



PRESS RELEASE

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Rappahannock-Rapidan Region Launches Hazard Mitigation Planning Effort

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC), in partnership with its member jurisdictions, kicked off the process to update the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan this week. The current Plan was last updated in 2018, while the updated plan is expected to be completed in 2024 with the final approval of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2025. In addition to the Hazard Mitigation Plan update, RRRC will incorporate a new Regional Resilience Plan that will primarily address flooding, historically the region's biggest hazard.

FEMA defines hazards as "a source of potential danger or adverse condition" that affects communities, such as floods, wildfire and blizzards. Hazard mitigation plans identify these hazards based on historic data and community input, and outline strategies to lessen the impacts of future hazards on people and property.

Federal regulations require these plans be updated every five years to remain eligible for certain FEMA grants, programs, and disaster relief funds. Additionally, incorporation of the new Resilience Plan, will make the region's local governments eligible to apply for flood mitigation project funding through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Public participation will play a vital role in the plan update process. As an initial task, RRRC is seeking public feedback on the relevance and usefulness of the 2018 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and suggestions for improvements. The existing Plan can be found at the following link <https://www.rrregion.org/hazardmitigation>. Feedback can be sent to planinfo@rrregion.org.

In the coming months, RRRC will be coordinating a number of activities to gather community input, including a survey and public meeting. Those interested in staying informed of developments should connect with participating localities on social media or visit the RRRC website.

This effort is primarily funded through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and DCR's Community Flood Preparedness Fund grants, awarded to RRRC, as well as funding from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

For any questions or additional information, please contact the project team at planinfo@rrregion.org.

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact RRRC at (540) 829-7450 or planinfo@rrregion.org.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento especial de acuerdo con el Americans with Disabilities Act, o personas que requieren servicios de traducción (libre de cargo) deben comunicarse RRRC at (540) 829-7450 or planinfo@rrregion.org.

About the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, The Plains, Washington, and Warrenton. The 21-member RRRC board includes elected and appointed officials appointed by each member jurisdiction. Localities with greater than 3,500 residents appoint two members to the regional commission, while localities with fewer than 3,500 residents appoint one member to the regional commission.

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission facilitates a collaborative approach to regional cooperation, and serves as a convening forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials, regional stakeholders and citizen members. The Regional Commission coordinates a broad range of regional planning activities – including multi-modal and human services transportation, environmental planning, homelessness and affordable housing coordination, regional tourism, agricultural, and economic development activities. The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission is located in Culpeper, VA, and can be found online at <http://www.rrregion.org/>.