

Virginia Environmental Endowment

Mission and Focus

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

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

History

Virginia Environmental Endowment, a nonprofit, independent grantmaking 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 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.

For over thirty years the Endowment has honored its innovative creation by funding imaginative people working effectively to improve the quality of the environment.

Financial Summary

The March 31, 2012 reviewed asset value of Virginia Environmental Endowment was \$16,150,598. During the fiscal year the Board of Directors approved 28 grants totaling \$517,210. When combined with matching funds, grants awarded by VEE since 1977 to a wide variety of organizations represent an investment of more than \$70 million in environmental improvement.

Grantmaking Programs

VEE grantmaking comprises three programs:

- Virginia Program
- Virginia Mini-Grant Program
- Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program

Virginia Program

The Virginia Program supports community action, reinforced and informed by research and education. Current grantmaking priorities track the Endowment's mission as follows:

- Water quality research and monitoring of water quality conditions throughout Virginia;
- Land and open space conservation;
- Chesapeake Bay conservation, research and education;
- Environmental education

Virginia Mini-Grant Program

The Virginia Mini-Grant Program supports community-based efforts to strengthen environmental education and to promote stewardship of Virginia's waterways. These are intended to be one-time, start-up grants, and preference is given to modest local projects. Public and private schools (K-12) and nongovernmental, nonprofit community organizations in Virginia are eligible to apply for one-year Mini-Grant awards up to \$5,000. Local, state, and federal government agencies and programs are not eligible. Guidelines and application forms are available on our web site, www.vee.org.

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.

P. O. Box 790, Richmond, Virginia 23218-0790

(804) 644-5000 e-mail: info@vee.org

www.vee.org

Photographs courtesy of Charles Shoffner.

Grant Application Procedures

Policies

The Endowment makes grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations and institutions and occasionally 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.

Matching funds in equal amounts from other sources are required, and challenge grants may be offered to provide leverage in fundraising.

Proposals that are clearly outside the purposes and geographic limitations of our grantmaking programs may be declined without further review. All others will be considered by the Board of Directors.

Approved grants are paid in installments on a reimbursement basis. Grantees are required to submit periodic reports of progress, expenditures, and results.

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.

Application Deadlines

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

Virginia Program and Virginia Mini-Grant Program:
June 15 and December 1

Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program:
June 15 only

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

The Endowment has a strict policy on receipt of complete proposals by deadlines. Without exception, late proposals will not be accepted.

Board decisions about proposals are normally made in April and October.

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

For package delivery:
Three James Center
1051 East Cary Street, Suite 1400
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Proposal Requirements

Two copies of the complete proposal, signed by the organization's chief executive officer or board chairman, must be received by the deadline date. The Endowment does not review or comment on preliminary proposals. Applicants to the Virginia Mini-Grant Program should review the special guidelines and application materials for the Mini-Grant Program on the web site.

Each proposal must include the following information:

- 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, the Virginia Mini-Grant 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.
- 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 equal or exceed the requested grant.
- The project schedule, with specific beginning and ending dates for requested grant support.
- A detailed plan for evaluating and disseminating project results, for continuing project activities, and for raising future financial support.



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Grant Awards 2011-2012

Virginia Program

Charlottesville Tomorrow **\$25,000**
 Charlottesville, Virginia matched by \$25,000
Sustaining a model of citizen engagement in Charlottesville-Albemarle

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **\$17,730**
 Richmond, Virginia matched by \$17,730
Holding States Accountable for Milestone Achievements – A Collaborative, Multi-State Approach

The Elizabeth River Project **\$25,000**
 Portsmouth, Virginia matched by \$27,500
The Learning Barge: Building the Capacity to Achieve Sustained Funding (1:1 Challenge Grant for the first \$10,000)

The Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project **\$32,500**
 Richmond, Virginia matched by \$37,000
The Digital Flora of Virginia: Data Based (18 months)

