

LANCASTER COUNTY

Resilience Action Checklist

The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool



TOP PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS IN THE NEXT YEAR WITH SUPPORT FROM THE RAFT

- ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-STAKEHOLDER RESILIENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Establish a community resilience planning committee composed of broad representation, including representatives from local government, non-profit groups, state agencies, and residents. Collect data on septic systems and evaluate the county's septic vulnerabilities to flooding in coordination with VDH, NNPDC, and ODU. This data will be used to improve the county's septic and well inventory. Establish a standard process for updating septic and well inventory records for shared agency use. Conduct a public education campaign focused on sea level rise, with particular emphasis on communicating potential impacts on private well and septic systems.
- DEVELOP A RESILIENCE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND TOOLS**

Work alongside county staff, school staff, emergency managers, service providers, and local DSS representatives to develop a county-wide resilience communication strategy that reaches across siloed communities with clear, consistent messaging. Improve broad public outreach communications on resilience topics including emergency preparedness. Improve information distribution to the public on available social services in coordination with community partners, with an emphasis on reaching vulnerable populations. Create plans and tools to improve coordination and planning between county staff and service providers for emergency preparedness and response.
- RESTORE PUBLIC BEACHES AND ENSURE COMMUNITY BEACH ACCESS**

Restore public access to Windmill Point Beach by conducting beach restoration, installing breakwaters and other shoreline and road erosion protection measures, and developing public access points. Consider pursuing National Fish and Wildlife Federation funds or Stormwater Local Assistance Fund grants to support this effort, drawing from connections to the project's potential to benefit stormwater management.
- CONDUCT A TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT AND INCREASE TREE CANOPY**

Conduct a tree canopy assessment to identify opportunities to increase tree canopy in urban and rural areas with a focus of increasing resilience. Work with Friends of the Rappahannock and the NN SWCD to support tree plantings and giveaways in Morattico and Kilmarnock. Complete tree planting projects in Belle Isle State Park.
- REVIEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO INCORPORATE RESILIENCE**

Conduct an objective review of the Comprehensive Plan to identify opportunities to incorporate resilience, including considering potential impacts to critical infrastructure and services, especially

regarding vulnerable populations. Compare and align the Comprehensive Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan. Conduct a community vulnerability analysis to inform Comprehensive Plan updates. The analysis will identify vulnerable populations' risk to hazards such as transportation crossings that disconnect people, the relocation of elderly and others with limited mobility or cognition during major events, and electricity-dependent populations in case of more than one to two days of electricity loss.

This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on June 30th, 2020. This document is intended to be static and record the outcomes of that workshop. However, the checklist items and their details may evolve over the course of the year-long implementation of The RAFT in response to the changing circumstances and needs of the community.

OTHER ATTENDEE-SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR FUTURE RESILIENCE EFFORTS

Outside of the scope of the RAFT's implementation support

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS

- "Helping Neighbors" hot meal program. Currently implemented during COVID-19 to provide hot meals from local restaurants to seniors or those with disabilities with a delivered meal twice weekly. Delivery by volunteers. Can be expanded to any vulnerable population and implemented during any emergency situation. (No income requirement or lack of mobility requirement, unlike Meals on Wheels).
- Bike/walking trail (for both recreation and connectivity) to enhance tourism.
- Provide incentives for private property activities that manage stormwater such as tax deductions. Incentives to create more resilient private properties (managing water quantity and quality), economic benefits of water resources - living shorelines, etc.
- Giving businesses resources to prepare for challenges like COVID-19, disasters. Consolidating various information sources to be more manageable, targeted at businesses - business resilience, COOP, succession planning.

OTHER IDEAS IDENTIFIED

- Digitize the radio system (amateur radio group).
- Participate in the CRS Program, with a goal of adopting standards that go beyond the minimum requirements, including: Chesapeake Bay Act buffer requirements; Wetlands Watch feasibility study; freeboard, prohibit certain structures, manufactured homes, new structures.
- Increase funding opportunities/avenues for LS projects. For example, complete living shoreline projects that did not qualify for VCAP cost-share funding - need funding sources identified. At least a dozen projects that could be identified. Regional issue, not just Lancaster County. Because most of the shoreline is privately owned, important to have incentives to encourage LS implementation. Areas of opportunity include: Windmill Pt., Morattico, and Lawsons Island. Focus on a specific area and work to establish continuous living shoreline.
- Develop utility scale solar regulations that protect natural resources, sensitive areas, waterways, etc.

Acknowledgment of Funders

This RAFT product was created with funding from:

Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation

We are grateful to these funders for supporting various phases of The RAFT from 2015-Present.

Anonymous

Environmental Resilience Institute at the University of Virginia

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

School of Architecture at the University of Virginia

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program*

Virginia Environmental Endowment

Virginia Sea Grant Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program

For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ienvirginia.edu

* This RAFT product, Task # 92.03 was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant FY19 # NA19NOS4190163 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

The views expressed in The RAFT's various products are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the funders mentioned above.

