

Virginia Environmental Endowment

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, 2014 audited asset value of the Virginia Environmental Endowment was \$17,955,163. During the fiscal year the Board of Directors approved 16 grants totaling \$287,366. When combined with matching funds, grants awarded by VEE since 1977 to a wide variety of organizations represent an investment of over \$72 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

Policies

- 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.
- 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.

Proposal Requirements

- 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. 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

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The Endowment wishes to thank all of the volunteers who contributed their expertise during fiscal year 2014, especially Barbara Marmet, Post Graduate Legal Fellow from the College of William and Mary Law School, and Emily Talley, University Fellow from Virginia Tech's Executive Master of Natural Resources Program.

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

For more information, visit www.vee.org

GRANT AWARDS FY 2014

Fiscal year 2014 (April 1, 2013–March 31, 2014) was a year of transition to a new Executive Director. Therefore, the number of grants awarded was fewer than normal. The Endowment made grants to organizations and projects in our two grant programs: the Virginia Program and the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program. The purposes of the grants included increasing local conservation results in the James River and the Shenandoah Valley, developing a volunteer corps in the Rappahannock River basin, conducting the first annual Chesapeake Bay Business Forum, expanding environmental literacy opportunities, improving citizen water quality monitoring, and strengthening state water policies.

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Annapolis, Maryland

First annual Chesapeake Bay Business Forum (held in Virginia) and a conservation demonstration project with a Virginia company to improve water quality

\$15,000 / matched by \$15,000

Audubon Naturalist Society

Chevy Chase, Maryland

Expanding the "GreenKids" Environmental Literacy Program for Elementary School Students in Virginia

\$15,000 / matched by \$15,000

Chesapeake Experience

Williamsburg, Virginia

Experience the Chesapeake Bay 2013: Unique Professional Development Perspectives for Hampton Roads Educators

\$5,108 / matched by \$4,320

The College of William and Mary

Department of Biology

Williamsburg, Virginia

Determining the effectiveness of wet retention ponds in mitigating microbial risk

\$10,553 / matched by \$10,559

Friends of the Rappahannock

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Rappahannock Restore Corps: Developing a corps of volunteer leaders

\$25,000 / matched by \$74,139

James River Association

Richmond, Virginia

Increasing Local Conservation Results Through New Regional Offices in Williamsburg and Lynchburg

\$50,000 / matched by \$122,000

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay

Public Access Authority

Saluda, Virginia

Assistance for Middle Peninsula Shoreline Protection and Access

\$3,000 / matched by \$3,000

University of Mary Washington

College of Arts and Sciences

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Developing the Framework for a Five-Jurisdiction Climate, Environment and Readiness (CLEAR) Action Plan

\$2,230 / matched by \$6,490

Valley Conservation Council

Staunton, Virginia

Land Conservation Excellence Enhancement Program (18 Months)

\$15,000 / matched by \$38,000

Virginia Conservation Network

Richmond, Virginia

2013 Virginia Environmental Assembly / \$250

Virginia Military Institute

Lexington, Virginia

Environment Virginia 2014 / \$7,000

Support of Philanthropy

Association of Small Foundations / \$725

Chesapeake Bay Funders Network / \$2,500

Southeastern Council of Foundations / \$1,000

Virginia Program Total **\$152,366**

KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

Watershed Watch in Kentucky

Midway, Kentucky

Improving statewide volunteer water quality monitoring and stormwater management in Kentucky

\$45,000 / matched by \$45,000

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Charleston, West Virginia

Water Policies in West Virginia: Maintaining an independent and science based voice to protect water resources (Two years)

\$90,000 / matched by \$124,800

KORV Program Total **\$135,000**

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS **\$287,366**

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