



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joseph H. Maroon, Executive Director

info@vee.org / 804.644.5000

VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT AWARDS MORE THAN \$250,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Grants focus on enhancing water quality, restoring the Chesapeake Bay, and advancing land conservation, environmental literacy, and climate change adaptation

May 16, 2016 - The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) today announced awards of more than \$250,000 to thirteen organizations dedicated to protecting and improving the region's natural resources and environment. When combined with matching funds, VEE has invested more than \$77 million in environmental improvements statewide since it was founded in 1977.

"As we look toward the Endowment's 40th Anniversary in 2017, we are encouraged by our partnerships with organizations making significant improvements in water quality and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the conservation of sensitive landscapes, and the education of the Commonwealth's citizens and decision-makers regarding several of Virginia's pressing environmental issues," said Joseph H. Maroon, Executive Director.

VEE GRANT AWARDS

Improving Local Water Quality and the Chesapeake Bay

- Southern Environmental Law Center: Support for the Center's efforts to advance sustainable land use and transportation solutions, address the threat of shale gas drilling in the Taylorsville Basin, and ensure Virginia's implementation of the Bay TMDL. (\$30,000, Statewide)
Contact: Cale Jaffe, Virginia Director
- James River Association: Support for year two of the Association's "Our River at Risk" campaign to address issues related to the transport of crude oil by rail, and the storage of toxic chemicals and coal ash in the watershed. (\$30,000, James River Basin)
Contact: Bill Street, Chief Executive Officer
- Sustainable Chesapeake: Support for a collaborative effort to identify opportunities to increase farmer adoption of nutrient management plans, a high-priority conservation practice that can improve crop yields and reduce the loss of fertilizer nutrients to local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. (\$24,296, Statewide)
Contact: Kristen Hughes Evans, President

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science: Support for determination of the status of Kepone pesticide levels in the James River. No data has been collected since 2009 due to state budget cuts. Settlement of the Kepone case in 1977 led to the creation of VEE. (\$21,436, James River Basin)
Contact: Michael Unger, Principal Investigator

Conserving Virginia's Lands

- Virginia's United Land Trusts: Support to enable the 16 year old umbrella organization to hire its first executive director, and to increase its capacity to deepen the connections between local land trusts statewide and aid them in better addressing broad environmental challenges facing Virginia. (\$16,000, Statewide)
Contact: Heather Richards, Vice Chair
- Land Trust Alliance: Support for a professional "circuit rider" to provide hands-on training and organizational development of land trusts in Southern Virginia. (\$12,500, Southern Virginia)
Contact: Kevin Brice, Southeast Regional Director
- Virginia Department of Forestry: Conditional matching support for phase two of the Healthy Watersheds Forests Initiative, including the development of tools to enable localities to incorporate the conservation value of forest lands into planning decisions. (\$10,000, Coastal/Chesapeake Bay)
Contact: Bettina Ring, State Forester

Enhancing Environmental Literacy and Public Awareness

- Chesapeake Media Service: Support for production of a quarterly local government edition of the Bay Journal, to enhance communication with local elected officials and staff regarding the benefits and expectations of the Bay restoration efforts. Local governments have been considered a key partner in the Bay efforts for 30 years; this would be the first periodical tailored to meet the needs of local officials. (\$15,000, Coastal/Chesapeake Bay)
Contact: Karl Blankenship, Executive Director
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Support to enable the Foundation and the Virginia No Child Left Inside Coalition to advance a statewide environmental literacy plan, including hiring a professional educator and outreach specialist to work with science supervisors and lead teachers on implementing Governor McAuliffe's Environmental Literacy Challenge. (\$25,000, Statewide)
Contact: William Baker, President
- Blue Sky Fund: Support to enable the expansion of the Explorers outdoor environmental education program to second and fourth grade students in Richmond public schools. (\$15,000, Richmond)
Contact: Lawson Wijesooriya, Executive Director
- Audubon Naturalist Society: Support to enable the expansion of the GreenKids hands-on environmental literacy program into two additional Loudoun County schools. (\$15,000 over two years, Northern Virginia)
Contact: Lisa Alexander, Executive Director
- Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation: Support for the annual Youth Conservation Camp and the second year of the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute, which the Endowment helped to establish last year. (\$10,000, Statewide)
Contact: Kendall Tyree, Executive Director

Coastal Issues

- The College of William and Mary Law School, Virginia Coastal Policy Center: Support for the Center's annual climate change conference and its "Targeting Assistance to Virginia Coastal Communities in Responding to Climate Change Challenges" Project. (\$30,000, Williamsburg)
Contact: Elizabeth Andrews, Director

To learn more about the Endowment, or obtain additional information about the projects or organizations listed above, please contact Joseph H. Maroon at info@vee.org or (804) 644.5000.

The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) is a non-profit, grant-making foundation based in Richmond, Virginia that is focused on improving 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. Learn more about VEE by visiting vee.org.