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Fall 2021

Newsletter (Fall 2021)

Virginia Coastal Policy Center, William & Mary Law School

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WILLIAM & MARY
LAW SCHOOL

VIRGINIA COASTAL
POLICY CENTER

News of the Coast: Fall 2021

*Join us for an upcoming webinar CLE co-sponsored by
VCPC and the VSB Environmental Law Section:*

**Virginia's Climate Change Strategies: Addressing Climate Change in a
Fractured Legal and Policy Environment**

Registration details and CLE credits pending:

<https://www.vsb.org/site/members/mcle-courses#courses>



Welcome Fall VCPC Practicum!

*Looking forward to an exciting semester with two
field trips highlighting climate change impacts,
including one to Bacon's Castle for a presentation
about History Under Water.*



FLOATING CLASS FIELD TRIP

In our Floating Class with the James River Association, VCPC Practicum students paddled Powhatan Creek and learned about human impacts on water quality.

Virginia Finalizing Its First Coastal Master Plan

The Commonwealth is in the process of finalizing its first Coastal Resilience Master Plan. Based upon the Framework issued by the Northam Administration last year, the Master Plan is being developed by Dewberry with input from a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) appointed by the Governor and led by the Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. The Plan will be finalized by November, and the members of the TAC expressed hope at their last meeting that the next Administration will continue the Commonwealth's coastal resilience efforts. More information can be found on [the Coastal Resilience Master Plan webpage](#) and the [TAC webpage](#).

Meet Some Wave-Making Student Projects

Greg Fowler, Carbon Sequestration Task Force

Greg Fowler is a 2L and VCPC research assistant supporting the Carbon Sequestration Task



Force called pursuant to Senate Bill 1374 (2021). VCPC is providing supportive research and drafting a report on the task force's work studying possible methods to increase carbon sequestration in Virginia.

Jake Haddad & Liz Davis, Resilience in Transportation

Jake Haddad is a 3L VCPC clinic student and Liz Davis is a PhD candidate at VIMS. Jake and Liz are conducting research to define resilience for purposes of a new Virginia law. Chapter 51 of the 2021 Acts of Assembly has an enactment clause that requires the Commissioner of Highways to include “resiliency” in VDOT design standards for new construction.



The team will research other state best practices to determine how "resilience" could be interpreted and what types of projects or measures the new language could affect. The team will also make recommendations based on their research, and propose revisions to the SMART Scale criteria to include predictive flooding and to include resilience as a specific consideration.



Summary of the RAFT Northern Neck Workshop on 8/18

We are enormously grateful for the turnout and participation at the August 18th Northern

Neck RAFT One Year Progress Workshop. This year's workshop included the RAFT Core Team sharing resilience tools, and also included locality presentations.

The goal of The RAFT is to help Virginia's coastal localities improve resilience to flooding and other coastal storm hazards while remaining economically and socially viable. The RAFT consists of an assessment of localities' resilience, community workshops to develop resilience action checklists, and twelve months of support in implementing those checklists. The RAFT's work will continue in 2022 with localities in the Middle Peninsula.

If you are interested in our work and would like to contribute, please get in touch with VCPC Director Elizabeth Andrews, vacoastal@wm.edu



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