

# RURAL RESILIENCY FORUM!

OCTOBER 23, 2018 • 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM • STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

## DRAFT AGENDA

8:00 am–9:00 am: Registration, continental breakfast, networking

9:00 am–9:10 am

1. Welcome and “Setting the Stage/Defining the Problem” — Andrew Sorrell, Chairman, Board of Directors, Resilient Virginia, and Deputy Director, Virginia Tobacco Commission

- a. Introduction of audience by show of hands based on topic/sectors represented
- b. Big Picture: How this gathering can help further state and local resiliency objectives

9:10 am–9:30 am

2. Strengthening Rural Resiliency

- a. Why is rural resiliency important to Virginia? — *Heidi Hertz, MS, RD, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry*
- b. Governor Ralph Northam’s priorities — *(invited) Chris Bast, Chief Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*

3. Current State Resources and Programs (9:30–10:10 am)

- a. Speaker from Agriculture and Forestry — *Robbie Talbert, Regional Forester-Central Region, Virginia Department of Forestry*
- b. Speaker from Natural Resources — *Russ Baxter, Deputy Director, Soil and Water Conservation and Dam Safety and Floodplain Management, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation*
- c. Speaker from Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security — *Stacie Neal, Critical Infrastructure Protection Program Manager, Governor’s Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security*
- d. Speaker from USDA — *Kathy Holm, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, USDA*

10:10 am–10:20 am

4. Audience Participation Exercise — Resilience practices underway in communities and/or gaps in community resiliency

Break (10:20–10:40 am)

**10:40 am–10:50 am**

- 5. Highlights from Audience Contributions** — *Annette Osso, Managing Director, Resilient Virginia*

**10:50 am–12:15 pm**

- 6. Expert Panel Presentations: Projects and Programs for Rural Virginia** — *Introduced by Annette Osso, Managing Director, Resilient Virginia*
- a. Blue Green Infrastructure — **Karen Firehock, Executive Director, Green Infrastructure Center**
  - b. Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry opportunities / solutions — **Julie Shortridge, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Biological Systems Engineering, Virginia Tech and Leonard Githinji, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Sustainable and Urban Agriculture, Virginia State University**
  - c. Mitigation/Emergency Management in Rural areas — **Rebecca Joyce, Community Program Manager, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission and Jonathan T. Simmons, All-Hazards Planner, VDEM Region 6**

**LUNCH: 12:15 pm–1:15 pm** — With presentations from University representatives on student/community projects related to resiliency

**1:15 pm–2:15 pm**

- 7. Participant Breakout Sessions**

Breakout topics:

- I. Resilient Agriculture and Forestry**
- II. Green and Blue Infrastructure**
- III. Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness**

- a. Brief overview of existing programs and resources currently available,
- b. What is missing,
- c. What can be built upon,
- d. What needs to be fixed.

**2:15 pm–2:50 pm**

- 8. Reconvene Participants**

**Objective: Outline measurable immediate steps, long term planning, and resource needs.**

- a. Immediate actions to implement,
- b. Coordination of existing resources,
- c. Longer term actions/needs/planning/policy.

**2:50 pm–3:00 pm**

- 9. Final comments, proposed next steps, and thank you to participants.**  
**Rural Resiliency Forum ends at 3:00 pm.**