

CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

2017 UPDATE

Section 6 was updated to combine capabilities of all communities based on the existing plans and updated information collected from interviews, phone calls, and committee work during the update process. The following major changes were incorporated:

- 1) All tables were updated to reflect new information;
- 2) Mitigation actions completed by communities and their methods of integrating hazard mitigation principles across plans and departments was summarized; and,
- 3) A brief section detailing regional capabilities in conjunction with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and state coastal zone management capabilities was updated.

INTRODUCTION

This section of the Plan discusses the capability of Hampton Roads communities with regard to hazard mitigation activities, and consists of the following four subsections:

- WHAT IS A CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT?
- CONDUCTING THE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT
- CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
- INTEGRATING MITIGATION INTO COMMUNITY LIFE

WHAT IS A CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of conducting a capability assessment is to confirm that the community's resulting mitigation strategy is based on the principles found in (or missing from) existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources, and based on the community's ability to expand and improve these existing tools. This planning process strives to establish goals, objectives, and actions that are feasible, based on an understanding of the organizational capacity of the departments tasked with their implementation. A capability assessment helps to determine which mitigation actions are practical and likely to be implemented over time given a local government's planning and regulatory framework, level of administrative and technical support, level of fiscal resources, and current political climate.

Careful examination of local capabilities helps detect existing gaps, shortfalls, or weaknesses within ongoing government activities that could hinder proposed mitigation activities or exacerbate hazard vulnerability. A capability assessment highlights positive mitigation measures already in place or being implemented at the local and regional levels, which should continue to be supported and enhanced through future mitigation efforts.

CONDUCTING THE CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

In order to inventory and analyze Hampton Roads' community capabilities, the planning committee and consultant requested information on a variety of "capability indicators" such as existing local plans, policies, programs, or ordinances that may reduce, or in some circumstances, increase the community's hazard vulnerability. The matrix of capability indicators has been built by the consultant over several years of gathering capability information, and on review of numerous documents relating factors that impact community capability. Other indicators included information related to each community's fiscal, administrative and technical capabilities such as access to local budgetary and personnel resources necessary to implement mitigation measures. Identified gaps, weaknesses, or conflicts can be recast as opportunities to implement specific mitigation actions.

For the 2017 update, the planning committee was asked to review and provide feedback on: the existing plan's capability assessment, and a presentation at the second meeting of the planning subcommittee. The presentation included information on possible new mitigation actions, and other relevant regional and state capabilities. This section has been updated based on feedback from these reviews and discussions during the Committee meetings.

CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITY

Planning and regulatory capability is based on the implementation of plans, ordinances and programs that demonstrate each local jurisdiction's commitment to guiding and managing growth, including reconstruction following a disaster. Examples include emergency response, mitigation and recovery planning, comprehensive land use planning, transportation planning, and capital improvements planning. Additional examples include the enforcement of zoning or subdivision ordinances and building codes. These planning initiatives present significant opportunities to integrate hazard mitigation principles and practices into the local decision making process.

This assessment is designed to provide a general overview of the key planning and regulatory tools in place or under development in Hampton Roads, along with their potential effect on hazard loss reduction. This information will help identify opportunities to address existing gaps, weaknesses or conflicts in the hazard mitigation strategy.

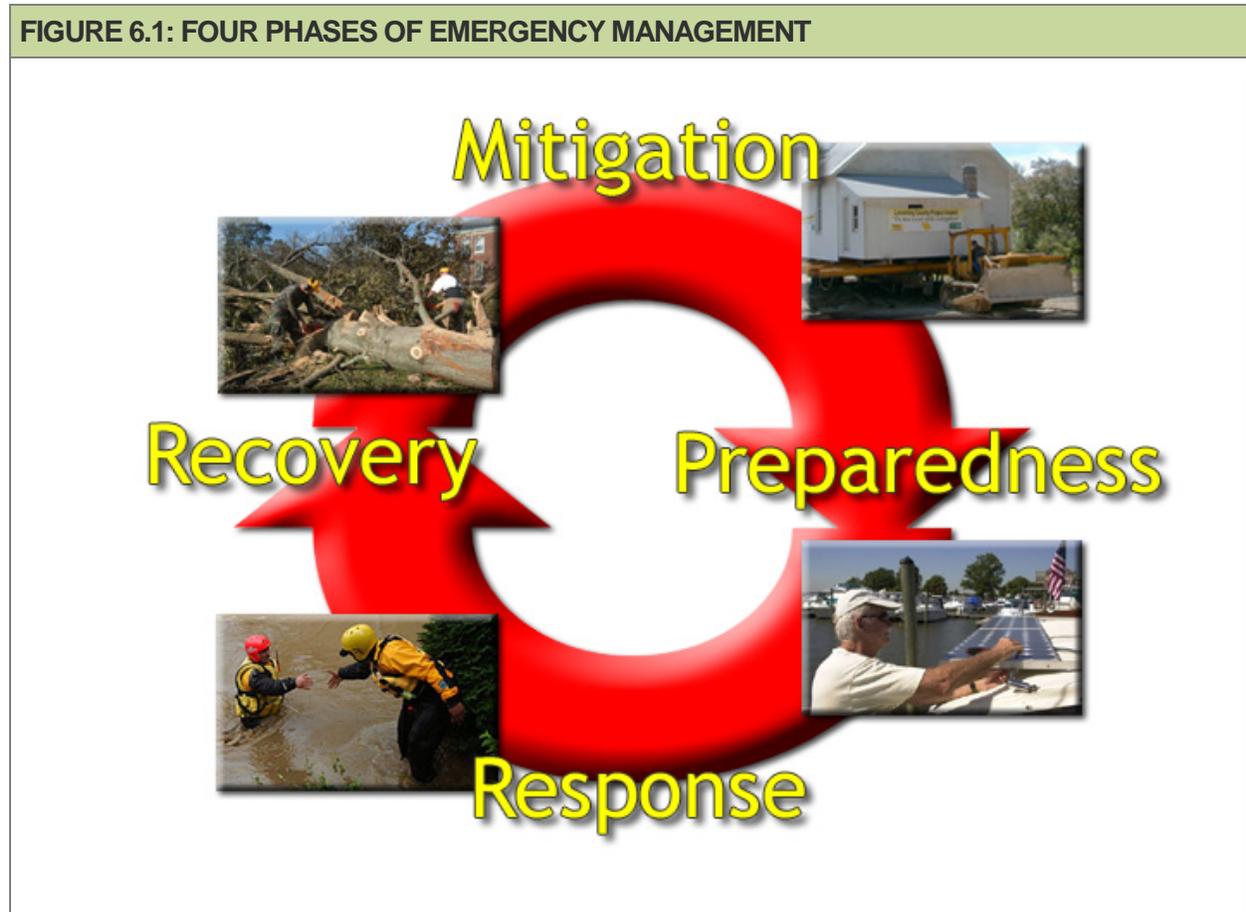
Table 6.1 provides a summary of the relevant local plans, ordinances, and programs already in place or under development. A checkmark (✓) indicates that the item is currently in place and being implemented. A "C" indicates that the item is in place for a town jurisdiction, but is maintained and administered by the County.

