

Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (FRAC)

Subject	Flood Committee Meeting May 2026	Date	5/20/2026
Chair & Vice Chair	DCR Director, Nikki Rovner Chief Resilience Officer, Greg Steele	Time	9:30am
Location	Patrick Henry Building, East Reading Room, 1111 East Broad Street Richmond, VA 23219	Scribe	Kelsey Liske

Flood Committee Members		
Name [Alternate Name]	Title [Alternate Title] Organization (Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Norah Carlos	Virginia Director Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	Y
Robbie Coates	Director, Grant Management and Recovery Division Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	Y
Peter D'Alema	Director of Program Management Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)	Y
Raka Goyal [John Swecker]	State Review Civil/Structural Engineer [State Review Civil/Structural Engineer] Virginia Department of General Services (DGS)	Y
Joe Grist	Commissioner Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)	Y
Tamarah Holmes	Director Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD)	
James Hutzler	Government Relations Associate Virginia Association of Counties (VACO)	Y
Dr. Sessa Joi Moon	Chief Diversity Officer Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI)	
Ben McFarlane	Chief Resilience Officer, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)	Y
Fernando Pasquel	Chief Policy Advisor Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Y
Mitchell Smiley	Policy Manager, Transportation and Natural Resources Virginia Municipal League	
Chris Swanson	Director, Environmental Division Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Y
[Jitender Ramchandani]	[Policy Manager, VTrans] Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPi)	Y

Staff		
Name	Title (Organization Abbreviation)	Attended? V = Virtual
Darryl Glover	Deputy Agency Director (DCR)	Y
Matt Dalon	Resilience Planning Program Manager (DCR)	Y
Angela Davis	Director, Floodplain Management (DCR)	Y
Emily Breen	Resilience Planner (DCR)	Y
Kelsey Liske	Resilience Specialist (DCR)	Y
Caitlin Verdu	Commonwealth Resilience Coordinator (VOR)	Y
Sigrid Lampe	Commonwealth Resilience Policy Advisor (VOR)	Y

Scheduled Speakers	
Name	Title, Organization
Joe Underwood	Senior Attorney, Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council

Reference Links	
Item	Link
Meeting Agenda	https://www.townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=meeting\49\43278\Agenda_DCR_43278_v2.pdf
Briefing Book	https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20260520-flood-resilience-advisory-committee-briefing-book.pdf
Presentation Slides	https://dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/meeting/document/20260520-flood-committee-presentation.pdf
Video Recording of the Meeting	https://youtu.be/hp6-QH0zzAA

Agenda Item	Minutes
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	Chair of the Flood Committee, Director Nikki Rovner (DCR) convened the meeting at 9:36 and roll was taken.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Director Rovner asked the members to move to adopt the agenda and all members approved by voice vote.
3. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes	Director Rovner then asked about the adoption of the minutes and all members approved by voice vote.
4. FOIA Training	<p>Senior Attorney of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, Joe Underwood, presented information on Virginia FOIA policy, including open meeting, electronic meeting, and social media requirements.</p> <p>Darryl Glover (DCR) asked about agenda amendment requirements. Mr. Underwood explained that agendas can be amended leading up to, at the start of, and during meetings. However, final actions for agenda items added after a meeting has started are not permitted.</p>

