



August 7, 2018

Ms. Michelle Pico
Program Director, Marine Conservation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth St NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Building Adaptive Shorelines and Resilient Communities in the Lower James

Dear Ms. Pico:

Please accept this letter of support for the James River Association's (JRA) application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Coastal Resilience Fund for the grant entitled "Building Adaptive Shorelines and Resilient Communities in the Lower James." We strongly support JRA's proposal to implement resiliency projects within the City of Hampton -- a community that is ranked second in the nation and tenth in the world in its vulnerability to sea level rise, and a City that has already taken significant strides to plan for the impacts of flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. Hampton has recognized the importance of leading proactively and by example, and in doing so, recently developed Resilient Hampton, an initiative designed to address various aspects of flooding and sea level rise that has culminated after more than eight years of community outreach, committee meetings, research, and planning efforts.

Not only would funding from NFWF enable the implementation of key projects that will protect and enhance the resilience of natural systems and mitigate the impacts of future storms and flooding events, it would also allow the opportunity for Hampton to share experiences, resources, and lessons learned with other smaller, rural communities along the tidal James River that are facing similar threats. Funding would ultimately allow the opportunity to develop a holistic, regional atmosphere of cooperation for tackling coastal resilience issues across all of the James River's varied environments by building upon the foundation of an urban community that is further along with resiliency work while simultaneously increasing the capacity of smaller rural communities.

City of Hampton financial and/or in-kind support of any grant is subject to future City Council authorization and appropriation, so this letter of support should not be construed to commit the City of Hampton to any financial, staff time, or other obligations at this time.

Public Works

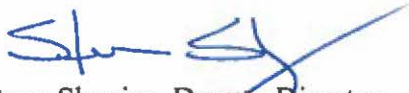
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, Virginia 23669
www.hampton.gov | P: (757) 727-8311

Thank you for your time and consideration of the JRA's grant and its efforts to continue engaging, conserving, and restoring the James River and its communities. We enthusiastically support this proposal; and if we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM', written in a cursive style.

Jason Mitchell, Acting Director
Department of Public Works

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Shapiro', written in a cursive style.

Steve Shapiro, Deputy Director
Department of Community Development