



Virginia Environmental Endowment

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION AND FOCUS

The mission of the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) is to improve the quality of the environment by using its capital, expertise and resources to encourage all sectors to work together to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and promote environmental literacy.

The Endowment's strategic planning priorities include the improvement of local rivers and the protection of water quality, the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, innovative land conservation and sustainable land use practices, and environmental literacy and public awareness. Emerging issues of concern presently include coastal climate adaptation, efforts to mitigate environmental impacts due to hydraulic fracturing, and water supply planning and implementation.

Although accorded a national scope by its charter, the Endowment currently limits awards to eligible organizations or institutions or governmental agencies for programs conducted in the state of Virginia and in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia.

HISTORY

The Virginia Environmental Endowment, a nonprofit, independent grant-making foundation, came about in a unique way: by court order. In February 1977, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Allied Chemical Corporation was fined \$13.2 million for polluting the James River with the insecticide Kepone. With the approval of Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr., a portion of this fine (\$8 million) was paid by Allied to fund the creation of the Virginia Environmental Endowment for the purpose of improving the quality of Virginia's environment.

Between 1981 and 1991, VEE received another \$1.4 million in court settlements paid by the FMC Corporation, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, IR International, Inc., and Hauni Richmond, Inc. The FMC funds expanded the Endowment's work in Virginia and beyond into the Kanawha River and Ohio River Valleys.

The Endowment has worked collaboratively for more than three decades as a leader and convener, improving environmental quality, advancing environmental literacy, and partnering to establish land trusts, conservation networks, and a statewide mediation center.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The March 31, 2015 reviewed asset value of the Virginia Environmental Endowment was \$18,502,802. During the fiscal year the Board of Directors approved 35 grants totaling \$558,177. When combined with matching funds, grants awarded by VEE since 1977 to a wide variety of organizations represent an investment of over \$75 million in environmental improvement.

GRANT PROGRAMS

VEE awards grants through two programs:

- Virginia Program
- Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program

Virginia Program

The Virginia Program provides support for innovative environmental programs featuring tangible outcomes, as well as applied research, collective impact, collaboration and education. Strategic priorities adopted by the Endowment's Board of Directors in 2013 include:

- Improvement of local rivers and protection of water quality;
- Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay;
- Innovative land conservation and sustainable land use practices;
- Environmental literacy and public awareness;
- Emerging issues of concern including coastal climate adaptation, efforts to mitigate environmental impacts due to hydraulic fracturing, and water supply planning and implementation.

Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program

Currently limited to the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia, this program supports research, education, and community action on water quality and the effects of water pollution on public health and the environment. Emphasis is given to collaboration by citizens, government, and industry to develop effective public policies and to increasing public participation in water quality monitoring and watershed management.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Grant Criteria and Documentation

- The Endowment makes grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations and institutions and to governmental agencies.
- VEE encourages requests for specific projects that promise measurable results to improve the environment.
- Grant funds are not provided for general support, overhead, indirect costs, capital projects, land purchases, building construction or renovation, endowments, lawsuits, or to individuals.
- Projects are required to have matching funds in amounts equal to or in excess of the grant request. Challenge grants may be offered to provide leverage in fundraising.
- Proposals must be complete and submitted by the deadline.
- Grants must align with the mission and priorities of the Virginia Environmental Endowment.

For the complete list of grant criteria and required documentation, visit www.vee.org

Deadlines and Mailing Addresses

Proposals must be received by the Endowment by 5 p.m. (ET) on the following dates:

- Virginia Program: June 15 and December 1
- Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program: June 15

When the date falls on a weekend or holiday, the following business day will be the deadline.

For delivery by U.S. mail, address to:
Joseph H. Maroon
Executive Director
Virginia Environmental Endowment
P.O. Box 790
Richmond, VA 23218-0790

For package delivery:
Virginia Environmental Endowment
SunTrust Center
919 East Main Street, Suite 1070
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 644-5000

GRANT AWARDS FY 2015

Between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015, VEE made over half a million dollars in grant awards to enhance water quality, restore the Chesapeake Bay, and advance conservation and environmental literacy. The April 2014 grant round involved the largest number of applications since 1999, and several of this year's recipients received VEE grants for the first time, or for the first time in at least 10 years. The Endowment partnered with many outstanding organizations on projects that will impact communities throughout Virginia as well as in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia.