TABLE 6.1: RELEVANT PLANS, ORDINANCES, AND PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY	Hazard Mitigation Plan	Comprehensive Land Use Plan	Floodplain Management Plan	Open Space Management Plan	Stormwater Management Program	Emergency Operations Plan	SARA Title III Plan	Radiological Emergency Plan	Continuity of Operations Plan	Evacuation Plan	Disaster Recovery Plan	Capital Improvements Plan	Economic Development Program	Historic Preservation Plan	Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (feet freeboard)	Zoning Ordinance	Subdivision Ordinance	Unified Development Ordinance	Post-disaster Redevelopment Plan	Building and Fire Code	NFIP	NFIP Community Rating System
PENINSULA																						
Hampton	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓(3)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Newport News	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓(2)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Poquoson	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓(3)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Williamsburg	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
James City County	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓(2)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
York County	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓(3)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
SOUTHSIDE																						
Norfolk	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓(3)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Portsmouth	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓(3)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Suffolk	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Virginia Beach	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓(2)	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Chesapeake	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓(1.5)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
WESTERN TIDEWATER																						
Isle of Wight County	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓(1.5)	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Smithfield	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Windsor	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Franklin	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓(2)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Southampton County	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓(1.5)	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Boykins	✓	✓				C	C	C					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Branchville	✓	✓				C	C	C					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Capron	✓	✓				C	C	C					✓			✓	✓			✓		
Courtland	✓	✓				C	C	C					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Ivor	✓	✓				C	C	C					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Newsoms	✓	✓				C	C	C					✓			✓	✓			✓		

Emergency Management

Hazard mitigation is one of four primary phases of emergency management. The three other phases include preparedness, response, and recovery. Each phase is interconnected with hazard mitigation as **Figure 6.1** suggests. Opportunities to reduce potential losses through mitigation practices are ideally implemented before a disaster strikes. Examples include the acquisition or elevation of flood-prone structures or the enforcement of regulatory policies that limit or prevent construction in known hazard areas. The post-disaster environment provides an important “window of opportunity” to implement hazard mitigation projects and policies. During this time period, federal disaster assistance, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), may be available. In addition, elected officials and disaster victims may be more willing to implement mitigation measures in order to avoid similar events in the future.



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Planning for each phase is a critical part of a comprehensive emergency management program and key to the successful implementation of hazard mitigation actions.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: A hazard mitigation plan represents a community’s blueprint for how it intends to reduce the impact of natural and human-caused hazards on people and the built environment. The essential elements of a hazard mitigation plan include a risk assessment, capability assessment and mitigation strategy.

Disaster Recovery Plan: A disaster recovery plan guides the physical, social, environmental, and economic recovery and reconstruction process following a disaster. In many instances, hazard mitigation principles and practices are incorporated into local disaster recovery plans with the intent of capitalizing

on opportunities to break the cycle of repetitive disaster losses. Disaster recovery plans can also lead to the preparation of disaster redevelopment policies and ordinances to be enacted following a hazard event.

Emergency Operations Plan: An emergency operations plan outlines responsibilities and the means by which resources are deployed during and following an emergency or disaster.

- Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) assists local governments with plan development and revisions by offering the following services:
 - Issuing update notification at both 1 year and 6 months;
 - Conducting a plan review, as requested;
 - Facilitating plan review meetings; and,
 - Developing plan templates through collaboration with local partners
- In December 2015, VDEM released *2015 Report on the Status of Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness Efforts in the Commonwealth*. According to the report, 98-percent of Virginia localities have current local emergency operations plans. Virginia was accredited for the third time in a row by the Emergency Management Assessment Program (EMAP). Recommendations from the report included implementing statewide disaster planning software to digitize all EOPs to increase efficiency and coordination between agencies and localities, and using common operating picture (COP) tools to provide situational awareness to state leaders in real-time.

Continuity of Operations Plan: A continuity of operations plan establishes a clear chain of command, line of succession, and plans for backup or alternate emergency facilities in case of an extreme emergency or disaster.

Radiological Emergency Plan: A radiological emergency plan delineates roles and responsibilities for assigned personnel and the means to deploy resources in the event of a radiological accident.

- The Virginia plan for radiological emergencies is available online at: http://www.vaemergency.gov/webfm_send/522/COVEOP_2012_HSA_1_Radiological_Emergency_Response.pdf.

SARA Title III Emergency Response Plan: A SARA Title III Emergency Response Plan outlines the procedures to be followed in the event of a chemical emergency such as the accidental release of toxic substances. These plans are required by federal law under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Re-authorization Act (SARA), and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

General Planning

The implementation of hazard mitigation activities involves departments and individuals in a broad range of professions. Stakeholders may include local planners, public works officials, economic development specialists, and others. Concurrent local planning efforts can complement hazard mitigation goals even though they are not designed as such.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan: A comprehensive land use plan establishes the overall vision for what a community wants to be and serves as a guide to future governmental decision making. Typically, a comprehensive plan is comprised of demographic conditions, land use patterns, transportation elements and proposed community facilities. Given the broad nature of the plan and its regulatory standing in many communities, the integration of hazard mitigation measures into the comprehensive plan can serve as a far reaching, long-term risk reduction tool.

- Virginia law requires that all communities have a comprehensive land use plan and that it be updated every five years.

Capital Improvements Plan: A capital improvements plan guides the scheduling of spending on public improvements. A capital improvements plan can serve as an important mechanism to guide future development away from identified hazard areas. Limiting public investment in hazardous areas is one of the most effective long-term mitigation actions available to local governments.

Historic Preservation Plan: A historic preservation plan is intended to preserve historic structures or districts within a community. An often overlooked aspect of the historic preservation plan is the assessment of buildings and sites located in areas subject to natural hazards to include the identification of the most effective way to reduce future damages. This may involve retrofitting or relocation techniques that account for the need to protect buildings that do not meet current building standards, or are within a historic district that cannot be easily relocated out of harm's way.

Zoning Ordinances: Zoning represents the primary means by which land use is controlled by local governments. As part of a community's police power, zoning is used to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Since zoning regulations enable municipal governments to limit the type and density of development, it can serve as a powerful tool when applied in identified hazard areas.

- The Virginia General Assembly enacted the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act in 1988, requiring local governments statewide to include water quality protection measures in their zoning and subdivision ordinances and in their comprehensive plans. Although the Act was developed with the intent of improving water quality throughout Virginia, the regulations have the additional benefit of controlling or restricting development in floodplain areas. The CBPA Overlay District consists of three components: Resource Protection Area (RPA) that includes a 100 foot RPA buffer, a Resource Management Area (RMA), and the Intensely Developed Areas (IDA). The lands that make up Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas are those that have the potential to impact floodplains and water quality most directly. Generally, there are two main types of land features: those that protect and benefit water quality (RPAs); and those that, without proper management, have the potential to damage water quality (RMAs). Areas with intensive waterfront industrial land uses and activities are categorized as IDAs.

