

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

The Virginia Environmental Endowment awarded nearly \$5 million in grants during FY 2019. This represents the largest amount awarded in a single year in our history. A large part of our grant-making was centered on investments in water quality improvements in the James River. Additional grants were made throughout Virginia to advance environmental and conservation priorities. In addition, VEE's investments in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys has reached over \$3 million total, having started with \$1 million in settlement funds in 1981.

## 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.

VEE'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 invasive species, and water supply planning and implementation.

## 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 VEE's work in Virginia and beyond into the Kanawha River and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia.

In 2017, VEE was one of several organizations to receive funds under a mitigation agreement governing an electric utility line construction. VEE received \$15.595 million for grants to improve the water quality of the James River and its tributaries in Virginia. The funds are to be spent over the next 10 years.

VEE has worked collaboratively for more than four 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, 2019 reviewed asset value of the Virginia Environmental Endowment was \$39,292,004. During the fiscal year the Board of Directors approved 33 grants totaling \$4,897,572. When combined with matching funds, grants awarded by VEE since 1977 to a wide variety of organizations represent an investment of over \$95 million in environmental improvement.

## GRANT PROGRAMS

VEE awards grants through three programs:

- Virginia Program
- Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program
- James River Water Quality Improvement 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 VEE's Board of Directors 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
- Climate adaptation and emerging issues of concern

## KANAWHA & 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. Since the Program began in 1981, VEE has made 122 grants totaling over \$3 million.

*Important Note: This grant program is closed to new applications.*

## JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In the summer of 2017, VEE established a new James River Water Quality Improvement Program which focuses on producing significant water quality benefits in the James River. VEE produced a Strategic Investment Plan to guide its grant-making and began accepting applications for funding under the new program in June 2018. In October 2018, VEE awarded over \$4.4 million in grants to six partner organizations dedicated to advancing conservation practices and implementing environmental projects to improve the James River's water quality. These multi-year awards are the first for VEE's James River Water Quality Improvement Program and the largest amount ever issued at one time by VEE.

The \$4.4 million in private grants represents nearly 30% of the \$15.5 million earmarked to be spent to improve the James River over the next several years.

The initial grants will advance key strategic investment priorities in the Upper, Middle, and Lower James River watershed. These include projects strategically targeted to establish streamside buffers, accelerate agricultural conservation, stabilize shorelines, and address failing septic systems. Combined, these initiatives expect to result in a reduction of over four million pounds of pollution entering the James River annually and the installation of numerous on-the-ground conservation practices.

VEE was joined by the Smithfield Foundation in supplementing its funds to address failing septic systems in three communities in the Lower James. In the future, we look forward to partnering with other foundations to invest in additional projects that will help improve the James River.

# GRANT APPLICATION

## GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### GENERAL GRANT CRITERIA AND DOCUMENTATION

- VEE makes grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations and institutions and 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 VEE.
- 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, generally 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 VEE receives requests far in excess of available funds. In fairness to others, applicants are asked not to apply to any single program more than once a year.
- Proposals previously denied by VEE should not be resubmitted without prior authorization from VEE.
- VEE does not accept unsolicited pure research proposals. VEE will consider proposals for applied research that have a direct tie to policy outcomes consistent with VEE's priorities but only upon review of a one-page Letter of Intent received at least four weeks prior to the application deadline. After review of the Letter, VEE will notify an applicant of whether it may submit a full proposal.
- 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, as well as an electronic version in Word emailed to [info@vee.org](mailto:info@vee.org).

**For specific grant criteria and proposal requirements relating to the Virginia and James River Water Quality Improvement Programs, please see our website, [www.vee.org](http://www.vee.org).**

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

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

Virginia Program: *June 15 and December 1*

Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program: *December 1*  
***Note: This program is closed to new applicants.***

James River Water Quality Improvement Program: *June 15*

When the date falls on a weekend or holiday, the following business day will be the deadline. VEE has a strict policy on receipt of complete proposals by deadlines. Board decisions about proposals are normally made in April and October.

