



**VIRGINIA COASTAL
RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE**

No Adverse Impact: Strategies to Curb Growing Flood Losses

Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative Annual Conference

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

William & Mary School of Education, Matoaka Ballroom

301 Monticello Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS!



CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM

Check-In & Coffee

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Welcome

- ❖ **Thomas Ruppert**, *Assistant Provost for Coastal Resilience & VCRC Director, William & Mary*

9:15 AM – 9:35 AM

Keynote Address

Setting the Stage for a Discussion on Flooding and Resilience

- ❖ **Caitlin Verdu**, *Resilience Coordinator, Commonwealth of Virginia*

9:35 AM – 10:05 AM

What is NAI?

An Overview of the History, Development and Themes of No Adverse Impact in the US

- ❖ **Janet Thigpen**, *ASFPM NAI Committee Co-chair*

10:05 AM – 10:25 AM

Break

10:25 AM – 11:40 AM

National NAI Overview

Background and Overview of the National No Adverse Impact Legal Guide and Narrative

- ❖ The Importance of Legal Information for Floodplain Managers
 - **Chad Berginnis**, *Executive Director, Association of State Floodplain Managers*
- ❖ National NAI Legal Guide Narrative Overview
 - **Jerry Murphy**, *State Specialized Agent – Flood Resilient Communities, University of Florida Center for Land Use Efficiency*
- ❖ National NAI Legal Guide Introduction
 - **Thomas Ruppert**, *Assistant Provost for Coastal Resilience & VCRC Director, William & Mary*
- ❖ Moderated Q&A by **Terri Turner**, *ASFPM NAI Committee Co-chair*

11:40 AM – 12:40 PM **Lunch**

12:40 PM – 2:10 PM **Data & Future Conditions**

A Discussion of How Future Conditions & Worsening Weather Impact NAI

- ❖ An Overview of ASCE 24-24
 - **Chad Berginnis**, *Executive Director, Association of State Floodplain Managers*
- ❖ An Overview & Update on ATLAS 14 & 15
 - **Brian Batten**, *Associate Vice President-Coastal Resilience, Dewberry*
- ❖ Virginia Pluvial Modeling & the CRMP Phase II
 - **Emily Breen**, *Office of Resilience Planning, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation*
 - **Celso Ferreira**, *Professor & Associate Dean for Graduate Studies – Department of Civil, Environmental & Infrastructure Engineering, George Mason University*
- ❖ Moderated Q&A by **Ben McFarlane**, *Chief Resilience Officer, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission*

2:10 PM – 2:30 PM **Break**

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM **Local & State Gov Examples**

Examples of NAI and Standards Beyond the NFIP in Practice

- ❖ Examples from Henrico County
 - **Kristin Owen**, *Assistant Division Director, Henrico County Public Works – Design Division*
- ❖ Examples from Fairfax County
 - **Daniel Habete**, *Assistant Division Director, Stormwater Planning Division, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services*

- ❖ The Role of DEQ
 - **Ryan Green**, *Program Manager, Coastal Zone Management, VA Department of Environmental Quality*
- ❖ Moderated Q&A by **Mary-Carson Stiff**, *Executive Director, Wetlands Watch*

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Virginia NAI Legal Guide

Debating the Virginia No Adverse Impact Legal Guide

- ❖ **Thomas Ruppert**, *Assistant Provost for Coastal Resilience & VCRC Director, William & Mary*
- ❖ **Greg Fowler**, *VCRC Post-Graduate Law Fellow, William & Mary*

4:15 PM – 4:45 PM

Closing Address

- ❖ **The Honorable David Bulova**, *Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources, Office of Governor Abigail Spanberger*

4:45 PM

Adjourn

Please join us after the conference for a reception sponsored by Stantec

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) can receive 6 continuing education credits (CECs)

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) professionals can receive 6 certification management credits, including 3 sustainability and 1 law

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative would like to thank...

Our Conference Sponsors:

- ❖ *Environmental Defense Fund*
- ❖ *Stantec*
- ❖ *Commonwealth Center for Recurrent Flooding Resilience (CCRFR)*

Our Conference Partners:

- ❖ *Virginia Institute of Marine Science (CCRFR)*
- ❖ *Institute for Coastal Adaptation & Resilience at Old Dominion University (CCRFR)*
- ❖ *Virginia Tech Coastal Collaborator*
- ❖ *Institute for Engagement & Negotiation at the University of Virginia*

Our Conference Planning Committee:

- ❖ **Emily Steinhilber** – *Environmental Defense Fund*
- ❖ **Elizabeth Andrews** – *University of Virginia*
- ❖ **Carol Considine** – *Old Dominion University*
- ❖ **Dr. Wendy Stout** – *Virginia Tech*
- ❖ **Dr. Molly Mitchell** – *Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
- ❖ **Dr. Dave Rudders** – *Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
- ❖ **Dr. Megan La Peyre** – *Virginia Institute of Marine Science*
- ❖ **Thomas Ruppert** – *W&M's VCRC*
- ❖ **Cameron Bruce** – *W&M's VCRC*
- ❖ **Greg Fowler** – *W&M's VCRC*

The William & Mary Provost's Office:

- ❖ **Zach McCoy** – *Program & Events Coordinator*
- ❖ **Monika Van Tassel** – *Assistant Director for Finance & Administration*
- ❖ **Michele Olsen** – *Fiscal Specialist*

As Well As:

- ❖ *All of our speakers, moderators, and attendees.*

Special Guest Speaker

The Honorable David Bulova

Virginia Secretary of Natural & Historic Resources
Office of Governor Abigail Spanberger



About Secretary Bulova

David Bulova has over three decades of professional experience in environmental planning. Most recently, he served as a project manager for WSP USA, an international engineering and environmental consulting firm. In that role, David specialized in water resources policy, Chesapeake Bay restoration, municipal and industrial stormwater permit compliance, stakeholder group facilitation, and stormwater finance. Prior to WSP, David served as Director of Environmental Services for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

David served in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the City of Fairfax and parts of Fairfax County from 2006-2026. In the House, he served in key leadership roles, including chair of the General Laws Committee, chair of the Commerce, Agriculture, and Natural Resources subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, and chair of the Chesapeake subcommittee of the Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee. He also served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, which he chaired twice, and the State Water Commission. In addition, David served as an elected member of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District from 2004-2006.

In the General Assembly, David worked with stakeholders to advance legislation and funding aimed at conserving and restoring Virginia's natural resources. Key initiatives included funding for the agricultural BMP cost-share program, upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities, management of invasive species, and a pay-for-outcomes pilot project to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. During the 2025 session, he partnered with environmental organizations, manufacturers, and water utilities to secure passage of bipartisan legislation designed to reduce PFAS contamination in one of Virginia's major drinking water sources. In 2019, VIRGINIAforever recognized David with the Bridge Builder award for his contributions to natural resources stewardship.

David and his wife Gretchen both grew up in Fairfax County and have three children. He received a BA in Government from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Tech. He is a 1997 graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. In their spare time, David, Gretchen, and their youngest son, Grayson, enjoy hiking in Virginia's beautiful parks.

Keynote Address

Caitlin Verdu

Virginia Office of Resilience



Caitlin Verdu serves as the Resilience Coordinator within the Virginia Office of Resilience. She works closely with stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels to support collaboration, information-sharing, and informed decision-making. Prior to this role, Caitlin led the Virginia Department of Forestry's Watershed Program and oversaw the Virginia Security Corridor Sentinel Landscapes Program. Before working for DOF, Caitlin served as the 4-H Extension Agent and Unit Coordinator in Arlington County. Caitlin holds an MPA from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science and Hispanic Studies from the College of William and Mary. (Go Tribe!)

Speaker Biographies



Janet Thigpen, CFM serves as Co-Chair of the No Adverse Impact (NAI) Committee of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). Janet considers flooding to be a foreseeable natural process but maintains that flood losses are not inevitable. She advocates for risk-informed planning and preventive measures that improve flood safety. She champions a No Adverse Impact approach to floodplain stewardship in which the activities of one should not cause harm to others. This concept is a legally and ethically sound basis for land use decisions that can prevent future floods from becoming disasters. As the Flood Mitigation Specialist

for Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development Board (in New York State), Janet has provided training, technical assistance, planning assistance, and public outreach on flood resilience strategies for 30 years.



Chad Berginnis, CFM became executive director of ASFPM in July 2012, after joining the association staff as associate director in 2011. Since 2000, he served the association as Insurance Committee chair, Mitigation Policy Committee coordinator, vice-chair, and chair. He has a Bachelor of Science in natural resources from Ohio State University. Since 1993, his work has focused on floodplain management, hazard mitigation and land use planning at the state, local and private sector level. As a state official,

Berginnis worked in the Ohio Floodplain Management Program and was Ohio's state hazard mitigation officer. As a local official, Berginnis administered planning, economic development and floodplain management programs in Perry County, Ohio. In the private sector, he was the national practice leader in hazard mitigation for Michael Baker Jr. Inc.