Subdivision Ordinances: A subdivision ordinance regulates development of housing, commercial, industrial or other uses, including associated public infrastructure, as land is subdivided into buildable lots. Subdivision design that accounts for natural hazards can dramatically reduce the exposure of future development.

Building Codes, Permitting and Inspections: Building codes regulate design and construction standards. Permits are issued and work is inspected on new construction and building alterations. Permitting and inspection processes both before and after a disaster can affect the level of hazard risk faced by a community.

- The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) is administered by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development and regulates construction and maintenance of buildings and structures throughout the Commonwealth. The 2012 version of the International Building Code and International Fire Code were adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia and are in effect in Hampton Roads since 2014.

Floodplain Management

The NFIP contains specific regulatory measures that enable government officials to determine where and how growth occurs relative to flood hazards. Participation in the NFIP is voluntary, but is promoted by FEMA as a crucial means to implement and sustain an effective hazard mitigation program.

In order to join the NFIP, a community must adopt flood damage prevention ordinance development standards in the floodplain. These standards require that all new buildings and substantial improvements

to existing buildings be protected from damage by the 100-year flood, and that new floodplain development shall not aggravate existing flood problems or increase damage to other properties.

Another key service provided by the NFIP is the identification of flood hazard areas. FIRMs are used to assess flood hazard risk, regulate construction practices, and set flood insurance rates. FIRMs are an important source of information to educate residents, government officials, and the private sector about the likelihood of flooding in their community.

Detailed information on each community's NFIP participation history and current map status are provided in Sections 5 and 6: **Table 5.3** summarizes NFIP participation for Hampton Roads communities, along with general NFIP policy data, while **Tables 5.4** and **5.5** provide the repetitive flood losses; and **Table 6.1** provides information on freeboard requirements. Each of the communities that participates in the NFIP has designated a floodplain manager in their floodplain management ordinance and each community in the NFIP has created a very specific Mitigation Action in the Mitigation Action Plan in Section 7 that addresses actions they will consider in the near-term to address their commitment to continuing their participation in the NFIP. Noteworthy accomplishments in floodplain management are also found at the end of this section, broken out by community. **Table 6.2** provides additional summary information on how the NFIP is managed in each of the participating communities in Hampton Roads, and notes specific actions or programs of interest in each community, especially with regard to their flood ordinances which are typically zoning overlay ordinances.

TABLE 6.2: NFIP MANAGEMENT IN PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

SUBREGION	COMMUNITY	Designated Floodplain Manager/Agency	CFM on Staff?	Notes on Floodplain Management Ordinance and Administration
Peninsula	Hampton	Water Resources Engineer	Yes, 4	The City last updated their ordinance 2014 and included 3 feet of freeboard in the SFHA and 1.5 feet of freeboard outside the SFHA. Most ordinance administration is by Community Development or Public Works. The CBPA protects natural and beneficial functions of floodplains in some areas. ECs are maintained in digital format.
	Newport News	Cartographic Specialist	Yes, 2 in Engineering and 1 in Emergency Management	Ordinance was updated in 2014 and requires 2 feet freeboard. Codes Compliance maintains ECs and performs inspections of floodplain construction.
	Poquoson	Building Official	Yes	Last updated in 2014, the City's ordinance has many higher standards, including coastal A Zone, and freeboard of 3 feet. The ordinance is administered by the Building Official within the Permit Office.
	Williamsburg	Zoning Administrator	No	The City last updated their ordinance in 2015, adopting the State's model ordinance, with 2 feet of freeboard for nonresidential structures and 18 inches for residential structures. The narrow floodplains of Williamsburg do not lend themselves to development pressure; the ordinance is administered as a zoning ordinance by the Zoning Administrator.

TABLE 6.2: NFIP MANAGEMENT IN PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

SUBREGION	COMMUNITY	Designated Floodplain Manager/Agency	CFM on Staff?	Notes on Floodplain Management Ordinance and Administration
	James City County	Proffer Administrator	Yes	The ordinance is contained in the Zoning Ordinance and was last updated in 2015 to include 2 feet of freeboard, and many prohibited uses in the SFHA such as manufactured homes, storage/transport of hazardous materials. It also has higher standards for fill. Community Development office administers the ordinance.
	York County	Chief of Stormwater Programs	Yes	The ordinance is contained in the Zoning Ordinance and requires 3 feet of freeboard for residential structures and an additional foot of freeboard for structures in the Coastal A Zone.
Southside	Norfolk	Floodplain Administrator (Planning)	Yes	Revisions to ordinance approved 2014 with several higher standards, including 3 feet freeboard, and coastal A zone regulation to V Zone standards. City has robust flood mitigation program, CRS program and ordinance administration system through City Planning, Building Safety and the Development Services Center.
	Portsmouth	Environmental Manager	Yes	Zoning related inquiries and information regarding floodplains is handled by the Department of Neighborhood Advancement. The City has a robust flood mitigation program and CRS program. Last updated in 2015, the ordinance requires 3 feet freeboard and V Zones requirements for coastal A Zone structures.
	Suffolk	Director of Planning and Zoning	No	The floodplain management ordinance was updated in 2015. Flood damage is tied to the assessor's record for properties. High water mark data is collected along the Nansemond River at North Main Street. The City does not maintain ECs digitally.
	Virginia Beach	Public Works Director	Yes, but not required by ordinance. 2 in Planning, 2 in Public Works, 1 in Emergency Management	The City ordinance requires 2 feet of freeboard. The ordinance had a major rewrite in 2013 and it includes several higher standards, including compensatory fill in some areas, and no new residential structures on lots created after October 23, 2001. 38% of the SFHA is protected as open space. Lowest floor data for new structures is recorded in online permit record and EC is attached to Certificate of Occupancy. USCG installing 10 tide gauges with real time data to be publicly available. City has a Southern Rivers watershed buffer and the CBPA buffers which help protect natural and beneficial functions of floodplain.
	Chesapeake	Director of Development and Permits	Yes	Ordinance was updated in 2014 and includes 1.5 feet of freeboard. The City maintains ECs digitally.
Western Tidewater	Isle of Wight County	Director of Planning and Zoning	Yes	The County has freeboard of 1.5 feet required by ordinance, has no freeboard outside the SFHA, and is working on joining the CRS.

