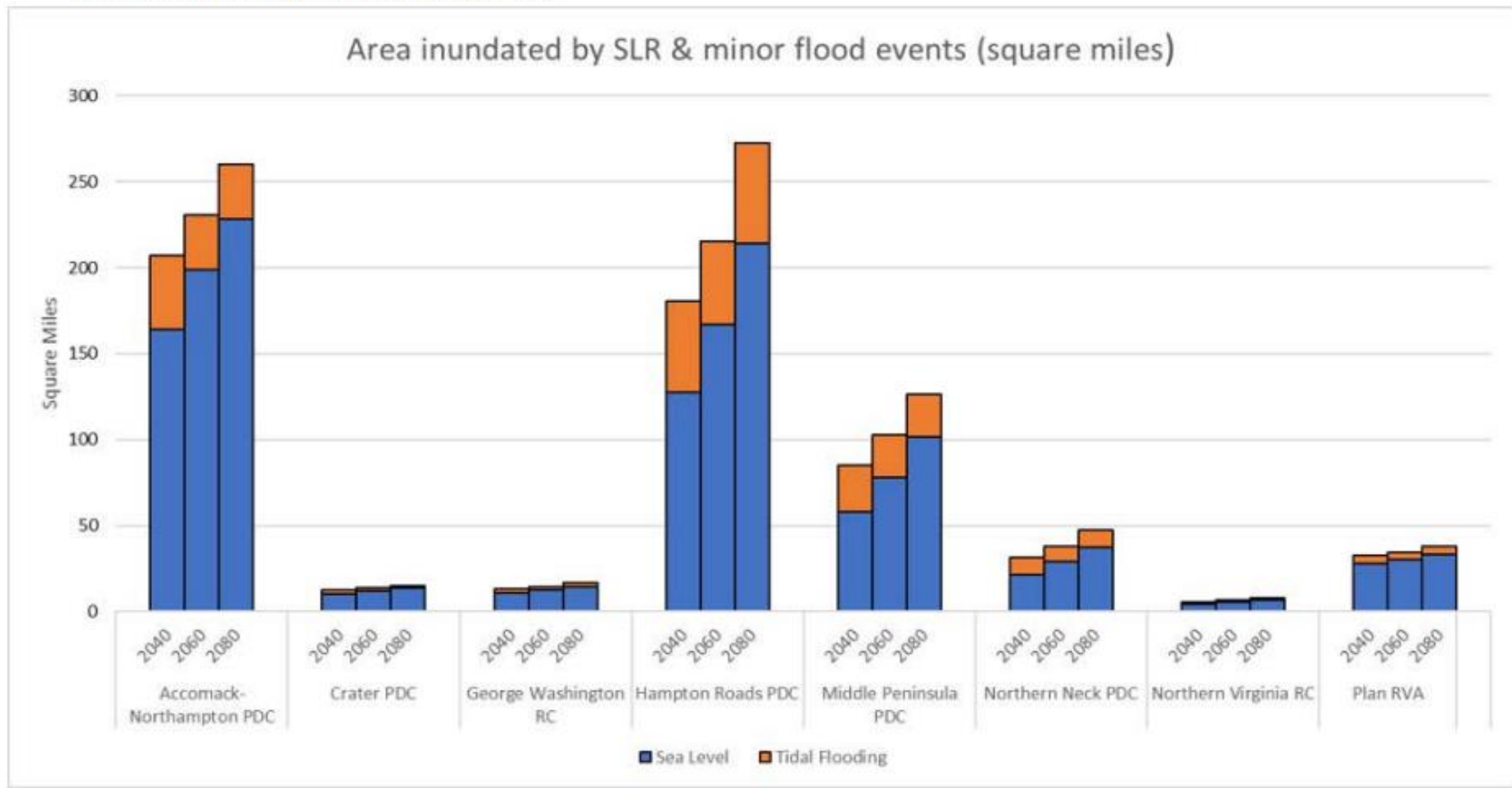
The Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) was established in the Code of Virginia pursuant to Chapter 13, Title 10.1, Article 4, Section 10.1-603.24 and Section 10.1-603-25 and the provisions of § 10.1-1330. Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Fund, which was passed during the 2020 session of the General Assembly. Money in the fund comes from the auction of carbon allowances through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) (DCR, 2022)

POLICY ANALYSIS

Existing buildings in each planning district that potential impacted by sea level rise



Present-day land area (including wetlands) in each planning district that will be flooded by sea level rise (blue) and at-risk during minor flooding events (orange). The stacked bars indicate that sea level rise progressively increases the extent of flooded areas.





POLICY IMPLICATIONS

HB516 and its companion bill, SB551, updated the minimum criteria for development of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, as well as aligned and updated its standards with the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan. These bills also established a Virginia Coastal Resilience technical advisory committee. **(HB516) Delegate Bulova**

This legislation establishes a \$25M revolving loan fund for local governments and private property owners to plan for and mitigate flood events. This loan fund is intended to supplement, not replace, the monies allocated by the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. **(HB1309) (Delegate Bulova)**

SB508 expands the Soil and Water Conservation Board by 3 members, all representatives from flood-prone communities, and gives the SWCB the authority to administer the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. **SB508 Senator Lewis**

SB551 and its companion bill, HB516, update the minimum criteria for development of the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan, as well as align and update its standards with the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan. These bills also establish a Virginia Coastal Resilience technical advisory committee **SB551 Senator Marsden**

Source: <https://vcnva.org/botd-flood-resilience/>



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ENCOURAGE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONTINUE FUNDING:

- ❖ FEDERAL LEVEL
- ❖ STATE LEVEL
- ❖ RESEARCH
- ❖ LOCAL LEVEL RESILIENCY PLANS
- ❖ STRENGTHENING OF SHORELINES
- ❖ ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITIES AND HOMEOWNERS TO IMPLEMENT RESILIENCE INITIATIVES AND PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM FLOODING

Source:

https://www.mppdc.com/articles/reports/Middle%20Peninsula%20PDC_Floodplain%20Workshop_10.18.2017-HANDOUTS_RED.pdf



REFERENCES

<https://www.floodingresiliency.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Future-Sea-Level-and-Recurrent-Flooding-Risk-for-Coastal-Virginia-Final-Version.pdf>

<https://www.mathewscountyva.gov/171/Flood-Zones>

<https://kingwilliamcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/158/Middle-Peninsula-All-Hazards-Mitigation-Plan-Part-1-PDF>

<https://vcnva.org/botd-flood-resilience/>

https://www.mppdc.com/articles/reports/Middle%20Peninsula%20PDC_Floodplain%20Workshop_10.18.2017-HANDOUTS_RED.pdf

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/document/Appendix-G-Project-and-Capacity-Building-and-Planning-Needs-Schema-Suitability-Matrix.pdf>



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO OUR PRESENTATION ON
FLOOD PREPAREDNESS & CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON THE
MIDDLE PENINSULA