Friends of the Rappahannock **\$25,000**
 Fredericksburg, Virginia matched by \$25,000
Tidal Rappahannock River Steward Program (1:1 Challenge Grant)

Land Trust of Virginia **\$12,500**
 Middleburg, Virginia matched by \$25,000
Rural Village and Community Conservation Initiative

National Coalition for Marine Conservation **\$10,000**
 Leesburg, Virginia matched by \$95,000
Conserving Menhaden's Role in the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem

Old Dominion University Research Foundation
 Norfolk, Virginia
The Reversible Epigenetic Effects of Pollutants on Crabs and Fish in the Chesapeake Bay, from an Epigenetic Perspective **\$25,000**
 matched by \$25,000
Estimating Nutrient Inputs Through Stochastic Events in a Lower Chesapeake Bay Tributary **\$23,417**
 matched by \$23,983

Piedmont Environmental Council **\$1,000**
 Warrenton, Virginia
2012 Virginia Land Conservation Conference

Shenandoah Resource Conservation and Development Council **\$20,000**
 Verona, Virginia matched by \$20,000
Shenandoah Adaptable Stream Fencing Project: Flex Fence II

Southern Environmental Law Center **\$60,000**
 Charlottesville, Virginia matched by \$240,000
Leadership for Land Conservation and the Chesapeake Bay

Virginia Historical Society **\$15,000**
 Richmond, Virginia matched by \$15,000
"From the Earth: The Environment in Virginia's Past and Future" Environmental History Conference

Virginia Institute of Marine Science **\$87,000**
 Gloucester Point, Virginia matched by \$89,120
Climate Change and the Fisheries Food Web in the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Atlantic Ocean (two years)

Virginia Junior Academy of Science **\$24,000**
 Richmond, Virginia
The Henry W. MacKenzie Jr. Environmental Scholarship (four years)

Virginia Military Institute **\$6,600**
 Lexington, Virginia
Environment Virginia 2012

Wetlands Watch **\$17,600**
 Norfolk, Virginia matched by \$17,842
Sea Level Rise Adaptation: Marketing to the Private Business Sector

Support of Philanthropy
 Association of Small Foundations \$1,000
 Southeastern Council of Foundations \$1,500

Virginia Program Total **\$429,847**

Virginia Mini-Grant Program

Berkeley Middle School **\$4,500**
 Williamsburg, Virginia matched by \$10,000
Water Quality Monitoring and Education for Middle School Students in Williamsburg/James City County

Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River **\$3,000**
 Woodstock, Virginia matched by \$500
Stanley the Stoneroller River Education Program for Elementary and Middle School Students in the North Fork of the Shenandoah River Watershed

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation **\$5,000**
 Portsmouth, Virginia matched by \$14,250
The Creek Keepers Diet for Hoffler Creek

Nansemond River Preservation Alliance **\$4,550**
 Suffolk, Virginia matched by \$1,250
Restoring Suffolk Waterways: Oyster Restoration Project

Nansemond-Suffolk Academy **\$3,600**
 Suffolk, Virginia matched by \$5,000
NSA Outdoor Learning Lab

Varina High School **\$4,000**
 Richmond, Virginia
Investigation of Water Quality and Endocrine Disrupters in the James River in Richmond, Virginia

Waller Mill Elementary School **\$2,713**
 Williamsburg, Virginia
Friends with Nature Field Classroom and Walking Trail

Mini-Grant Program Total **\$27,363**

Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program

Watershed Watch in Kentucky **\$30,000**
 Midway, Kentucky matched by \$30,000
Watershed Watch in Kentucky Program

West Virginia Rivers Coalition **\$30,000**
 Elkins, West Virginia matched by \$40,500
Water Policies in West Virginia: Maintaining an independent and science based voice to protect our water resources (two years)

KORV Program Total **\$60,000**

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS **\$517,210**

Virginia
 Environmental
 Endowment

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