

RICHMOND 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 RESILIENCE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Develop a strategy to improve communications both between County departments and with the public on topics encompassing hazard planning, emergency management, and resilience more broadly, paying particular attention to effective communication with vulnerable populations. In developing the strategy, coordinate with the Department of Social Services, schools, faith-based organizations, and Bay Aging, and incorporate complementary means of communication. Conduct outreach in English and Spanish. Cover topics including severe weather, evacuation zones, and septic information. Consider updating the CodeRED database to include weather alerts and group evacuation notifications by zone.

❑ ESTABLISH A COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Create a long-term resilience coordination committee to implement the Resilience Communication Strategy, providing oversight and coordinating resilience efforts in the county beyond the one-year scope of The RAFT implementation team.

❑ SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO ACQUIRE FUNDING TO EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS

Identify and work to acquire funding (including subsidies) to expand broadband service by installing mid- and last-mile broadband infrastructure.

❑ CREATE A COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN AND EXPAND FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Create a forestry plan for the county to increase tree canopy in urbanized areas (e.g., Warsaw) and along the coast; identifies target areas for riparian buffer plantings and wildfire buffers; and identifies existing core forest and agricultural lands that may be ideal for conservation easements. In addition, expand tree planting projects and giveaways, beginning in Warsaw, building off of existing VDOF and NNSWCD projects. Complete tree planting projects at Fones Cliffs Refuge tract.

❑ DEVELOP UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR REGULATIONS

Contribute to the development of regulations for solar installations in the county (and region), by participating in the multi-county working group that is exploring rural utility solar expansion and its impacts. Ensure that these regulations will protect natural resources, environmentally sensitive areas, and waterways.

❑ INTEGRATE RESILIENCE INTO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



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Review the Comprehensive, Hazard Mitigation, and Capital Improvement Plans for ways that resilience can be integrated, including sea level rise projections, flood hazards, septic and well inundation, wildfire risks, mitigation, impacts on vulnerable populations, critical infrastructure and services, as well as potential funding mechanisms.

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 15th, 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

- Identify training for county floodplain manager (FPM) on role and responsibilities. Increase understanding of FPM role, especially with respect to building projects, tracking projects, etc.
- Assess vulnerable communities' risk levels for disasters and emergencies. Include elderly/nursing home population, Amish/Mennonite communities, and incarcerated populations.
- Evaluate and understand septic vulnerabilities in collaboration with VDH, PDC and ODU. Develop a pilot project to collect data on existing septic (focus on type, age, location, ownership, and status). Potential exists for a regional project.

OTHER IDEAS IDENTIFIED

- Promote cost-share incentives for home and business owners to mitigate stormwater issues.
- Encourage waterfront property owners in existing communities to consider multi-parcel shoreline protection strategies before they pursue individual approaches. Most likely the local wetlands board could play a role in promoting. (See example of the Simonson NFWF project.)
- Evaluate and understand health inequities linked to race, ethnicity, and income using existing data.
- Explore alternatives to traditional health provision models, including community paramedicine and telemedicine. Telemedicine efforts must go hand-in-hand with connectivity infrastructure expansion. There is an opportunity to build on an existing pilot project out of VCU in Westmoreland, Essex, and Richmond Counties.
- Increase funding opportunities and avenues for living shoreline projects. For example, prioritize completing living shoreline projects that did not qualify for VCAP cost-share funding. Because most of the shoreline is privately owned, it is important to have incentives to encourage living shoreline implementation.
- Identify planning needs and projects which could potentially be funded by the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. This is expected to begin in 2021 with funding through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- Identify key economic impacts and monetary losses that significant storm events could cause. Conduct a regional economic impact analysis for resilience similar to those completed in other regions.



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- Pursue Scenic River designation for the lower Rappahannock. This designation doesn't necessarily limit river use. Requires a declaration of support from the County Board of Supervisors.
- Create a program to support small businesses in preparing for disasters.
- Obtain a rescue boat for EMS/VFD operations.
- Develop a countywide community wildfire protection plan to identify highest risk "communities," provide an opportunity for hazard mitigation, and increase awareness of potential hazards to woodland homeowners.

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

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