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

July 27, 2016
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HISTORICAL CONNECTION TO WATER
GOAL OF PLAN: GUIDING COMMUNITIES IN PROTECTING, RESTORING AND ENHANCING THEIR WATER – DEPENDENT COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
RECOMMENDATIONS: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

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,
   a. 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,
   b. Establish a **shallow channel dredging matching grant program**,
   c. Dedicate the **marine motor fuel tax and other marine related taxes/fees** to working waterfront improvements,
   d. Enable localities to establish Working Waterfront Development Areas.
   e. Enable localities to **classify commercial fishing vessels and related equipment as a separate class of personal property**,
   f. Expand the **Port of Virginia Economic and Infrastructure Development Fund** to include private investment in smaller commercial harbors,
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.
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.
RECOMMENDATIONS: PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIONS

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
- 2nd Virginia Working Waterfront Conference - Williamsburg, VA
  - December 2, 2016
  - Invitees: Decision makers, state/local government staff, seafood industry and general public
- Seek legislation