TABLE 6.2: NFIP MANAGEMENT IN PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES

SUBREGION	COMMUNITY	Designated Floodplain Manager/Agency	CFM on Staff?	Notes on Floodplain Management Ordinance and Administration
	Smithfield	Town Manager	No	Ordinance does not require freeboard and is administered by Planning, Engineering & Public Works.
	Windsor	Planning and Zoning Department	No	Ordinance does not require freeboard and is administered by Planning and Zoning Department.
	Franklin	Director of Community Development	Yes	The City has freeboard of 2 feet. Ordinance was updated in early 2016. City routinely considers higher standards and the impact when updating ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan promotes a greenway along the Blackwater River and zoning protects open space along the river. The City is considering joining the CRS. Online maintenance of ECs is under development. The Downtown area has a Flood Recovery Plan.
	Southampton County	Director of Community Development	Yes	The County recently adopted the State Model Floodplain Ordinance and included 1.5 feet of freeboard. Residential structures are required to have large, front-yard-type, setbacks along waterfront, rather than smaller rear yard setbacks as is typical not along waterfront. Comprehensive Plan encourages conservation easements/ag and forestal districts and reforestation of clear-cut properties as well as a number of environmental goals to protect waterways and wetlands, Nottoway and Blackwater Rivers are part of State Scenic River program, limiting development that visually impacts rivers, thereby helping limit development in the floodplain.
	Boykins	Mayor	No	Ordinance requirements administered by town staff, as required, although the towns are exploring an MOU for County administration.
	Branchville	Unknown	No	Ordinance requirements administered by town staff, as required, although the towns are exploring an MOU for County administration.
	Courtland	Mayor	No	Ordinance requirements administered by town staff, as required, although the towns are exploring an MOU for County administration.
	Ivor	Clerk	No	Ordinance requirements administered by town staff, as required, although the towns are exploring an MOU for County administration.

An additional indicator of floodplain management capability is participation in the CRS. The CRS is an incentive program that encourages communities to undertake defined flood mitigation activities that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP, adding extra local measures to provide protection from flooding. The creditable CRS mitigation activities are assigned a range of point values. As points are accumulated and identified thresholds are reached, communities can apply for an improved CRS class rating. Class ratings, which run from 10 to 1, are tied to flood insurance premium reductions as shown in **Table 6.3**. As class ratings improve (decrease), the percent reduction in flood insurance

premiums for NFIP policy holders in that community increases. Every 500 points accumulated is equal to a 5% reduction in flood insurance premiums.

TABLE 6.3: CRS PREMIUM DISCOUNTS, BY CLASS	
CRS CLASS	PREMIUM REDUCTION
1	45 percent
2	40 percent
3	35 percent
4	30 percent
5	25 percent
6	20 percent
7	15 percent
8	10 percent
9	5 percent
10	0 percent

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Community participation in the CRS is voluntary. Any community that is in full compliance with the rules and regulations of the NFIP may apply to FEMA for a CRS classification better than class 10.

- As of October 2015, there were six communities in the study area participating in the Community Rating System: Hampton (Class 8); James City County (Class 7); Norfolk (Class 9); Poquoson (Class 8); Portsmouth (Class 9); and York County (Class 8). Being in the CRS shows continued compliance with the NFIP on the part of these communities.

Floodplain Management Plan: A floodplain management plan (or a flood mitigation plan) provides a framework for the identification and implementation of corrective and preventative measures specifically designed to reduce the impacts of floods.

- The City of Portsmouth is the only community in the study area that adopts a separate floodplain management plan, but the community uses this hazard mitigation planning document to develop and enact flood mitigation activities.

Open Space Management Plan: An open space management plan is designed to preserve, protect and restore largely undeveloped lands, and to expand or connect areas in the public domain, including parks, greenways and other outdoor recreation areas. Open space management practices are consistent with the goals of reducing hazard losses, such as the preservation of wetlands or other flood-prone areas in their natural state.

Stormwater Management Plan: A stormwater management plan is designed to address flooding associated with stormwater runoff. The stormwater management plan is typically focused on design and construction measures that are intended to reduce the impact of frequent urban nuisance flooding.

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the lead agency for developing and implementing statewide stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution control programs to protect the Commonwealth's water quality and quantity. Currently, three laws apply to land disturbance activity in Virginia: the Stormwater Management Act (§ 62.1-44.15:24 et seq.), Erosion and Sediment Control Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.), and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (§ 62.1-44.15:67 et seq.). These laws evolved at different times, have been administered by different agencies throughout the years, and created three distinct regulatory programs with varying requirements. At the request of the Chairs of the Virginia House and Senate Natural

Resources committees, DEQ pulled together a group of stakeholders to consider ways to streamline and possibly combine these programs. The goal is to make the requirements clearer, more consistent and more “user-friendly”, while continuing to ensure the protection of the Commonwealth’s water quality. The Department asked representatives of all affected constituencies to take part in this important effort – including local governments, the development community, environmental organizations, agriculture, and others.

- Local governments in Virginia are required to administer the stormwater management laws and regulations promulgated by the State through local ordinances.

Administrative and Technical Capability

The ability of a local government to develop and implement mitigation projects, policies, and programs is directly tied to its ability to direct staff time and resources for that purpose. Administrative capability is evaluated by determining how mitigation-related activities are assigned to local departments and if there are adequate personnel resources to complete these activities. The degree of intergovernmental coordination among departments will also affect administrative capability associated with the implementation and success of proposed mitigation activities. Technical capability is evaluated by assessing the level of knowledge and technical expertise of local government employees, such as personnel skilled in using GIS to assess community hazard vulnerability.

Staff interviews were used to capture information on administrative and technical capability through the identification of available staff, and available personnel resources, whether through consultants or collaborators with community government. **Table 6.4** provides a summary of the results. A checkmark (✓) indicates that local staff members are tasked with the services listed.

TABLE 6.4: RELEVANT STAFF / PERSONNEL RESOURCES

COMMUNITY	Planners with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Engineers or professionals trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards	Emergency manager	Floodplain manager	Land surveyors	Scientist familiar with the hazards of the community	Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards	Personnel skilled in Geographic Information Systems and/or HAZUS	Resource development staff or grant writers
PENINSULA										
Hampton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Newport News	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Poquoson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Williamsburg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
James City County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
York County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
SOUTHSIDE										
Norfolk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Portsmouth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Suffolk	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Virginia Beach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Chesapeake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Franklin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
WESTERN TIDEWATER										
Isle of Wight County	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Smithfield	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Windsor										
Southampton County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boykins		✓								
Branchville										
Capron										
Courtland	✓	✓								
Ivor										
Newsoms										

Fiscal Capability

The ability of a local government to take action is often closely associated with the amount of money available to implement policies and projects. This may take the form of grant funding or locally-based revenue and financing. The costs associated with mitigation policy and project implementation vary widely. In some cases, policies are tied to staff time or administrative costs associated with the creation and monitoring of a given program. In other cases, direct expenses are linked to an actual project such as the acquisition of flood-prone homes, which can require a substantial commitment from local, state and federal funding sources.

Staff interviews were used to capture information on fiscal capability through the identification of locally available financial resources. **Table 6.5** provides a summary of the results. A checkmark (✓) indicates that the listed fiscal resource is locally available for hazard mitigation purposes.