	<p>Joe Grist (VRMC) asked about the 60-mile travel exemptions for public attendees in extenuating circumstances such as residence on Tangier Island. Mr. Underwood described that there is no limit to this rule for public bodies that have adopted the policy.</p> <p>Mr. Glover asked whether FOIA applies to advisory committees that are not in statute. Mr. Underwood explained that the application of FOIA policy depends on how public bodies are created. For example, an advisory group created by a state agency would be subject to FOIA policies.</p>
<p>5. Discussion and Adoption of FRAC Charter</p>	<p>Director Rovner announced changes to the Flood Resilience Advisory Committee (FRAC) charter.</p> <p>Matt Dalon (DCR) presented the roles and responsibilities of the FRAC as set in Code. Mr. Dalon also presented an overview of the five sections of the FRAC charter.</p> <p>Ben McFarlane (VAPDC) inquired about Section 2-2, noting that the language presumes that the only thing the committee would be voting on is recommendations. Mr. McFarlane proposed that the Committee broaden this language in the charter by restoring the original title of Section 2-2C and replacing the word “recommendation” with “action” in Section B.</p> <p>Director Rovner called a motion to vote on Mr. McFarlane’s proposed changes to the charter. All members approved by voice vote.</p> <p>Director Rovner called a motion to adopt the charter. All members approved by voice vote.</p>
<p>6. Public Comment</p>	<p>Emily Steinhilber (Environmental Defense Fund) recommended invitations to FRAC meetings be expanded to more broadly include the nonprofit community and organizations that represent municipal bodies.</p> <p>There were no other public comments.</p>
<p>7. CRO & DCR Updates</p>	<p>Vice Chair of the Flood Committee, Greg Steele provided updates on the Virginia Office of Resilience (VOR), including Interagency Resilience Management Team (IRMT) membership and the identification of 74 hazards of which VOR will prioritize flooding, energy resilience, public health and heat resilience, and water.</p> <p>VOR continues to engage with DCR and is working to ensure funds align with the state’s resilience priorities. VOR is also exploring financing options such as parametric insurance policies and opportunities to expand return on investment. Mr. Steele then announced the creation of a University Collaborative group to identify research priorities, develop holistic research approaches, and coordinate among academic institutions.</p> <p>Director Rovner presented an update from DCR. She noted potential impacts to the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) and the Resilient Virginia Revolving Fund (RVRF) due to the state budget. She then presented a summary of CFPF Round 6 and announced that Round 7 will open in December of 2026. She expressed a desire for future CFPF rounds to occur in a predictable frequency and/or regular schedule to sequence CFPF after Department of Environmental Quality Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. Director Rovner then presented a summary of the RVRF,</p>

	<p>including its use in Southwest Virginia following Hurricane Helene and intentions for RVRF to work in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Community Development Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund (VDAF). She then explained that changes to this fund are being considered following the recent closure of a public comment period on May 14th, 2026.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane asked about PDC responses, to which Director Rovner explained that PDCs have expressed interest in working with the VDAF first, before turning to the RVRF.</p> <p>Mr. Dalon then presented DCR updates regarding the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP) and the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan (CRMP). Mr. Dalon provided an overview of flood resilience planning principles, historic context and code requirements of each plan, and the integration of the plans into local processes.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane asked if DCR had ideas about how integration will work in practice. Mr. Dalon explained that project prioritization is in the CRMP Master Planning Framework, but significant focus has been on coastal flood hazards and developing the projects inventory. Mr. Dalon then stated that the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan will help build the foundation of increased state-level interagency coordination and regional project prioritization.</p> <p>Emily Breen (DCR) presented updates on Phase II of the CRMP. Ms. Breen announced that the draft of the CRMP is currently available for public comment. She then presented an overview of plan contents and the Coastal Resilience Web Explorer tool.</p>
<p>8. CRMP Phase II and FRAC Comment</p>	<p>Mr. Steele noted that the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations in the CRMP were developed before the Virginia Office of Resilience (VOR) and the Interagency Resilience Management Team (IRMT) were created. Mr. Steele added that the recommendations may be accomplished in adapted ways that align with the capacity and capabilities of VOR and the IRMT.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane noted opportunities to address the role of the state in funding projects broadly are critical. He then noted a gap in understanding future risk and is interested in opportunities to address known knowledge gaps in future iterations of the plan. Mr. McFarlane expressed that the five flood scenarios provide helpful framing for local and regional decision making.</p> <p>Fernando Pasquel (DEQ) noted the lack of stormwater areas in plan maps may lead to missed risks. Mr. Pasquel expressed a desire for detailed modeling to represent risk especially in urban areas. Ms. Breen responded by sharing that the pluvial models are downloadable online and localities such as the City of Arlington are using models to incorporate watershed level stormwater data.</p> <p>Nora Carlos (CBC) asked about recommendations associated with capturing information on projects to ensure the projects and initiatives inventory dataset continues to improve over time. Ms. Breen responded by saying there are no formal recommendations but another update to the inventory will occur this summer. Ms. Breen then stated that DCR is currently working with PDCs to understand capacity</p>

