

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Minutes of July 17, 2025 Meeting

The July 17, 2025 meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) was called to order by the Chair at 12:34 p.m. in the Regional Board Room located at 723 Woodlake Drive in Chesapeake, Virginia with the following in attendance:

Commissioners in Attendance:

Shannon Glover, Chair (PO)
Jimmy Gray, Vice-Chair (HA)
Andrew Trivette, Treasurer (WM)*
Patricia King (CH)*
Christopher Price (CH)*
Debbie Ritter (CH)
Brian Solis (CH)
Ella Ward (CH)*
Michelle Ferebee (HA)
Carol Steele (GL)
Joel Acree (IW)
Don Robertson (IW)
Steven Carter (PO)

David Hux (PQ)
Randy Wheeler (PQ)
William Gillette (SH)
Brian Thrower (SH)
Albert Moor (SU)
Lue Ward (SU)*
Patrick Duhaney (VB)*
Bobby Dyer (VB)
Worth Remick (VB)
Joash Schulman (VB)
Mark Bellamy (YK)
Sheila Noll (YK)

Commissioners Absent:

Paul Kaplan (FR)
Rosylen Oglesby (FR)
Phillip Bazzani (GL)
Mary Bunting (HA)
Michael Hipple (JC)
Scott Stevens (JC)
Alan Archer (NN)
Phillip Jones (NN)
Cleon Long (NN)
Kenneth Alexander (NO)
Carlos Clanton (NO)

Courtney Doyle (NO)
Jeremy McGee (NO)
Patrick Roberts (NO)
Steven Bowman (SM)
Michael Stallings (SM)
Leroy Bennett (SU)
Walter Hardy (SY)
Melissa Rollins (SY)
Barbara Henley (VB)
Amelia Ross-Hammond (VB)
Douglas Pons (WM)

Executive Director:

Robert A. Crum, Jr., Secretary

Other Participants:

Brian DeProffio (HA)
Jason Purse (JC)
David Freeman (NN)

Trista Pope (NO)
Barbara Ramsey (WM)
Lauren Roberts Carter (CAC)

**Late arrival or early departure*

Others Recorded Attending:

Bryan Spivey (Bolton); Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Collin Johnson, and Randy Keaton (Resident); Peter Shaw (Future of Hampton Roads); Willough Perry (Hampton Roads Alliance); Nancy Grden and Drew Lumpkin (Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable); Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA); Mindy Carlin (HRT); Angela Hopkins and Jerri Wilson (NN); Bryan Pennington (NO); Rhonda Russell (PO); Jeanne Darby Hubbard (PQ); Marcellus Nixon (SNA); Kevin Hughes and Nicole Porter (SU); Ed Reed (Two Capitols Consulting); Andrew Damon and Brent McKenzie (VB); Erin Carter, James Coleman, Ben Green, and Blaine Hutchens (U.S. Senator Mark Warner's Office); Joel Rubin (WINDSdays); and Greg Grootendorst, Husain Alegimenlen, Sean Asbrand, Kelli Arledge, Shernita Bethea, Robert Cofield, Emma Corbitt, Katie Cullipher, Simone Elmore, KC Filippino, Markay Hall, Tealen Hansen, Nikki Johnson, Whitney Katchmark, Sara Kidd, Matt Klepeisz, Andrew Margason, Ben McFarlane, Quan McLauren, John Mihaly, Adithi Moogoor, Cynthia Mulkey, Ivy Ozmon, Pavithra Parthasarathi, John Sadler, Jill Sunderland, Dale Stith, Tho Tran, Joe Turner, Christopher Vaigneur, and Eric Walberg (HRPDC/HRTPO Staff).

Chair Shannon Glover welcomed new Commission member Mr. Don Roberston, Isle of Wight County, County Administrator.

Approval/Modification of Agenda

Chair Glover called for a motion to approve the July 17, 2025 agenda as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Ella Ward Moved to approve the Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Albert Moor. The Motion Carried.

Public Comments

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, stated that there were no submitted public comments. He invited members of the public to address the Commission. There were no requests to provide public comment.

Chair Report

Chair Glover announced that Mr. Albert Moor, Suffolk City Manager, will retire at the end of the month, concluding a career spanning over 40 years in public service. Chair Glover recognized him for his leadership roles and service within the region.