TABLE 6.5: FISCAL CAPABILITY									
COMMUNITY	Capital Improvement Programming	Community Development Block Grants	Special Purpose Taxes	Gas / Electric Utility Fees	Water / Sewer Fees	Stormwater Utility Fees	Development Impact Fees	General Obligation Bonds	Partnering Arrangements or Intergovernmental Agreements
PENINSULA									
Hampton	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Newport News	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Poquoson	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Williamsburg	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
James City County	✓	✓							✓
York County	✓	✓							✓
SOUTHSIDE									
Norfolk	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓
Portsmouth	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Suffolk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Virginia Beach	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chesapeake	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WESTERN TIDEWATER									
Isle of Wight County	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Smithfield	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Windsor	✓	✓					✓		✓
Franklin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Southampton County	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Boykins		✓						✓	
Branchville		✓						✓	
Capron		✓			✓			✓	
Courtland		✓			✓			✓	
Ivor		✓			✓			✓	
Newsoms		✓						✓	

Political Capability

One of the most difficult capabilities to evaluate involves the political will of a jurisdiction to enact meaningful policies and projects designed to reduce the impact of hazards. The adoption of hazard mitigation measures may be seen as an impediment to growth and economic development, which may adversely impact other hazard-related initiatives. Mitigation may not generate the same level of interest among local officials when compared with competing priorities.

Self-Assessment of Capabilities

In addition to the inventory and analysis of specific local capabilities, communities should self-assess their capability to implement hazard mitigation activities. Officials were encouraged to consider the barriers to implementing proposed mitigation strategies in addition to the mechanisms that could enhance or further such strategies. The committee classified each of the capabilities as either “limited,” “moderate” or “high.”

Table 6.6 summarizes the results of the self-assessment process. An “**L**” indicates limited capability; an “**M**” indicates moderate capability; and an “**H**” indicates high capability.

TABLE 6.6: SELF ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL CAPABILITY					
COMMUNITY	Planning and Regulatory Capability	Administrative and Technical Capability	Fiscal Capability	Political Capability	Overall Capability
PENINSULA					
Hampton	H	H	M	M	M
Newport News	H	H	M	H	H
Poquoson	H	H	M	M	H
Williamsburg	H	H	H	H	H
James City County	H	H	M	H	H
York County	H	H	M	H	H
SOUTHSIDE					
Norfolk	M	H	M	H	M
Portsmouth	M	M	L	M	M
Suffolk	M	H	M	L	M
Virginia Beach	M	H	M	L	M
Chesapeake	H	H	M	M	H
WESTERN TIDEWATER					
Isle of Wight County	H	M	M	M	M
Smithfield	L	L	L	M	L
Windsor	L	L	L	L	L
Franklin	M	M	L	M	M
Southampton County	M	M	L	M	M
Boykins	L	L	L	M	L
Branchville	L	L	L	M	L
Capron	L	L	L	M	L
Courtland	M	M	L	M	M
Ivor	L	L	L	M	L
Newsoms	L	L	L	M	L

INTEGRATING MITIGATION MEASURES INTO COMMUNITY LIFE

The success of future mitigation efforts in a community can be gauged to some extent by its past efforts. Previously implemented mitigation measures indicate that there is, or has been, a desire to reduce the effects of natural hazards, and the success of these projects can be influential in building local government support for new mitigation efforts. Additional capability toward realizing mitigation goals is built through the integration of mitigation strategies into other local planning and administrative tasks.

While the notes below are not an exhaustive list of all mitigation actions taken in the region, they do provide a summary of very recent mitigation measures undertaken by communities in Hampton Roads and describe how many of the communities have integrated their mitigation strategies into other planning mechanisms. Additionally, as noted in the *National Mitigation Framework*, the aspects of leadership, collaboration, partnership building and education/skill building have been shown in the following notes whenever possible.

Regional Activities

- Prepared grant application for hazard mitigation plan update that combines 7 existing plans into 1 large regional plan. Updated plan will streamline the list of hazards to align more closely with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The All-Hazards Advisory Committee (AHAC) was formed in 2015 to bring together mitigation practitioners from each of the HRPDC communities. This group is helping the PDC administer the mitigation planning contract among other tasks.
- Coastal Virginia CRS Users' Group meets every other month to review best practices of other communities and stay up to date on floodplain management and CRS issues. Consulting hazard mitigation planners for the HRPDC updated the group on how to create and update mitigation capability analyses at spring 2015 meeting.
- Each community's comprehensive plan, Old Dominion University/VIMS/HRPDC recent publications on sea level rise, and the State Hazard Mitigation Plan were used and will continue to be used to carefully update the goals and objectives in the HMP to align with existing plan goals at the State and regional levels.
- Each community strives to include mitigation planning committee members who were also involved in the comprehensive planning process. This helps ensure consistency across planning documents. Since there are 14 comprehensive plans to consider during this HMP update, it is expected that common themes can be found that will help focus the HMP goals and objectives in a manner consistent with the 14 comprehensive plans.

City of Hampton

- The City's Fire Department Public Educator has added more hazards to her 4th grade fire presentation.
- The 2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan, especially HIRA information, was integrated into City's 2014 Emergency Operations Plan update.
- Hampton and Newport News applied for and received a hazard mitigation grant to add a generator to Hines Middle School, which is one of the shelters in the City's MOU with Newport News.
- Hampton received a State Homeland Security Grant in 2014 to add specialized items for sheltering children, such as highchairs and pack and plays.
- As a result of a previous HMP action to evaluate/review options for more effective public warning systems to upgrading/replace existing reverse 911 system, in 2013 Hampton switched to Everbridge which provides more options for alerting the public. This system is also integrated with the system being used by VDEM.
- HMP action to educate elected officials and residents on the importance of the NFIP has resulted in a multi-agency effort to provide flood insurance brochures at all outreach events. The

importance of flood insurance is in the City's general presentation that is given to the public on emergency management.

- A high priority action in the HMP was to support mitigation of priority flood-prone structures through promotion of acquisition/demolition, elevation and flood proofing of non-residential projects where feasible using FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs where appropriate. The City has hired new staff to implement grants and has several on going home elevation projects, including:
 - Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program 2012 – Project is to elevate 4 SRL residences
 - DR-4024 (Disaster mitigation funding from Hurricane Irene) – Project is to elevate 8 flood prone residences (7 on RL list)
 - DR-4042 (Disaster mitigation funding from Mineral, VA earthquake) – Project is to elevate 8 flood prone residences (6 SRL, 1 RL)
 - FMA 2013 (Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program) – 2 Projects to elevate 10 SRL residences
- The City has implemented a revolving loan fund for residential elevation projects. The revolving loan program is up and running. It is the only program of its kind, in Virginia, for residents to apply for low-interest loans to help with qualifying mitigation projects. This project is supported by the Office of Emergency Management, Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and Old Point National Bank. Hampton would like to assist other localities in setting up a similar program.
- Mitigation action to provide NOAA weather radios to high risk populations was funded and completed with weather radios provided to residents that live in mobile homes in Hampton in April 2015.
- HMP mitigation action to evaluate the relocation of Hampton City Schools Maintenance Building was implemented by chance when the building was destroyed by a tornado that hit Hampton on January 11, 2014. The building was not rebuilt.

