

Baylines *EXTRA!*

Newsletter of the City Council-appointed

Bayfront Advisory Commission

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Thursday, February 21, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Virginia Beach Tennis and Country Club

1950 Thomas Bishop Lane, 2nd Floor

Charles J. Bodnar and Sue E. Kriebel from Virginia Beach Public Works Department's Stormwater Engineering Center, are scheduled to brief the Bayfront Advisory Commission on the Dewberry Sea Level Rise study at its February meeting.

The city hired Dewberry, a national consulting firm with significant experience in developing strategies for coastal resiliency, in 2015 to help with planning for reducing Virginia Beach's risk. The study has assessed existing and future flood vulnerability across the city's four unique watersheds: Atlantic Ocean, Elizabeth River, Lynnhaven River and Southern River. The results are being used to identify focus areas for flood-risk management.

The consultants and city officials are identifying short- and long-term measures to reduce flooding risks for each watershed. These will include combinations of policy measures, flood control structures and structural engineering and nature-based solutions.

The City is updating its stormwater master plan concurrently, creating an opportunity to determine how the increased coastal flood elevations will be reflected through the stormwater system and what causes additional interior flooding. The research and flood mitigation strategies developed by Dewberry will be vital to avoid increased flood issues in the future.

Beginning in the 2015 budget, the City Council provided \$3 million in funding for this initiative to identify the potential impacts of sea-level rise and to develop a comprehensive long-term response plan. The city also received an \$844,000 Regional Coastal Resiliency Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management for this effort, bringing the total to \$3.8 million.

The briefing, and BAC meeting, are open to the public