Virginia passed the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act of 2020, allowing the Commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and establishing the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). RGGI is a market-based program of 11 states that generates funds while reducing electricity sector emissions. Half of its proceeds fund low-income energy efficiency programs and 45% fund the CFPF. The CFPF provides loans and grants for projects, studies, and planning throughout the state to identify and address flood vulnerability for communities.

CFPF funds can build capacity in localities that otherwise would not have the resources to develop comprehensive flood vulnerability assessments and action-oriented flood mitigation approaches.

**RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Much of Virginia’s Northern Piedmont region is encompassed by the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, an area which is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and rapid development. Concerns include increased riverine flooding, heavy rainfall events, and infrastructure related hazards. The CFPF award will be used to develop a regional resilience plan with an emphasis placed on nature-based solutions and locality-based projects.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

The vulnerability of future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities is of great concern to community leaders across the Region as are threats to its robust agricultural economy and agritourism. The most common hazard identified in the Region’s 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan is flooding, which is the primary focus of the proposed project.