City of Newport News

- The Comprehensive Plan update process during the summer of 2015 examined goals, objectives, and actions from the previous HMP. Many of the same planning teams will be involved in both updates.
- The emphasis on floodplain management through ordinance administration in the HMP resulted in flood ordinance changes in 2014 that included adoption of freeboard.
- Certified Floodplain Managers, a professional certification program administered by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, increased in number across at least 2 departments and they participate in hazard mitigation planning on a regular basis.
- The City Watch program was expanded to include post-disaster messages as a result of a careful capability analysis.
- The City formed a Generator Committee to address needs in the City identified during hazard mitigation capability review.
- A mitigation action in the previous plan recommended developing a natural hazards school curriculum. Existing Fire Department programs were expanded to address this need.
- The previous HMP identified City Line apartments as a high hazard area and some retrofits were made to the complex's HVAC system. Additional flood protection measures for this and an adjacent housing complex are being pursued in conjunction with the City of Hampton, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other State and Federal agency partners.

City of Poquoson

- The City has inserted a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) line item for tree trimming as reflected in the mitigation actions in the HMP, and is pursuing installation of hurricane shutters on the front of City Hall through similar measures.
- In partnership with Hampton, the two cities hired a shared grants administrator specifically to pursue funding for mitigation actions identified for sea level rise and flood mitigation.
- As part of CRS program, City is forming a Program for Public Information (PPI). A regional PPI is under consideration by several adjacent communities.

City of Williamsburg

- The City has and maintains StormReady designation and has discussed pursuit of the designation with the College of William and Mary, as well.
- The stormwater program has started a series of inter-departmental training sessions to help other City staff who are out in neighborhoods to recognize problems associated with drainage maintenance, including waste dumping, improper use of drains and proper notification of problems. Drainage system maintenance is a medium priority action in the HMP and this innovative method for addressing maintenance problems has been well-received in by the Fire Department.
- Shelter generator maintenance program called for in the HMP has been implemented through the CIP, with a regular maintenance budget and real-time monitoring software included.
- Strengthening the GIS capability was a medium priority in the last two HMPs. The City has now hired a part-time person and hazard-related GIS data gathering has been accomplished, including verification of hydrant locations and identification/mapping of critical structures and infrastructure.
- Mitigation action in HMP called for exploring feasibility of a Disaster-Resistant University plan with the College of William & Mary. The university did their own plan in 2013.

James City County

- Repetitive flood loss data is reviewed annually as part of the County's participation in the CRS, or when the data is made available. This action is included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan but is also part of the County's plan to address flood mitigation through the CRS.
- Two major theme parks in the County, Busch Gardens and Water Country, received StormReady designation through NOAA.

York County

- A mitigation action in the Hazard Mitigation Plan suggests evaluating sustainability and safety of critical facilities. The county's ongoing plan for generator replacement is now tied to the CIP.
- York County, Newport News and Newport News Waterworks work jointly on forest management at the Waterworks-owned property. Fire trails are regularly maintained.
- Part of staff responsibilities include making information/speakers available to business for contingency planning as needed, or as requested. This is a mitigation action identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and reflected in day-to-day operations.
- The County adopted 3 feet of freeboard for structures built or substantially improved in flood hazard areas. Freeboard was recommended as an action in the hazard mitigation plan.
- Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2013 echoes several of the hazards included in the previous hazard mitigation plan, and proposes Implementation Strategies to address them in great detail. The shoreline erosion strategies will continue to be referenced, or included directly, in the 2017 update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

City of Norfolk

- Updated Comprehensive Plan was adopted March 26, 2013, and was recognized as an example of content and metrics to include in a comprehensive plan. The plan was also recognized for its inclusion of sea level rise, flooding and mitigation actions as part of the metrics.
- As a result of a previous mitigation action plan strategy to expand existing notification systems, several City departments have come together to expand the City's ability to notify the public. Sources include real-time updates the web page, email distribution lists, Facebook and Twitter.
- The City continues to update the flooding awareness webpage, accessible from the homepage. A cross-departmental Flood Awareness Committee was formed, and also provides quarterly updates to citizens as well as to the professional community regarding the City's progress on flood mitigation as well as providing an opportunity for dialogue for all interested stakeholders.
- The City is part of the Rockefeller Foundation RE.invest Initiative which explores ways the private sector can be engaged to enhance flood protection in some older areas of Norfolk with a history

of flooding. The city is currently reviewing a report of actions and deliverables from the RE.invest group.

- The city is recognized as part of the initial cohort of the 100 Resilient Cities. Also funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the program provides access to a worldwide network and knowledge base that will be able to identify additional strategies to help the City be more resilient to physical, social, and economic threats. As a result, the city has appointed a Chief Resiliency Officer.
- As a result of a previous mitigation action plan strategy, City and Norfolk Public Schools have funded and are in the design phase of multiple school replacements throughout Norfolk. These new facilities will replace older facilities that do not meet current requirements for stormwater management and, in some cases, elevation for flood protection. New structures will meet these requirements and provide safer emergency shelters in times of need.
- Public Works has completed improvements to Brambleton Avenue that provide better access and egress to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital and Eastern Virginia Medical College during storm and flooding events.
- After a storm or flooding event occurs, properties that have received damage are mapped using GIS as part of the damage assessment reporting. Damage assessment training is provided each spring for staff that inspect properties after events.
- The city uses a new data tracking software of storm events (STORM) for live input of information from the public that is used to provide guidance to city staff regarding where problems exist during storm events.
- Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance were approved and implemented on January 1, 2014. These revisions allow for development to be more resilient to flood damage. These changes are expected to help lower the city's CRS classification and further reduce flood insurance premiums for property owners in the city.
- The city has acquired Everbridge, calling it Norfolk Alert, to alert property owners in flood-prone areas of need for evacuation or other short-term actions ahead of, during or after events.
- The City's GIS department developed a tool termed the Tidal Inundation Tracking Application for Norfolk (TITAN) that shows potential flooding based on current tide projections or other hypothetical scenarios.

City of Portsmouth

- In addition to HMP, Portsmouth has a Floodplain Management Plan that is updated on a 5-year cycle, just before the hazard mitigation plan. Plans are slightly redundant, but serve different purposes. The FMP will be consulted as the HMP is updated through 2016 to avoid conflicts and echo priorities for flood mitigation.
- Flood Information Pamphlets are distributed by several City departments, including recently to all rental units as inspections are completed, and at the public counters in Planning and Inspections. Originally developed for CRS and repetitive loss mailings, pamphlets have an expanded purpose and audience in recent years.
- Staff created a "flood speakers bureau" for Civic Leagues and has attended 4 civic/neighborhood meetings to speak.
- Floodplain Management function was transferred to the Department of Neighborhood Advancement in August 2013. New web page was created in 2014.
- Emergency evacuation plan was a priority in the previous mitigation plan. Action on this item is strategically on hold in order to use new LIDAR data received in August 2014. First step is creating a list of flood prone streets and then routing evacuation. Fire Department, Engineering and Public Works are all involved in listing flood-prone streets. USACE is also involved.
- Staff training on the NFIP is a priority in the HMP. Staff provided training to City Council and Planning Commission on BW '12 and other NFIP legislative changes to increase knowledge and allow integration of NFIP information in City planning strategies.
- Identifying and funding drainage improvements and protecting water/sewer infrastructure from flooding is a high priority in the HMP and FMP. Work has been coordinated between several departments and an outside engineering firm, and funded through capital improvements planning. New stormwater lines are being replaced with larger lines and outfalls are getting flood gates.

