Sample Adoption Resolution

RESOLUTION

To accept the Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan

WHEREAS, `working waterfront' is defined in the [name of locality/region] as real property (including support structures over water and other facilities) that provides access to coastal waters to persons engaged in commercial fishing, recreational fishing businesses, boatbuilding, aquaculture, or other water dependent, coastal-related business and is used for, or that supports, commercial fishing, recreational fishing businesses, boatbuilding, aquaculture, or other water dependent, coastal-related business [Definition would be the one used in the PDC's]; and

WHEREAS, working waterfronts provide critical access to Virginia coastal waters for people engaged in commercial and recreational fishing, seafood processing, boat building, ship and boat repair/maintenance, aquaculture, port activity, and other water-dependent businesses; and

WHEREAS, some coastal communities are experiencing increased demand for waterfront properties along Virginia’s coast that result in an increase in property values and higher costs for traditional waterfront businesses resulting in Virginia slowly losing its working waterfronts – an issue that may have long-term consequences for local economies, the environment, coastal culture and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, other coastal communities are experiencing decreasing real-estate values, out migration of citizens, and decreased economic activity;

WHEREAS, natural factors of increasing sea level rise, increasing frequency and magnitude of coastal storms, shoaling of navigable channels and shoreline erosion pose increasing threats to the existence of working waterfronts;

WHEREAS, a loss of Working Waterfronts constitutes a potential loss of jobs for watermen (e.g. fishers, shellfish farmers) and the agriculture industry (timber and grain barges); a loss of the
identity of the region; and a loss of support industry jobs (boat building, transport, seafood processing, etc.);

WHEREAS, Virginia’s coastal Planning District Commissions and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) have worked to address threats and loss of working waterfronts since FY 2011, these entities have collaborated to develop a Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, some coastal communities have seen an increase in donations of waterfront land for public use presenting opportunity for new public working waterfront enhancements; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan synthesizes the work completed to date under the CZM Cumulative and Secondary Impacts strategy (FY 11-FY15) and provides communities with a comprehensive understanding of what Virginia working waterfronts are; where existing water-dependent commercial infrastructure is located; discussion of the long-term impacts associated with the loss of working waterfronts; and lastly recommends policy actions and tools which the Commonwealth, regional organizations, local governments and the private sector should consider to better manage these important assets and ensure the preservation of Working Waterfronts as important economic drivers and cultural resources for rural, suburban and urban communities well into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the [Insert locality/planning district commission name] accepts the Virginia Working Waterfront Master Plan as a policy document to help preserve and encourage the redevelopment of working waterfronts throughout coastal Virginia.

This the ___________ day of _______________, 2016

ATTEST    ________________________        ________________________
           (Clerk or Secretary)                                (Chairman)