



**VIRGINIA COASTAL
RESILIENCE
MASTER PLAN**
2021



**Newport News Underserved Community Meeting
Summary Report**

Meeting Date: September 20, 2021
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
Attendance: 8 in person; 7 via Zoom
Commonwealth Staff: Josh Saks; Meryem Karad

Overview: Josh Saks welcomed everyone and conducted a power point presentation. He addressed participants' questions. Participants made notes about flooding challenges on the maps and circled where they lived. There were several questions and comments posted in the Zoom chat that were read by Meryem.

Participant Comments and Questions

- Salter's Creek deals with major flooding, however, there have been major improvements made. There still needs to be a plan executed and funds are needed.
- Low-income homeowners do not have the funds or means to begin home repair and it results in mold and other damages, which then leads to further problems (health and costly medical bills as a result of the flooding). How can we go about creating relief programs for these low-income communities?
- Lack of sewage systems and major problems with standing water impacting college students (Hampton University). The surrounding streets are all in water. 80th Street to Jefferson Avenue is experiencing major flooding issues. Blackout's due to floods are increasing crime rates. Making it extremely difficult financially for college students at Hampton University.

- Concerns that if VA does not get ahead and execute flood plans that communities will be “under” the flooding.
- How does the community protect themselves from flooding in the lower east end?
- Funding is going towards the community preparedness fund and lower income communities
- \$80,000,000-\$100,000,000 dollars a year for Virginia preparedness
- At the state level the goal is to help people think beyond the short-term plan of flood resilience and think long term
- In the master plan they would like to work with the state, local, communities, etc.
- What is VA doing to help schools to become more resilient? Can we incorporate more funds in creating schools in areas that are not flood prone?
- Has this organization designated what you all consider flood zones so the community knows who can apply for the funds?
- One does not need to be in a flood zone, unless you are doing a project. The engineering firm is doing sophisticated mapping so that the state is aware of these flood prone areas and who needs the most funding.
- People can hardly afford rent, let alone flood insurance. Is there funding to help members that cannot afford flood insurance.
- The plan is to reduce insurance rates, by generating plans to reduce flooding as a whole. The master plan is to create safety so that people do not have to solely rely on flood insurance.
- What does the state require for more recycling bins in low income communities and equal housing? Plastic and trash are backing up sewage drains.
- Maybe start a petition to bring in more recycling centers in the community because the drains being stopped up by trash is creating a lot of flood related issues.
- Can the funds encourage swales and settlement bases that will help reduce flooding and heat islands?