Gerald (Jerry) Murphy, JD, AICP, CFM is a certified floodplain manager, certified urban and regional planner, and legal scholar. His work and research involve land use planning and control law, community-based planning, code and regulation drafting, floodplain and stormwater management, growth and infrastructure finance, post-disaster redevelopment planning, and community resiliency/sustainability. Jerry works with local governments and regional planning councils through applied research to craft planning approaches and strategies to address

climate change, extreme weather, sea-level rise, and the other challenges facing Florida local governments in the 21st Century. Jerry is engaged in the national leadership of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) as Academia Regent for the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR), responsible for the administration and maintenance of the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®) credential, and as Co-Chair of the Higher Education Committee. He also serves as a Co-Director for Region 2 of the Florida Chapter of ASFPM, the Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA), and Co-Chair of the FFMA Education Committee. Most recently, Jerry was appointed to the Florida Stormwater Association (FSA) Legislative and Agency Relations Committee.



Terri Turner, AICP, CFM is the Owner/Principal of HALO Strategic Planning, LLC of Lakemont, GA. With over 28 years of dedicated public service in city and county government, Terri is a seasoned urban planner, certified floodplain manager, and a hazard mitigation specialist. She serves as Co-Chair of the No Adverse Impact (NAI) Policy Committee for the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), where she helps shape national policy on flood risk reduction, floodplain stewardship, and community resilience. A nationally recognized expert, speaker, trainer, and widely published author, Terri travels the country advocating for

sound floodplain management, green infrastructure, hazard mitigation, and sustainable community planning. Outside of her professional work, Ms. Turner is also an author of children's books centered on environmental stewardship, inspiring the next generation, starting at a very young age, to care for and be mindful of the world around them.



Dr. Brian Batten, CFM is an Associate Vice President at Dewberry, providing leadership for coastal and flood resilience. With over 25 years of experience, Dr. Batten has led studies for federal, state, and local clients to advance their understanding and develop integrated responses to changing natural hazards. In Virginia, he has worked extensively to advance flood resilience, including changing rainfall conditions. Brian received Consultant of the Year by the Mid-Atlantic Public Works Association in 2021 for the City

of Virginia Beach's Sea Level Wise Strategy, which resulted in one of the first regulatory implementations of increased rainfall design standards in the US. He has also provided consultant leadership for Virginia's Coastal Master Planning efforts since 2021, including the creation of rainfall hazard data and flood risk analytics across the 14,000 square miles of coastal Virginia, as well as the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's development of resilient stormwater guidelines. Dr. Batten has been an invited speaker on future flood conditions to federal advisory committees for FEMA and NOAA, and serves on the board of directors of the Virginia Floodplain Management Association.



Emily Breen is currently serving as the acting Program Manager in the Virginia Department of Conservation's Office of Resilience Planning, where she supports the development and implementation of the Coastal Resilience Master Plan, Phase II and the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan. She has extensive experience in natural hazard mitigation and coastal habitat planning and interagency collaboration. Her background includes a senior role at FEMA, where she led oversight and support for state and local hazard planning

efforts across western and pacific states and territories. Prior to this, she held coordination roles in coastal and freshwater fish habitat conservation at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and nationally as a contractor to NOAA Fisheries Service. Emily has a strong foundation in environmental science and coastal management with degrees from William & Mary (B.S., Double Major: Biology, Environmental Science) and Duke University (M.E.M. Master of Environmental Management with a coastal focus).



Celso Ferreira, PhD, PE is a Professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering at George Mason University and serves as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the Volgenau School of Engineering. He directs the Mason Flood Hazards Research Lab and co-directs the Virginia Climate Center. Dr. Ferreira's work focuses on advancing flood resilience and climate adaptation through engineering innovation, natural infrastructure solutions, and community-engaged research. His research quantifies flood hazards across coastal, riverine, and urban systems, with particular emphasis on compound flooding and flood adaptation. He collaborates closely with federal, state, and local partners to translate science into actionable tools and policy-relevant guidance.



Ben McFarlane, AICP, CFM is the Chief Resilience Officer for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the regional planning organization for southeastern Virginia. Mr. McFarlane has been with the HRPDC for sixteen years, working primarily on the Commission's coastal resources management efforts. He is the lead planner for the Commission's work on coastal resiliency, coastal zone management, and military-locality coordination. He received a B.A. in Economics and a Master's of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a Certified Floodplain Manager.



