WRTC Climate Resilience / Flooding Work Program
COG staff working document as of 11/6/20

The Water Resources Technical Committee intends to make climate resilience, including both riverine and interior flooding issues, a major priority for the committee in 2021.

Here are some of the **topics** the WRTC could address, either through presentations and discussion at its semi-quarterly meetings, through workshops or by other means.

PLANNING

- What should a comprehensive local climate resilience strategy include? (e.g., environmental, economic, and social resilience)
- Integrating the new science on changing precipitation patterns into local climate resilience strategies, including emergency response, education and outreach efforts, and BMP design and implementation
- Accounting for combined effects of climate change and land use change

DATA

- Flood risk mapping, including tidal, riverine and inland (cloudburst) flooding
- Precipitation projections
- Land use projections

REGULATIONS AND BUILDING CODES

- Potential changes to development and redevelopment requirements, including state stormwater regulations, local building regulations, floodplain building restrictions and others

MITIGATION TOOLS

- BMP considerations, including the extent to which stormwater BMP practices can provide flood mitigation benefits and the performance of stormwater BMPs under climate change-driven weather conditions
- And, the extent to which traditional flood control practices can provide water quality, stream erosion, and other environmental benefits

FINANCING

- Financing considerations, including the potential use of federal (e.g. FEMA) and state resources (e.g., VA's Community Flood Preparedness Fund) and balancing public and private investment in mitigation efforts

ENGAGEMENT

- Education and outreach efforts to help residents understand their risks and the extent to which such flooding can be mitigated by local governments (The COG Winter Weather Plan may provide a basis for region-wide messaging on some flooding issues.)

Speaker Ideas:

- Member roundtable presentations on all of these issues
- DC Water on the outcome of the Potomac and Rock Creek CSO remediation efforts (Seth Charde will speak at the Nov. 6 meeting)
- The Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA) program: ongoing work to develop a Climate Resilience Scorecard for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (and other activities to date)
- Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT): William and Mary, VIMs, etc.
- FEMA on its financing opportunities for local government, including its new "nature-based solutions" initiative under BRIC (FEMA Region III will speak at the proposed Jan. 8 meeting)
- Various state agencies that provide financial or other types of assistance to local governments
- National Weather Service on its "weather ready nation" initiative and quantitative precipitation forecasting in the Mid-Atlantic region
- DC Silver Jackets on its educational outreach efforts
- Corps of Engineers on various floodproofing projects around the region

Integration with NVRC's expanding climate resiliency / flooding work

NVRC preliminary climate resiliency / flooding work plan

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission proposes to work with stakeholders to develop a program that will create and promote coordinated messages across the region and provide educational resources related to climate resiliency, including riverine and interior flood hazards, in order to:

1. Develop a well-informed public that will understand the land use and climate trends that contribute to floods.

2. Encourage structural and landscape practices on private property that improve flood protection

3. Ensure equitable access to flood information, flood prone areas, and resources

4. Promote public safety by encouraging citizens to take risk reduction actions before, during, and after flood events.

5. Educate citizens on overland relief encroachment and ways to prevent/reduce it

6. Educate citizens on flood dangers to life and property

7. Reduce and avoid flood damage to infrastructure, public property, and private property

8. Build support for public policies that reduce flood risks.

9. Promote improved management of floodplains, streams, watersheds, and hydraulic systems.

10. Help to identify practices that provide multiple water quality and water quantity benefits and co-benefits