Mr. Crum recognized Mr. Randy Keaton, who recently retired as County Administrator for Isle of Wight County and attended the meeting in the audience, for his contributions to the region.

Chair Glover announced that the November 20, 2025 meeting will be held at Christopher Newport University in Newport News.

**Commissioners Andrew Trivette and Lue Ward arrived*

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum referenced his monthly report in the agenda packet. He introduced Ms. Adithi Moogoor, who joined the HRPDC as housing specialist on July 1, 2025.

Mr. Crum invited Mr. Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC Deputy Executive Director, to address the Commission and provide information on the handouts distributed in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Grootendorst referenced the Start in Hampton Roads handout and stated that the Hampton Roads Workforce Council and the Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable are leading a regional talent marketing pilot to address outmigration, talent attraction, and talent retention.

The GO Virginia handout addressed the 2025 Growth and Diversification Plan, which is required to receive funding through the GO Virginia initiative. The Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable developed this plan in partnership with the Hampton Roads Alliance, the Old Dominion Dragas Center, and the HRPDC.

Lastly, Mr. Grootendorst referred to the Economic Monthly, created by Ms. Nikki Johnson, HRPDC Regional Economist, highlighting the latest economic topics relevant to the region. This month's edition focuses on shipbuilding and repair, which was allocated \$29 billion through the budget reconciliation bill signed into law last week. Mr. Grootendorst stated that over 20% of the nation's shipbuilding and repair employment occurs in Hampton Roads.

The handouts are available on the HRPDC website using the following links:

- Start in Hampton Roads Regional Initiative:
https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14838/071725-PDC-05B_Handout-Start-in-Hampton-Roads-Regional-Initiative-PDF?bidId=
- Go Virginia Region 5 2025 GD Plan:
https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14839/071725-PDC-05C_Handout-GO-VA-Region-5-2025-GD-Plan-one-page-handout-FINAL-PDF?bidId=
- Economic Monthly:
https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14840/071725-PDC-05A_Handout-Economic-Monthly-July-25-PDF?bidId=

Community Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Lauren Carter Roberts stated that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met in June at the Greer Environmental Center at Virginia Wesleyan University. Additionally, the CAC Subcommittee convened to review membership applications. She stated that her goal as chair of the CAC is to increase the frequency and effectiveness of bringing information to the public to engage and receive input.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Crum noted that the Consent Agenda included the following items for consideration and approval:

- Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2025 Commission Meeting
- Treasurer’s Report – May 2025
- Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment #2
- Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Contract and Agreement Extension
- Davis Ad Agency – Contract Renewal
- Fiscal Year 2026 Hampton Roads Regional Meeting Schedule

Motion: Commissioner Ward Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Moor. The Motion Carried.

Partnering with Industry for River Restoration

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer, provided context for the Buckeye implementation project. Many years ago, the state developed a strategy for cleaning the Bay and assigned pollution reductions to different sectors, such as wastewater, agriculture, and urban. Much of the urban reductions need to come from unregulated, non-permitted entities, which account for 10% of the pollutant loads in the region. This project aims to work with private industry to directly implement projects that improve water quality in this sector and reduce runoff going to the Elizabeth River.

Dr. KC Filippino, HRPDC Senior Water Resources Planner, stated that the project started in 2020 while working with the state to find solutions to address unregulated urban stormwater. Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) was received to identify potential industrial partners with property located along the waterways in Hampton Roads. With the help of a consultant, a list was developed to include industry recognition programs, working towards sustainability goals, and willing to implement projects.

Several recognition programs are available, such as the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program, the Elizabeth River Project’s Riverstar Business Program, and the askHRgreen.org Bay Star Business program. The data collected through these programs, in addition to a survey, was used to find a good candidate for a pilot project. For this purpose, Buckeye Terminals was picked. Buckeye is willing to implement projects, as it also needs to address legacy contamination from an old creosote plant. Buckeye is also part of a larger plan for revitalizing the Elizabeth River and is included in the City of Chesapeake’s Industrial Waterfront Plan.

The project’s overall goals were to construct a living shoreline, restore contaminated parcels or Brownfields, and increase green space. More funding from NFWF aided in building a rock sill backfilled with sand and marsh plants to create a living shoreline. Native grasses were planted to increase the habitat of oysters, fish, and shellfish and reduce stormwater runoff.