Kristin Owen, AICP, CFM is the Assistant Design Division Director with the Department of Public Works in Henrico County, overseeing both the Floodplain & Dam Safety and Assurance Control groups. Prior to this role, Kristin was the Floodplain & Dam Safety Manager for Henrico County where she implemented several program enhancements to reduce flood risk and increase resiliency, including being the first community to join the Community Rating System program as a CRS Class 5*. Kristin previously served as the Acting NFIP Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation where she assisted Governor Northam's Office with developing and implementing Executive Orders 24 and 45 to reduce flood risk and increase Virginia's resiliency to natural hazards. Kristin is an AICP professional planner and a Certified Floodplain Manager, as well as the past-President of the Virginia Floodplain

Management Association. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from West Virginia University, and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, a Master of Natural Resources, and Graduate Certificates in Watershed Management and Geospatial Information Technology from Virginia Tech.



Daniel Habete, PhD, PE, CFM serves as Assistant Division Director of the Stormwater Planning Division within the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Fairfax County. In this role, he oversees the Floodplain Management and Dam Safety and Water Quality Analysis sections. Previously, Daniel was the Branch Chief of the Residential Infill Development Branch at Fairfax County's

Land Development Services (LDS), where he led a team of land development reviewers and managed a diverse portfolio of residential projects. Before that, he served as Engineering Program Manager for the Stafford County Utilities Department, leading teams in reviewing water distribution and wastewater infrastructure projects. Daniel also spent a decade with the Stormwater Planning Division, where he managed the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program, the Community Rating System (CRS), and the design and construction of watershed improvement projects, including stream restorations and pond retrofits. Daniel holds a Ph.D. in Water Resources Engineering from George Mason University, and both B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland. In addition to his public service, Daniel is an Assistant Professor at Northern Virginia Community College, where he teaches Fluid Mechanics and Hydraulics.

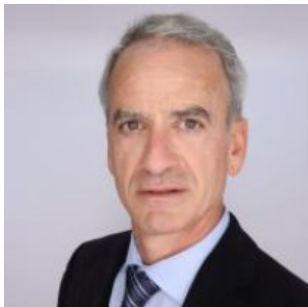


Ryan Green is the Program Manager for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, a network program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and made up of state agencies and local governments that collectively manage Virginia's coastal resources. Ryan brings more than a decade of experience at DEQ working closely with localities, state agencies, and other partners to address complex natural resource management challenges through collaboration. Prior to that Ryan was a special education teacher for middle and high schoolers, where he picked up most of the skills and experience he relies on in his current role. Ryan currently serves on a number of boards and advisory

committees including the Virginia Sea Grant Board of Directors, Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative External Advisory Committee, Mid-Atlantic Council on the Ocean (MARCO) Management Board Chair, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) Board.



Mary-Carson Stiff, JD, CFM is Executive Director of Wetlands Watch, a Norfolk, Virginia based nonprofit working statewide to conserve nature in a changing climate. Mary-Carson leads Wetlands Watch with a specific focus on climate change adaptation planning, floodplain management, wetlands migration, and coastal policy. She is a Certified Floodplain Manager and serves on various professional associations and civic boards. Mary-Carson obtained a J.D. in 2013 from William & Mary Law School and a B.A. from Bates College in 2008.



Thomas K. Ruppert, Esq., directs the VCRC and serves as W&M's Assistant Provost for Coastal Resilience. He leads the VCRC's mission to support Virginia communities by collaborating with community, academic, and government partners across the Commonwealth and beyond to promote resilience through collaborative projects, science translation and research into policy options, and enabling scientifically informed, participatory decision-making for resilience. Mr. Ruppert earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida and has been a licensed attorney since 2003. Mr. Ruppert served as the statewide Coastal Planning Specialist for Florida Sea Grant from 2010 to 2023. He has authored or co-authored numerous legal articles and book chapters, all touching on property. Mr. Ruppert speaks fluent Spanish and has traveled professionally and personally in Central and South America.



Greg Fowler, Esq. serves the VCRC's inaugural Law Fellow, where his primary focus has been on the development of the *Virginia No Adverse Impact Legal Guide*. A graduate of William & Mary Law School with concentrations in Political Law and Environmental Law, he served as Assistant Symposium Editor for the *Environmental Law and Policy Review* and gained valuable state and local experience through internships with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Office of the Attorney General, and the Chesapeake City Attorney's Office. Before law school, he worked as a commercial diver where his hands-on experience with marine infrastructure first sparked his interest in environmental law and coastal resiliency.



VIRGINIA COASTAL RESILIENCE COLLABORATIVE

The Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative increases the visibility and impact of existing programs at W&M and VIMS. Central oversight and dedicated university resources expand capacity, leveraging external funding opportunities. This approach enables W&M and VIMS to develop and implement timely, real-world solutions — and legal scholarship and policy advice — for challenges posed by the impacts of rising seas and changing climate, such as imperiled water quality, increased flooding, and increased heat, thereby increasing the value to the Commonwealth and its communities.

Contact us or visit our website to learn more:

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