

TAC Finance Subcommittee Recommendations

A. Establish a Mechanism for Ensuring the State's Overarching Resilience Funding Priorities Are Taken into Account (Not Just Local)

1. Incorporating a more regional perspective, and with a stated timeframe
2. Incorporating a financial analysis of adaptation options for public infrastructure while also considering other policy factors that may not be exclusively financial in nature

B. Provide Funding for State Climate Adaptation Planning Staff

In order to effectively maintain, update and implement the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, the Commonwealth will need adequate staff. This staff could be placed under the supervision of the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection and/or in one or more state agencies. They could coordinate with the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and other members of the Cabinet to ensure that both the natural and built environment are considered in climate adaptation planning. Functions of this staff would include, but not be limited to:

- maintenance of a **state website** about climate adaptation planning
- continued **operational support** of the Coastal Resilience **Technical Advisory Committee and its Subcommittees, or a newly-created state resilience authority** (see [developmentauthority.final1.pdf \(wm.edu\)](#) for more information)
- coordination of the **state's resilience project priorities** with local or regional project priorities
- reviewing all **state capital expenditure programs** to ensure they require an assessment of the resilience of the selected project before funding is provided (see [CCRFR-BrandedReport-Tourism-Report-FINAL.pdf \(floodingresiliency.org\)](#), p. 22)
- serving as funding advisors for the four regions laid out in the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework (Hampton Roads, Rural Coastal VA, Fall Line North, Fall Line South). These positions could be funded via a dedicated source and would be responsible for:
 - Maintaining the **Financing tab** of the Coastal Projects Database by keeping funding sources, requirements, deadlines, etc. up to date and keeping their assigned localities apprised of critical changes and deadlines.
 - **Assisting localities** in determining and navigating appropriate funding mechanisms and grant/loan sources, assisting with writing grant applications and finding proposal partners, developing finance mechanisms, assisting with securing acceptable match for grants as required, tracking progress on funded activities, and assisting with complex financial management and implementation of these activities.
 - Maintaining the **Projects tab** of the Coastal Projects Database through continuous contact with their assigned localities. This would include annual re-prioritization of projects in their region based on what was funded and what has not yet been funded, but is still needed.

Funding for these positions could come from RGGI auctions or another source determined by the legislature.

C. Establish a Resiliency Revolving Loan Fund

In order to create an additional perpetual funding source for resiliency projects in Virginia, the Commonwealth could consider establishing a resiliency revolving loan fund to finance projects that fall outside of the scope of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund or, due to capacity constraints, cannot be funded from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund at a given time. The resiliency RLF could be modeled after the Virginia Airports Revolving Fund, which offers maximum application and loan flexibility to borrowers. The resiliency RLF could be established with a direct appropriation from the General Assembly or from another identified funding source; other funding mechanisms could include special purpose taxes administered and/or delivered through an entity similar to a Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). Loans made from the resiliency RLF could be used to meet matching requirements of other funding sources, to provide 'gap financing' needs for projects that have not identified 100% of the needed project costs from other sources, or to provide more flexibility in funding resilient elements of projects that are not otherwise resiliency projects. It also could establish an alternative fund in the event that proceeds derived from RGGI auctions significantly decline in the future. Additionally, interest earnings from loans made through the Resiliency Revolving Fund could potentially provide grant funds for regional planning completed by planning district commissions.