New and retrofitted pump stations can be quickly connected to generators or auxiliary pump connections.

- GIS is being used to map flood-prone properties that store hazardous materials as identified by the Fire Department. This inter-departmental use of funds was a priority in the FMP. This action increases the City's ability to identify capability gaps with regard to fire and flood as compounding hazards.
- While not complete, an interdepartmental effort to help special needs homes develop emergency operations plans is underway. This priority of the FMP will tie together several existing plans for flood, emergency operations and outreach/warning.
- Many plans and actions by the City are becoming dependent on an agreed-upon rate of sea level rise for a specific time period. Using the VIMS study and efforts by ODU, Portsmouth has settled on a rate of 7 feet of sea level rise by 2100. This is a subtle, but important accomplishment for moving several plans and projects forward.

City of Suffolk

- Information from the 2011 HMP was incorporated into the 2015 Revision of the City of Suffolk Emergency Operations Plan and into the 2015 revision to the City of Suffolk Hazardous Materials Response Plan.
- Flood hazard risk and vulnerability information was considered for the City's 2035 Comprehensive Plan and the recent FIRM updates.
- As a result of a previous mitigation action plan strategy, a FIRM viewer and a Hurricane Surge Viewer are in place on the City's Emergency Management website in the "Flooding" tab. A PDF document also resides there for users who are not comfortable with mapping programs.
- Suffolk OEM answers email and phone requests for address-specific flood data. Personalized maps can either be generated in the office or during community outreach events.
- Hurricane/tropical storm/flood safety talks are delivered upon request to church, civic and community groups.
- Hurricane/flooding preparedness brochures are placed at local libraries, the visitor's center and other public buildings around the city.

City of Virginia Beach

- Together with the AHAC, the City is considering working toward a regional recovery framework. This is an offshoot of the City's mitigation action regarding developing a regional MOU for recovery and mitigation.
- The 2015 Comprehensive Plan update references the hazard mitigation plan update process. The timing did not facilitate inclusion of the existing mitigation actions because those actions were updated immediately thereafter during the update. The Sustainability Plan references the Hazard Mitigation Plan content in the appendices, echoes the goals and objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and contains a flood component to address the interrelationship of flood mitigation and sustainability.
- The ComIT Data Center relocation mitigation action has not occurred, but the City has used the recommendation from the plan to push for generator/battery backup and consolidation of data centers as a first step. Relocation of the center will be changed to a high priority action due to the increasing recognition of the importance of this action to City operations.
- The City changed floodplain management ordinance to adopt two feet of freeboard for structures built or substantially improved in flood hazard areas.
- City is aggressively tackling enforcement issues in floodplains.
- City is integrating floodplain management more widely into other community actions such as the preliminary development review process which includes flood mitigation recommendations early in the process and the formation of the City Manager's Sea Level Rise/Flooding Work Group.
- Although the Hazard Mitigation Plan is not referenced per se in the annual CIP, projects are included that reflect mitigation actions from the plan on a regular basis. One example was the relocation and rebuilding of the City's Animal Control Facility. Another example is the complete replacement of the public safety communication hardware and the 6-year spending/replacement plan that is reflected in each CIP.

- Public information, particularly regarding floodplain management, has been redesigned on the City's web site and the site references and includes information from the HIRA in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- CERT curriculum was revised to include damage assessment and storm preparation advice as a result of mitigation actions and hazard information included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The City's Urban Forestry Management Plan, a component of the Comprehensive Plan, was published in 2014 and includes strategies for better management of dunes and landscaping in V Zones. The plan is expressly tied to the Sustainability Plan, the city's stormwater management regulations, the Strategic Growth Area Plans, and the Outdoors Plan, and includes a reference to Sea Level Rise as a threat to tree cover in the City.
- The City recognizes the importance of sand management strategies for maintaining beaches, like Sandbridge, and plans to use the HMP update process to reinforce the importance of ongoing actions that are being implemented through other planning mechanisms.

City of Chesapeake

- Chesapeake has attained a Class 8 rating in the CRS program, qualifying all Chesapeake residents for a 10 percent discount in flood insurance premiums, due to its continued vigilance in floodplain management, open space policies, public outreach in flood issues, and acquisition, demolition and elevation of severe repetitive flood loss properties through various grant programs.
- The City has expanded its ability to notify the public of potential flood hazards by using Everbridge, which is a part of Chesapeake Alert. Additionally, Emergency Management has coordinated with our Public Information offices and Public Works to provide the public with real-time updates via its City webpage, Facebook and Twitter.
- Chesapeake provides continued information on flood-related issues, including the NFIP, via the City's home web page and the Emergency Management web page.
- The City of Chesapeake has acquired \$7,515,092.00 in FMA grant funds over the past seven years to acquire and demolish 25 and elevate five severe repetitive loss structures.
- The City has committed in its CIP the following:
 - \$1.5 million for public works infrastructure system replacement and upgrade in the South Norfolk/Liberty Street area to protect and enhance drainage for this flood-prone area.
 - \$5 million to a five-year public works project that increases resiliency in the South Norfolk/Oakdale area and the city is in the conceptual stage of a drainage improvement project totaling \$800,000 in the South Norfolk/Portlock area, which will be under construction in 2016.
 - All projects are designed for Best Management Practices, designed to collect storm water runoff, reduce soil erosion and remove pollutants. The outcome will be to substantially alleviate the repetitive flood problems in that area, to build social and physical resiliency for the low- to moderate-income population, and to encourage economic resiliency through infrastructure that encourages and supports economic revitalization in the South Norfolk area, an area that is on the upswing.
 - The South Norfolk target area will also see increased resiliency from a Chesapeake/Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) project. \$8 million will be spent in the South Norfolk to replace the 100-year old wastewater transmission lines. HRSD is an award-winning, industry leader at the national, state, and local levels in protecting public health and the waterways, and the regional wastewater treatment agency that treats water for Chesapeake and other localities in Hampton Roads.
 - Chesapeake has budgeted \$7 million for the Bainbridge Boulevard corridor five-year public utilities project. The City's dedication to building resiliency for its citizens and to businesses is typified in this project that will improve resiliency by decreasing risk associated with flooding's effect on the public utilities. By burying utilities along that the Bainbridge Boulevard corridor, the city will eliminate the risk of utility interruption created during floods. This will create a more resilient infrastructure that will generate greater social and economic benefits in the South Norfolk low- to moderate-income community.

