

SUBMISSION TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMUNITY CONSERVATIONS –  
4/14/08

Over the past year the James City County Citizens' Coalition (J4C) has held, and participated in, a number of meetings on flooding, often at the request of affected residents. The latest of these meetings, held February 19, 2008 focused on the problems as noted by residents and potential fixes that could be undertaken by James City County, developers, VDOT, Homeowner Associations, Interest Groups, and individuals. As defined in the final report, discussions resulted in thirteen recommendations which, if adequately funded and if turned into action plans to be carried out by implementation teams, would result in a much improved overall flooding picture in future years. Attachment A of the report rates the potential fixes as immediate, long term (3-5 years) and ongoing.

The 2008 Comprehensive Plan must address the problems of drainage and flooding to ensure that future decisions do not place citizens already here, and new arrivals, in danger of flooding during major storm events. Recommendations and fixes demanding Comprehensive Plan consideration include:

- Zoning cases should not be approved without a long-term flood abatement plan.
- Budgeting must factor in funds for drainage and flood control in future years. Specific, much larger steps such as raising housing units, subsidizing sales or improvements or programs to replace BMP's with new technologies could be spread out over several years.
- Establish implementation teams and communicate progress to the citizens via the County website. Establish a timeline for resolving problems.
- Identification of potentially endangered developments approved, but not started or completed. Encourage developers to revisit plans to incorporate new technologies and possible measures to abate flooding after buildout, either in this development or already existing endangered subdivisions.
- Increase forested buffer protection to streams through incentives; prohibit clear cutting to the extent possible.
- Produce a map of non-developable lands in the County. Maps showing flood plains and soil types should also be available to developers and the general public.
- Require cumulative impact analyses of impervious cover within each watershed before approving new development.
- Ask VDOT to improve roads and bridges identified in the report and develop, with VDOT, an overall plan for the steps necessary, along with a reasonable timeline.