

Virginia Crossroads: Flood Resilience across the Commonwealth

Friday, March 27, 2026, 9:00am - 6:30pm ET

CODE Building Irving Theater, Charlottesville, VA

Purpose

Researchers, decision-makers, and practitioners from across Virginia will explore how actionable science can strengthen flood resilience efforts, share lessons from the field, and build connections that support future collaboration.

Agenda

- 8:30 am *Registration (coffee and refreshments available).*
- 9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Amanda Purcell, Associate Director of Climate Crossroads, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Al Grasso, President, Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine
Jon Goodall, University of Virginia
- 9:15am **Panel 1: Urban Flooding.** Across Virginia's cities, heavier rainfall, aging infrastructure, and rapid development are intensifying flood risks in complex and uneven ways. This panel will explore how local governments and researchers are translating data into practical solutions for long-term resilience.
Moderator: **Marcus Aguilar**, City of Roanoke
- **Dan Medina**, City of Alexandria
 - **Brian Batten**, Dewberry
 - **Tom Allen**, Old Dominion University (ODU)
 - **J. Derek Loftis**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
- 10:00am **Audience Q&A**
- 10:30am *Networking break (coffee and refreshments available).*
Participants encouraged to have conversations about Panel 1 with people they don't already know.
- 11:00am **Panel 2: Rural Flooding.** Flooding in rural communities presents distinct challenges, from limited capacity and dispersed infrastructure to the cascading impacts on transportation, agriculture, and small-town economies. This discussion will highlight lessons from across the Commonwealth on building resilience in rural areas.
Moderator: **Tanya Denckla Cobb**, University of Virginia
- **Maria Mutuc**, Virginia Department of Transportation

- **Chris Bell**, Damascus Town Manager
- **Majid Shafiee-Jood**, University of Virginia

- 11:45am **Audience Q&A**
- 12:15pm *Lunch and networking.*
Participants encouraged to have conversations about Panel 2 with people they don't already know.
- 1:30pm **Panel 3: Innovations.** New technologies, data systems, and decision-support tools are reshaping how we anticipate, manage, and recover from floods. This panel will look ahead to emerging approaches—exploring how innovation can accelerate action, improve coordination, and strengthen resilience statewide.
Moderator: **Jessica Whitehead**, ODU
- **Jay Bernas**, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
 - **Paul Robinson**, RISE Resilience Innovations
 - **Julie Shortridge**, Virginia Tech
 - **Debbie Messmer**, Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- 2:15pm **Audience Q&A**
- 2:45pm *Networking break.*
Participants encouraged to have conversations about Panel 3 with people they don't already know.
- 3:15pm **Student showcase flash talks** (3-minutes each)
- 4:00pm **Closing remarks**
- 4:30pm *Adjourn public program.*
- 4:30-6:30pm *In-person networking reception and poster session.*