Improved infrastructure is an asset in building economic revitalization, as well as in improving utility service to residents during tidal flooding and/or heavy rains, including rains from hurricanes.

- Chesapeake begins its hazard mitigation planning through the Natural Event Mitigation Advisory Committee (NEMAC). NEMAC is a citizen/city staff advisory committee appointed by City Council to advise it on all hazards and report yearly on progress in mitigation and resiliency. NEMAC's 8 citizens (who form the quorum) is supported by 9 city department representatives, with each department representing a part of mitigation problems and solutions. NEMAC meets 6 times a year to plan for hazards, to make recommendations for improvements in the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to increase resiliency, and to provide oversight on accomplishing the actions recommended in the HMP. One particular resiliency improvement overseen by the NEMAC was providing guidance to include sea level rise and land subsidence in the 2014 HMP as a Critical Hazard-Moderate Risk.

Isle of Wight County

- As a result of a mitigation action in the HMP, staff have been cleared to move forward with CRS application-related activities.
- Comprehensive Plan updates in the region have included resource conservation areas. Sea level rise continues to be a consideration for future planning efforts.
- Stormwater drainage in floodprone areas has been identified as a local hazard and related action to implement a drainage plan is being acted upon through implementation of a stormwater master plan in development.
- Flooding of access roads identified as a problem in the HIRA. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns and maintains all roadways in the county. County has recently added a transportation planner/VDOT liaison to staff to help with coordination of issues like this. Similarly, an extra fueling station for county vehicles was needed and recently installed in conjunction with the new volunteer rescue squad building.

City of Franklin

- Southampton County and the City of Franklin implemented a "shared services" Community Development Department recently that had the effect of reducing costs, increasing available services, and increasing efficiencies, including sharing a Building Official who is also a CFM.

Southampton County

- The draft Comprehensive Plan is expected to be adopted in June 2015. The plan includes many hazard identification and risk assessment elements from the previous HMP in Chapter 7, Environment. There is information on storm tracks, flooding/floodplains, wetlands, and repetitive flood loss areas in the county and towns. Implementation strategies in the comprehensive plan were also coordinated with the mitigation actions in the previous HMP.
- CFM training for staff was indicated as a high priority in the previous HMP. The County and the City of Franklin implemented a "shared services" Community Development Department recently that had the effect of reducing costs, increasing available services, and increasing efficiencies, including sharing a Building Official who is also a CFM.
- Two additional staff in the Franklin/Southampton Community Development Department are working to become CFMs in calendar year 2015.

Town of Boykins

- An acquisition project on Spring Garden Street is complete with the exception of 1 vacant home. Boykins Volunteer Fire Department acquired and cleared the remaining structures.
- Identified as a problem flooding area in the HIRA, the town has done what they can to clean out Tarrara Creek. Private property owners have removed beaver dams and other impediments.
- The mayor is going to put a flyer on each door in town reminding people to sign up for the county's reverse 911. He'll mention it at town council meetings and put it on the town's updated website, which he will ask the county to link to from the county site.

Town of Newsoms

- Drainage improvements to eliminate standing water in yards and drainage ditches as identified in a 2011 stormwater study were targeted as a high priority in the previous HMP. Town procured a grant in 2012 to evaluate storm drainage and recommend improvements. Preliminary engineering report was completed. Town applied for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and, as part of the application, also completed a preliminary housing assessment in 2013. The grant was denied, but the Town will seek additional funding sources.

Regional Capabilities

The communities of Southside Hampton Roads are part of HRPDC, one of 21 Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. HRPDC is a regional organization representing the area's sixteen local governments. Planning District Commissions are voluntary associations and were created in 1969 pursuant to the Virginia Area Development Act and a regionally executed Charter Agreement. The HRPDC was formed in 1990 by the merger of the Southeastern Virginia Planning District Commission and the Peninsula Planning District Commission.

The purpose of planning district commissions, 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." The HRPDC mission is to:

- Serve as a forum for local and elected officials and chief administrators to deliberate and decide issues of regional importance;
- Provide the local governments and citizens of Hampton Roads credible and timely planning, research and analysis on matters of mutual concern; and
- Provide leadership and offer strategies and support services to other public and private, local and regional agencies, in their efforts to improve the region's quality of life.

The HRPDC serves as a resource of technical expertise to its member local governments. It provides assistance on local and regional issues pertaining to Economics, Physical and Environmental Planning, Emergency Management, and Transportation. For example, the commission staff is currently working on cataloging GIS data for the region and improving compatibility of the data on a regional basis.

Additional regional capabilities exist with regard to the management of coastal zone resources in the Commonwealth. A permit must be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to build, dump or otherwise trespass upon or over, encroach upon, take or use any material from the beds of the bays, ocean, rivers, streams or creeks within the jurisdiction of Virginia. The permitting process is designed to reduce the unnecessary filling of submerged land, to minimize obstructions or hazards to navigation and to avoid conflicts with other uses of state-owned submerged lands or state waters.

In addition, the VMRC is responsible for managing and regulating the use of Virginia's tidal wetlands in conjunction with Virginia's local wetlands boards. Under Virginia law, tidal wetlands include both vegetated and non-vegetated intertidal areas. Vegetated wetlands include all the land lying between and contiguous to mean low water and an elevation above mean low water equal to a factor 1.5 times the mean tidal range at the site and upon which is growing at least one of the botanical species specified in the Virginia Wetlands Act. Non-vegetated wetlands include all the land lying contiguous to mean low water and between mean low water and mean high water at the site.

Technical assistance and advice on dredging and filling operations that involve subaqueous bottoms and wetlands, all aspects of the marine environment, marine science and marine affairs is available from the VIMS. The institute provides technical assistance, often at no cost, to businesses whose development plans have impacts on marine resources.

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM Program) was established in 1986 to protect and manage Virginia's "coastal zone." The CZM Program is part of a national coastal zone management program, a voluntary partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and U.S. coastal states and territories authorized by the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The Virginia program was established through an Executive Order, which is renewed by each new governor. The program is not a single centralized agency or entity, but a network of state agencies and local governments which administer the following enforceable laws, regulations and policies that protect our coastal resources:

- Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands;
- Fisheries;
- Subaqueous Lands;
- Dunes and Beaches;
- Point Source Air Pollution;
- Point Source Water Pollution;
- Nonpoint Source Water Pollution;
- Shoreline Sanitation; and
- Coastal Lands.

The geographic areas of particular concern for the CZM Program include:

- spawning/nursery/feeding grounds;
- coastal primary sand dunes;
- barrier islands;
- significant wildlife habitat areas;
- significant public recreation areas;
- significant sand and gravel resource deposits;
- underwater historic resources;
- highly erodible/high hazard areas; and
- waterfront development areas.

Currently, some of the projects that the CZM Program is pursuing that have applications with regard to hazard capabilities include: adapting to climate change, special area management planning, coastal land conservation, shoreline management, and public access.