

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, 2016 reviewed asset value of the Virginia Environmental Endowment was \$17,714,106. During the fiscal year the Board of Directors approved 28 grants totaling \$525,615. When combined with matching funds, grants awarded by VEE since 1977 to a wide variety of organizations represent an investment of over \$78 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

Limited to the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia, this grant program supports research, education, and community action on water quality and the effects of water pollution on public health and the environment. Preference is given to collaborative efforts by nonprofit organizations, government, and industry to develop public policies and to increase public participation in water quality protection and monitoring, watershed management, and civic engagement.

GRANT APPLICATION

PROCEDURES

GRANT CRITERIA

- 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. Applicants should describe specifically how they propose to measure the success of a grant project.
- 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.
- Proposals that are clearly outside the purposes and geographic limitations of our grant-making programs may be declined without further review.
- Grantees are required to submit periodic reports of progress, expenditures, and results. Approved grants are paid in installments on a reimbursement basis.
- VEE does not reimburse project costs that are incurred before the authorization date of any grant that might be awarded. Grants are typically awarded in October and April.

- Each year the Endowment receives requests far in excess of available funds. In fairness to others, applicants are asked not to apply to the Endowment more than once a year.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A cover letter identifying the applicant, project title, grant request, matching funds, project schedule, and whether the proposal is being submitted to the Virginia Program or the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program.
- A project description, limited to five pages, clearly stating the need for the project, goals and objectives and how they will be achieved, how project results will be measured, and relationship to other work being done in the field. It is suggested that the description include aspects of Collective Impact or collaboration, when applicable.
- A description of the organization, names and qualifications of key project staff, a list of the members of the governing board, the current operating budget, and a copy of the current tax-exempt ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, if applicable.
- A line-item budget for the proposed project, showing total project costs, the amount and proposed allocation of grant funds requested from the Endowment, and all sources and amounts of matching funds, which must be equal to or exceed the requested grant.
- The project schedule, with specific beginning and ending dates for requested grant support. Board decisions about proposals are normally made in April and October.
- A detailed plan for evaluating and disseminating project results, for continuing project activities, and for raising future financial support, if applicable.

Two copies of the complete proposal signed by the organization's chief executive officer or board chair must be received by the program deadline date. If possible, please email the proposal to VEE as well: send to info@vee.org.

The Endowment does not review or comment on preliminary proposals.

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

FY2016 GRANT AWARDS

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

American Farmland Trust, Washington, DC

Empowering Women Landowners in Virginia for Conservation
\$20,000 / matched by \$40,000

Capital Region Land Conservancy, Richmond, VA

Our Land and Water: Strategic Conservation in the Middle James River Watershed
\$10,000 / matched by \$15,000

Center for Watershed Protection, Ellicott City, MD

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Workshops in Virginia
13,400 / matched by \$13,400

Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, Annapolis, MD

Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment Meeting
\$500

Chesapeake Conservancy, Annapolis, MD

Implementing Envision the James priorities for nutrient and sediment reduction
\$33,300 / matched by \$58,214

Chesapeake Media Service, Seven Valleys, PA

Sustaining Bay Journal Virginia Coverage
\$25,000 / matched by \$130,000

Choose Clean Water Coalition, Annapolis, MD

Tracking the Technical Aspects of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Cleanup
\$5,000 / matched by \$15,000

The College of William and Mary, Virginia Coastal Policy Center, Williamsburg, VA

Building Resilience in Coastal Virginia: Overcoming Legal and Policy Obstacles in Responding to Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding
\$35,000 / matched by \$55,000

Environmental Integrity Project, Washington, DC

Chesapeake Bay Enforcement Initiative
\$20,000 / matched by \$30,000

Friends of Southwest Virginia, Abingdon, VA

Clinch Lab Development: Preparing for Place-Based Teaching on the Clinch River
\$15,000 / matched by \$70,000

Friends of the Rappahannock, Fredericksburg, VA

Rappahannock Student Stream Team: Resilient Living Shorelines
\$23,000 / matched by \$43,952

James River Association, Richmond, VA

Our River At Risk: Safeguarding the James River through Public Engagement and Policy Change
\$35,000 / matched by \$232,340

Land Trust Alliance, Washington, DC

Circuit Rider Program to Advance Land Conservation Along the Southern Tier of Virginia, Phase I
\$7,000 / matched by \$7,000

Living River Restoration Trust, Portsmouth, VA

Land - The Most Endangered Species in the Elizabeth River Urban Watershed
\$10,000 / matched by \$10,768

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, Saluda, VA

Assistance for Middle Peninsula Shoreline Protection and Access
\$12,000 / matched by \$12,000

Nansemond River Preservation Alliance, Suffolk, VA

NRPA Environmental Education Programs and Suffolk's Waterways Restoration Projects
\$20,000 / matched by \$50,640

New River Land Trust, Blacksburg, VA

Funds to hire a part-time fundraising professional to initiate the development effort needed to finance continued conservation services
\$10,000 / matched by \$10,000

Rappahannock Community College, Glenss, VA

Virginia Watermen's Heritage Environmental Training and Stewardship Program
\$13,400 / matched by \$30,400

Science Museum of Virginia Foundation, Richmond, VA

Harnessing Digital Media and Interactive Lab Opportunities to Raise Public Awareness of Climate Change in Virginia
\$25,000 / matched by \$57,810

Southern Environmental Law Center, Charlottesville, VA

Leadership for Advancing Land Conservation in Virginia and Defending the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries
\$35,000 / matched by \$140,000

Virginia Junior Academy of Science, Richmond, VA

The Henry W. MacKenzie Jr. Environmental Scholarship (four years)
\$24,000

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA

Environment Virginia 2016
\$7,000

Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Warrenton, VA

Seeking Treasures: Advancing Virginia's water quality and land conservation programs via data mining to better steward and enhance Virginia's conservation easements
\$28,290 / matched by \$32,610

(continued)

VEE BOARD & STAFF

VIRGINIA GRANT AWARDS continued

Support of Philanthropy \$4,950

- Exponent Philanthropy
- Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
- Southeastern Council of Foundations

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$431,840

KANAWHA & OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Louisville, KY
*A Voice at the Table for Non-Profit Organizations
in the Ohio River Valley*
\$13,775 / matched by \$13,776

West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Charleston, WV
*Water Policies in West Virginia: Maintaining an
independent and science based voice to protect
water resources (two years)*
\$80,000 / matched by \$400,044

**KANAWHA & OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$93,775**

FY2016 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$525,615

VEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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SPECIAL THANKS

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Virginia Environmental Endowment
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