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

Blue Sky Fund, Richmond, Virginia
Expansion of Explorers Program
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, Staunton, Virginia
Illicit Discharges & Water Quality Protection
\$24,200 / matched by \$24,200

Chesapeake Bay Commission, Annapolis, Maryland
Livestock Stream Exclusion Policy Evaluation
\$5,000 / matched by \$10,000
Livestock Stream Exclusion Policy Farm Event
\$350

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, Maryland
Advance Systemic Environmental Literacy
\$25,000 Challenge Grant / matched by \$50,890

Chesapeake Conservancy, Annapolis, Maryland
Developing Interactive Web-mapping Applications
\$20,000 / matched by \$35,460

Chesapeake Experience, Williamsburg, Virginia
Teachers Up Close and Personal with the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem
\$3,544 / matched by \$5,694

Chesapeake Media Service, Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania
Environmental journalism focused on the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay region
\$10,000 / matched by \$30,000

The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

School of Law, Virginia Coastal Policy Center
Extending Legal and Policy Services to Coastal Communities
\$30,000 / matched by \$52,907

W. M. Keck Environmental Field Laboratory
Relationships Among Land Use, BMPs, Water Quality
\$13,842 / matched by \$14,000

Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, Tennessee
Restoring Wetland Values to Public Lands in Virginia
\$20,000 / matched by \$732,000

The Elizabeth River Project, Portsmouth, Virginia
The Learning Barge: Training Teachers to Make Natural Connections to the Chesapeake Bay
\$18,716 / matched by \$18,800

Land Trust Alliance, Washington, DC
Advancing the Excellence of Virginia Land Trusts
\$25,000 / matched by \$35,000

Land Trust of Virginia, Middleburg, Virginia
Blue Ridge Conservation Priorities Initiative
\$15,000 / matched by \$15,000

The Nature Conservancy, Charlottesville, Virginia
Large-Scale Oyster Restoration in the Piankatank River
\$30,000 / matched by \$500,000

Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, Virginia
Engaging Landowners in Voluntary Watershed-Scale Improvements
\$20,000 / matched by \$80,000

Potomac Conservancy, Silver Spring, Maryland
Shenandoah Valley Priority Lands Project
\$15,000 / matched by \$96,600

Southern Environmental Law Center, Charlottesville, Virginia
Defending the Chesapeake Bay and Advancing Land Conservation in Virginia
\$40,000 / matched by \$160,000

StreamWatch, Charlottesville, Virginia
Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Public Education in the Rivanna River Watershed
\$16,000 / matched by \$37,660

Trout Unlimited, Arlington, Virginia
Upper James Home Rivers Initiative
\$25,600 / matched by \$114,795

Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Abingdon, Virginia
*Enhancing Clinch River Water Quality, Environmental
Education and Collaboration*

\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

Valley Conservation Council, Staunton, Virginia
2015 VaULT Land Conservation Conference
\$1,000

**Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation
Districts Educational Foundation**, Mechanicsville, Virginia
*2015 Youth Conservation Camp Program and
Pilot Youth Leadership Program*
\$10,000 / matched by \$36,750

Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund,
Natural Bridge, Virginia
Caverns at Natural Bridge Education Center
\$15,000 / matched by \$35,000

Virginia Conservation Network, Richmond, Virginia
2014 Virginia Environmental Assembly
\$250

**Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Education Fund**, Richmond, Virginia
Taylorsville Basin Preservation Program
\$20,000 / matched by \$40,000

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia
2015 Environment Virginia Conference
\$7,000

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
Blacksburg, Virginia
A Curriculum for Virginia Master Naturalist Volunteers
\$20,000 / matched by \$27,435

Wetlands Watch, Norfolk, Virginia
*Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Certification
Initiative: Organizing for Impact in Virginia*
\$20,000 Challenge Grant / matched by \$41,000

Williamsburg Land Conservancy,
Williamsburg, Virginia
*Facilitating the Conservancy's pending merger with the
Middle Peninsula Land Trust*
\$10,000 / matched by \$12,500

Support of Philanthropy (Chesapeake Bay Funders
Network, Exponent Philanthropy, Southeastern Council
of Foundations) \$4,675

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$505,177

KANAWHA & OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Louisville, Kentucky
*Engaging Citizens to Prevent Mercury Pollution
in the Ohio River*
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

Watershed Watch in Kentucky, Frankfort, Kentucky
Beyond Tools: Sustained Action
\$33,000 / match estimated at \$46,000

KANAWHA & OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM TOTAL: \$53,000

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$558,177

VEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Jean Wildbore, *Administrative Assistant*

*The Endowment wishes to thank the individuals who
contributed their expertise during fiscal year 2015,
especially Barbara Marmet, VEE Legal Fellow, Emily Talley,
communications consultant, and Kimberly Sutherland,
volunteer from Virginia Tech's Executive Master of Natural
Resources Program.*

Cover photograph courtesy of Ben Greenberg from *Natural Virginia*,
his recent book of panoramic landscape photographs

**Virginia
Environmental
Endowment**

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