As a team-building exercise, 50 Buckeye staff volunteered to plant over 15,000 plants with oversight from the Elizabeth River Project.

A Brownfields design workshop was held to develop designs for the two contaminated parcels and educate local government staff on accessing funds and reimagining Brownfield restoration sites. Additional funding was secured to eventually revitalize these sites to address contamination, create a natural habitat, and promote conservation landscaping. To date, spraying has been eliminated, and native plants are already thriving at these sites. In the future, stormwater runoff and contamination will be addressed by adding clean soil and native plants.

Dr. Filippino highlighted the success of the project as follows:

- Learned by doing, as the HRPDC was project managing
- Pollutant reductions will be achieved
- Considerations for sea level rise
- Broadened awareness of Brownfield restoration
- Low maintenance is important
- Partnerships lead to success

Dr. Filippino stated that public procurement for a private property was difficult. Additional challenges were legacy contamination, the need to reconsider oyster habitats, rising costs, the need for more incentives, and finding more willing private partners.

Dr. Filippino concluded her presentation by summarizing the partners involved in the project.

Dr. Filippino's presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:
[https://www.hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14841/071725-PDC-08 Presentation-River-Restoration-Buckeye-PDF?bidId=](https://www.hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14841/071725-PDC-08%20Presentation-River-Restoration-Buckeye-PDF?bidId=).

Strategic Plan for Hampton Roads: Issue Prioritization

Mr. Eric Walberg, HRPDC Principal for Planning and Economics, and Mr. Tho Tran, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, briefed the Commission on this item.

Mr. Walberg began his presentation by providing background information on the strategic plan, which builds on existing local, regional, and state plans. The plan, which is required by the Code of Virginia, focuses on inter-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary issues.

The strategic plan aims to improve the quality of life, enhance regional competitiveness, promote cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and provide guidance for long-term decision-making. The plan is currently in Phase I out of II. Phase I focuses on the evaluation of the current status, which includes a compilation of regional statistics, analysis of existing plans, stakeholder engagement, and identification of regional priorities. Phase II of the project will center on establishing goals linked to the regional priorities and developing action plans to achieve these goals.

Mr. Walberg invited Mr. Tran to provide information regarding the strategic planning framework and the analytic process.

Mr. Tran stated that the strategic plan divides the region into the following six core dimensions:

- Economy
- Infrastructure
- Housing and Community Development
- Natural Environment
- Resident Well-Being
- Visitor Appeal

To create the methodology, help and input from staff, the public, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) were used. Over 50 state, regional, and local plans were evaluated. Using this information, a 12-point evaluation framework was created for the AI analysis. In order to get the best results, the AI needed to be trained with a human-in-the-loop approach to accommodate project context, literature, role, and expectations. The result of this analysis is a summary of common issues across the plans by topic.

To receive input and feedback for the strategic plan, the board room was set up in a retreat-style format to allow the Commissioners to engage more fully in the issue prioritization exercise. Nineteen prioritization items were divided into the six core dimensions mentioned above. To determine the most critical topics, the Commissioners were asked to allocate \$1,000 to these topics in \$100 increments.

First, the Commissioners were asked to determine how they would individually invest in strategies to improve the quality of life and enhance regional competitiveness. In the second part of the exercise, Commission members were asked to collaborate with the members at their tables to reach consensus on the group's top priorities.

To conclude the exercise, each table was asked to report on the priorities discussed and the decision-making process.

Commissioner Randy Wheeler reported that his group identified place-making and the road network as the most significant topics discussed. Some funding was allocated to federal spending to break the tie, leaving place-making the top priority.

Commissioner Joel Acree reported that the group determined partnering with the private sector to increase wages as another economic strategy, with an allocation of \$200. Utility investments to improve water quality were added for the natural environment category and allocated \$100. The remaining funding was allocated \$100 per topic: Public transit, road network, energy, education, regional marketing, housing, and place-making.

Mr. David Freeman stated that his group mainly focused on the economy and infrastructure categories. After discussion, \$100 each were allocated as follows: opportunity and wage,

private sector, innovation, public transit, road network, broadband, flooding, social equity, amenities, and housing.

