

MATHEWS COUNTY

Resilience Action Checklist

The RAFT | Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool



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

- DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH**

Expand accessibility of information and resources (such as assistance programs and grants) through a more comprehensive approach to outreach and distribution of information. This will involve using non-traditional communication methods and outreach venues that are more accessible or informal, and relying on a wide range of trusted messengers to deliver and disseminate information. Examples include resilience-focused community training and dialogue on resilience topics and using community science opportunities to encourage community participation.
- ADDRESS VULNERABILITY OF PRIVATE WELL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

Develop an approach for (1) identifying private owners of well and septic systems that are vulnerable to sea level rise, (2) communicating this vulnerability and potential impacts, and (3) connecting property owners to assistance programs to address well and septic vulnerability, such as the VDH program that can provide direct funding to contractors for septic and well repairs for seniors and low-income residents.
- COMPREHENSIVELY PLAN FOR PRESERVING AND SUPPORTING THE WORKING WATERFRONT**

Develop a plan for preserving and supporting the working waterfront by (1) supporting watermen and businesses, (2) prioritizing water access and public docks, and (3) increasing investment to secure, retrofit, rebuild, and update public access areas.
- ADDRESS VULNERABILITY OF SHORELINE PROPERTY**

Develop an approach for (1) assessing vulnerability of private property in terms of shoreline erosion, (2) providing recommended solutions, and (3) connecting property owners to available assistance programs. This can take the form of existing written advisory reports from SEAS, and historically-excluded and underserved populations should be prioritized and targeted for assistance.
- INCREASE RESILIENCE OF BUSINESSES**

Support businesses address vulnerability and improve resilience. This could include targeting businesses located along the water and physically vulnerable, ensuring affordable housing for the workforce, addressing barriers of entry into specific industries (e.g. licensing, start-up costs, etc.), and developing land to support business and industry.

OTHER ATTENDEE-SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR FUTURE RESILIENCE EFFORTS

- Ensure water access and dockage for commercial entities.
- Develop resident emergency plans that identify preparedness actions such as places to go during an event and things to do.
- Analysis of areas where managed retreat may be a better option than adapting in place.

This checklist was developed by community participants in the online Resilience Action Workshop, conducted and facilitated by The RAFT three-university Collaborative Team on January 28th, 2022. 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.

**RAFT team recommends the creation of a Resilience Committee as a way to create and sustain momentum to build resilience in the long term. We recognize, based on our experience with coastal communities in Virginia, and consistent with best practices in resilience planning and implementation, that communities benefit from more comprehensive and coordinated approach to building resilience. Establishing a Resilience Committee is key to establishing a foundation for sustained efforts in building resilience. The RAFT team has developed a [worksheet](#) to assist communities in establishing a Resilience Committee structure and framework, and if you decide this would benefit your community we can facilitate your discussion.

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For more information visit The RAFT website: raft.ien.virginia.edu

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