VIRGINIA WORKING WATERFRONT MASTER PLAN
(MIDDLE PENINSULA, NORTHERN NECK, EASTERN SHORE AND HAMPTON ROADS)

Guiding communities in protecting, restoring and enhancing their water – dependent commercial and recreational activities

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HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO WATER
ADDRESSING WORKING WATERFRONTS

INDIRECT PROJECTS

MMFCD

- Exploring the policy and permitting complexities of floating structures (e.g., Anderson Neck, L.D.C.)

National Working Waterfront Symposium

- Tacoma, Washington

NOAA / EDA

- An effort to develop federal policy focused on creating community and economic tools for preserving WW.
  - VIMS Marine Advisory Services is partnering with the Institute to develop a national tool.

NCCBPAA and MFCBPAA

- Shallow water dredging policy and financing

MPFDC

- Low & Policy for Floating Homes study and report

National Working Waterfront Symposium

- Portland, Maine

MPFDC

- Funded through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management to develop new public policy to support and sustain a sustainable working waterfront infrastructure

MPFDC

- Work River Use Conflict

National Working Waterfront Symposium

- Norfolk, Virginia

DIRECT PROJECTS

MPFDC

- Development of a Virginia Working Waterfront Plan

MPFDC, MFCBPAA, and WW Coalition Project

- Aberdeen Creek Master Plan, MBFPR

- Aberdeen Creek TIF, MFCBPAA

- Aberdeen Creek TIF, MFCBPAA: MMFDC and NNCBPAA Coalition Partners will coordinate and convene a working waterfront summit and develop a report.

NCBPAA

- Economic Analysis and Permit Wharf Waterfront Revitalization

- WW Coalition Project

- Case Studies: Working Waterfront Businesses that have Ceased Operation (2012-2013): MMFDC, NNCBPAA, & MFCBPAA will report on case studies of businesses. In their region, including legacy planning.

- WW Coalition Project

- VIMS Marine Advisory Services

- Received Section 309 funding from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program to develop a WW Strategy for the MMFDC. MMFDC, NNCBPAA, & AMFDC.

  - Phase 1: 4 PDC’s will...: TD
    - How important is that piece? Comparison of infrastructure utilization regions/water body

MPFDC

- Permit River Commercial Seaford Harbor Master Plan

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- In conjunction with the Harbor Master Plan, Virginia DEQ CZM funded the MBFPR to transfer and make improvements to Permit River,
GOAL OF PLAN: GUIDING COMMUNITIES IN PROTECTING, RESTORING AND ENHANCING THEIR WATER – DEPENDENT COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
1. Congress should adopt a national **Working Waterfront Preservation Act**. (Congressman Rob Wittman)

2. Congress should **reinstate funding for the shallow channel-dredging** program of the Army Corps of Engineers.

3. The US Maritime Administration should **designate additional America’s Marine Highway Program corridors** in Virginia.

4. The National Park Service should more actively **promote the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay Historic Trail**.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

1. Enact a Working Waterfront Preservation Act,
   - Establish a legislative study commission with members representing a broad cross-section of stakeholder groups to review the long-term viability of Virginia’s working waterfronts,
   - Establish a shallow channel dredging matching grant program,
   - Dedicate the marine motor fuel tax and other marine related taxes/fees to working waterfront improvements,
   - Enable localities to establish Working Waterfront Development Areas.
   - Enable localities to classify commercial fishing vessels and related equipment as a separate class of personal property,
   - Expand the Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Fund to include private investment a smaller commercial harbors, and
RECOMMENDATIONS: STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS CONT.

2. The Governor should:
   - Issue an Executive Order establishing priority for working waterfront improvements in numerous State administered grant programs – Community Development Block Grant, Transportation Alternatives Program, Clean Water, etc.,
   - Establish an advisory group to evaluate the relaxation of State storm water and Chesapeake Bay Act regulations related to development at working waterfront locations, and
   - Charge the Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resiliency with the long-term planning for the resiliency of select working waterfronts of regional importance.

3. The VA Port Authority should expand funding for small port and harbor improvement throughout Tidewater Virginia.

4. The Commonwealth should continue active fishery resource management and Chesapeake Bay cleanup programs.

5. The Commonwealth should establish adequate workforce development programs and facilities for the changing marine related industries.
RECOMMENDATIONS: REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

1. The coastal Planning District Commissions should:
   - Continue research and planning for the preservation and redevelopment of working waterfronts,
   - Increase technical assistance to local governments towards the preservation and redevelopment of working waterfronts,
   - Serve as the test demonstration organization/site for working waterfront preservation methods, and
   - Create revolving loan funds for commercial waterfront development and equipment financing.

2. Use the Public Access Authorities for future acquisition and development of select working waterfront sites.
RECOMMENDATIONS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Coastal local Governments should:

- **Adopt a working waterfront policy** as a part of the comprehensive plan or as an independent policy,
- **Establish permissive, by right, zoning policies** for working waterfronts,
- **Establish local taxation policies** that stimulate water dependent business development (personal property, real estate, BPOL, and machinery and tools taxes),
- **Extend local zoning provisions to cover land and water uses** to avoid future conflicting water uses,
- **Establish a set of development incentives** to encourage the appropriate use of working waterfronts,
- **Invest in the development** of select working waterfronts,
- Use the appropriate development districts (EZ, Technology Zone, CDA, TIF, etc.) to achieve the desired development objectives along the working waterfront, and
- **Plan for adaptation and resiliency** of public facilities along the waterfront.
1. **Education** of the public, community leaders and decision makers on the importance of our working waterfronts to our economy and our culture.
   - Identify those who may not see value in a state wide WW Plan and help to educate
   - Some in the seafood industry have objected to government planning

2. Conduct sufficient **succession planning** to ensure continuation of marine businesses.

3. **Plan for the resiliency** of private waterfront businesses at our working waterfronts.
SHARING THIS PLAN

• Each PDC will present the plan to their Commission
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} Virginia Working Waterfront Conference – Williamsburg, VA
  o December 2, 2016
  o Invitees: Decision makers, state/local government staff, seafood industry and general public
• Seek legislation