Mr. John Sadler reported that his group prioritized energy and regional marketing as most significant, with an allocation of \$200 each. An allocation of \$100 each was decided for opportunity and wage, private sector, economic development, road network, flooding, and housing.

Commissioner Robert Dyer stated that the cost of government has risen exponentially. New revenue streams need to be created to maintain the quality of life and infrastructure. His group focused on the road network and flooding and allocated \$200 each. Additional topics discussed that received \$100 in allocations were opportunity and wage, private sector, energy, health, education, and housing.

Mr. Walberg presented the summary results by category: 32% infrastructure, 22% economy, 20% housing and community development, 10% natural environment, 8% resident well-being, and 8% visitor appeal.

For the individual categories, the ratings were as follows:

- \$900 Road network
- \$600 Place-making
- \$400 Flooding, energy, and housing
- \$300 Regional marketing, private sector, opportunity and wage
- \$200 Education, public transit, private sector wages, innovation
- \$100 Amenities, social equity, health, utility investments, broadband, and economic development

Commissioner Joash Schulman commented that he was pleasantly surprised by how well place-making and regional marketing performed. Many efforts are being made to attract talent to the region and to create a regional identity. Investments in place-making are necessary to attract businesses and establish a workforce.

Commissioner Stacy Cummings noted that the priorities might depend on the localities. Some have many parks and green areas, and place-making might not score that high in these localities due to their abundance and availability.

Commissioner Joel Acree stated that broadband may need more money allocated to keep the region competitive, especially since technology changes much faster than transportation.

The Regional Strategic Plan presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

[https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14649/051525-PDC-09_Presentation-Water-Supply-Planning-PDF?bidId=.](https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14649/051525-PDC-09_Presentation-Water-Supply-Planning-PDF?bidId=)

The handout to prioritize the categories and topics is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

https://www.hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14843/071725-PDC-09_Handout-Strategic-Plan-Issue-Prioritization---Tally-Sheet-and-Definitions-PDF?bidId=

**Commissioners Patrick Duhaney, Patricia King, Christopher Price, and Ella Ward departed*

Regional Legislative Agenda

Mr. Crum stated that for the past eight years, the HRPDC and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) have approved regional legislative agendas, which expressed the region's priorities and items the General Assembly is asked to address on its behalf.

The process for the current legislative agenda started with a meeting of the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and was continued at the HRTPO meeting earlier that day. There was conversation regarding network investments and the need for improvements to primary and secondary roads. The HRTPO supported resubmitting the legislation to establish a primary and secondary road fund. The Regional Legislative Committee, which consists of the leadership of the HRPDC, HRTPO, and CAOs, will convene, along with various committees and then present a recommendation to the Commission in the October meeting.

Mr. Crum addressed the importance of an all-of-the-above approach to energy development and the need for sufficient funding in the Commonwealth Flood Protection Fund. He added that local governments require substantial non-federal contributions to unlock federal funding for flood prevention projects.

Mr. Crum also highlighted the growing regional trail network and its appeal to young professionals seeking good jobs, affordable housing, and active transportation options. He emphasized the need to address housing issues and maintain local land use authority as the legislative process begins.

Mr. Crum announced the Hampton Roads Caucus meeting on July 30, 2025 at the Tidewater Community College Campus in Chesapeake, stating that this provides an opportunity to ask for funding from the state partners.

Chair Glover reinforced the importance of community support for the legislative agenda, particularly regarding secondary road issues. He encouraged the Commission members to participate in the Hampton Roads Caucus meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Chair Glover noted that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025. There are no HRPDC meetings scheduled for August and September 2025. He added that the November 20, 2025 meeting will be held in Newport News at Christopher Newport University (CNU).

Advisory Committee Minutes

Chair Glover stated that links to HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting minutes approved since the last Commission meeting were provided in the agenda packet for Commission member information.

Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

Chair Glover indicated that summaries of HRPDC Technical Committee meetings, including Coastal Resiliency Committee, Directors of Utilities Committee, Planning Directors Committee, Public Information Officer Committee, and Regional Environmental Committee, held since the last Commission meeting, were included in the agenda for Commission member information.

For Your Information

Chair Glover referenced the correspondence of interest included in the agenda packet for Commission member information.

Old/New Business

Chair Glover asked if there was any old or new business to discuss. There was none.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.



Shannon E. Glover
Chair



Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/ Secretary