	<p>and technical assistance needs in uploading projects and information and/or soliciting information from localities.</p>
<p>9. VFPMP Update</p>	<p>Mr. Dalon provided an overview of the VFPMP, including timeline, stakeholder engagement efforts, final products of the plan, and key themes. He also shared that a draft of the plan will be released for public comment in November 2026 with an anticipated final release in April 2027.</p> <p>Mr. Steele asked about how prioritization is considered in this plan, specifically prioritization of types of infrastructure or types of communities depending on risk. Mr. Dalon responded that prioritization has been considered by stakeholders and the Emerging Opportunities section of the plan.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane seconded Mr. Steele’s remarks about the importance of prioritization and noted that future versions of the plan should address how the goals and standards set out in Code will be achieved. Mr. McFarlane suggested that DCR make a copy of the plan available for stakeholder review before a draft is released for public comment.</p>
<p>10. Agency Updates</p>	<p>Director Rovner then asked members of the committee to provide updates from their organizations.</p> <p>Mr. D’Alema shared that VRA is continuing to work with DCR on funding rounds for CFPF and RVRF.</p> <p>Mr. Coates shared updates on funding opportunities, such as the notice of funding opportunities for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and the Building Resilience of Infrastructure and Communities grants. VDEM is initiating an update of the Statewide Recovery Annex and the state Public Assistance Policy.</p> <p>Mr. Ramchandani shared updates on the development of a statewide transportation plan and ongoing assistance to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Planning efforts include identification of transportation needs, analyzing major trends, and coordination with DCR.</p> <p>Ms. Goyal shared updates that DGS Division of Engineering & Buildings transitioned the review process to the Virginia State Floodplain Management Standards recently adopted by DCR from the previously applicable EO-25 provisions. She also shared an update about receiving variance permits from DCR, which is being followed by a review process.</p> <p>Mr. Swanson shared information regarding the development of the VDOT Resilience Plan that is specific to agency assets and includes a suite of strategies and tools for planning, design, and operations. Anticipated completion of final analysis in the next few months.</p> <p>Mr. Grist shared that the Habitat Policy Oversight Committee will provide guidance to the Habitat Division. The Committee will review the actions of the Habitat Division to ensure consistency with state coastal policy and resilience policy occurring this summer.</p> <p>Mr. McFarlane shared updates Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia are developing stormwater management design guidelines. Mr. McFarlane then suggested that</p>

	<p>state agencies consider how to update policies and regulatory standards and provide briefings or presentations on updates to policies. Mr. McFarlane also shared that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission is currently working on the Regional Infrastructure Framework.</p> <p>Mr. Hutzler noted discussions regarding coordination between the state and localities regarding financial and technical capacity support. Mr. Hutzler also noted capacity is a primary barrier to flood resilience planning at the local government level.</p> <p>Mr. Pasquel shared that DEQ will be participating in the IRMT and meeting internally to align departmental actions and existing guidance with resilience.</p>
11. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Voting Records

Approved—Motion to approve amendments to Flood Resilience Advisory Committee Charter Section 2-2
Approved—Motion to adopt the Flood Resilience Advisory Committee Charter

The approved Flood Resilience Advisory Committee Charter can be found on the [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation website](#).

The purpose of these minutes is to record and preserve, to the best of our ability, the major contributors and general topics covered during this meeting. Verbatim transcription is not the intent of this document. If you have any questions, please contact flood.resilience@dcr.virginia.gov