### MAILING ADDRESS

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### PACKAGE DELIVERY ADDRESS

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804.644.5000

### EMAIL ADDRESS

[info@vee.org](mailto:info@vee.org)

# FY2019 GRANT AWARDS

## VIRGINIA PROGRAM

**Audubon Naturalist Society, Chevy Chase, MD**  
*GreenKids Community Action Project, a pilot program (2-year grant)*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$23,686

**Bay Journal Media, Seven Valleys, PA**  
*Sustaining Bay Journal Virginia Coverage and Bay Journal Local Government Edition*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$155,040

**Blue Ridge PRISM, Crozet, VA**  
*Landowner Education for Landscape-Scale Conservation (Challenge Grant)*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$22,080

**Blue Sky Fund, Richmond, VA**  
*The Explorers Program*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$25,000

**Boxerwood Education Association, Lexington, VA**  
*Building Capacity for Environmental Solutions in Rockbridge County (15-month grant)*  
\$15,000 / matched by \$104,964

**Capital Region Land Conservancy, Richmond, VA**  
*Building on Success and Innovating for the Future*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$40,000

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, MD**  
*Systemic Environmental Education in Virginia: Advancing Policy, Training Teachers, and Engaging Partnerships*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$63,747

**Chesapeake Conservancy, Annapolis, MD**  
*Phase 2: James River Water Quality Improvement Plan & Restoration Planner*  
\$30,000 / matched by \$30,000

**The College of William and Mary  
Virginia Coastal Policy Center, Williamsburg, VA**  
*Integrating Resilience into State and Local Plans, Policies, and Codes*  
\$30,000 / matched by \$50,000

**The College of William and Mary  
Keck Field Laboratory, Williamsburg, VA**  
*Greenhouse Gas Flux from Stormwater Retention Ponds*  
\$9,612 / matched by \$9,645

**Friends of the Rappahannock, Fredericksburg, VA**  
*Upper Rappahannock Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) Coordinator Program*  
\$15,000 / matched by \$23,000

**Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association (WHRO), Norfolk, VA**  
*Expanding WHRO's "Catch the King" student education initiative into high schools throughout Hampton Roads*  
\$10,000 / matched by \$20,800

**James River Association, Richmond, VA**  
*Advocacy and Riverkeeper Programs Strategically Updating and Highlighting Issues Relating to the State of the James Report*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$477,400

**Land Trust Alliance, Washington, DC**  
*Program to Advance Land Conservation in Virginia's Southern Tier*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$25,000

**Land Trust of Virginia, Middleburg, VA**  
*Blue Ridge Conservation Initiative: The Study and Mapping Work Are Done, Now Community Outreach and Conservation Easements Are Next*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$29,125

**The Nature Conservancy, Charlottesville, VA**  
*Oyster Reef Restoration on the Piankatank River*  
\$17,500 / matched by \$165,000

**Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, VA**  
*Goose Creek Initiative*  
\$15,600 / matched by \$38,245

**Potomac Conservancy, Silver Spring, MD**  
*Picking Up the Pace of Northern Shenandoah Valley Watershed Conservation (20-month grant)*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$146,000

**Rivanna Conservation Alliance, Charlottesville, VA**  
*Water Quality Monitoring Programs*  
\$27,500 / matched by \$122,812

**Southern Environmental Law Center, Charlottesville, VA**  
*Leadership for Advancing Land Conservation in Virginia and for Defending Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries*  
\$30,000 / matched by \$120,000

**University of Virginia  
Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, Charlottesville, VA**  
*The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) Regional Expansion*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

**Virginia Conservation Network, Richmond, VA**  
*Clean Water for All Virginia*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$60,000

**Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA**  
*30th Environment Virginia Symposium*  
\$7,000

**Virginia's United Land Trusts, Richmond, VA**  
*Changing the Conversation about Land Conservation in the Commonwealth*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$105,000

**Support of Philanthropy**

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

\$5,290

**VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$492,502**

# VEE BOARD & STAFF

## GRANT AWARDS *continued*

### JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

#### Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, Williamsburg, VA

*Decision Agriculture and Precision Agriculture  
on the Lower James (2½-year grant)*  
\$640,000 / matched by \$450,000

#### James City County, Williamsburg, VA

*Chickahominy Riverfront Park Living Shoreline Project  
(2½-year grant)*  
\$781,900 / matched by \$781,900

#### James River Association, Richmond, VA

*James River Buffer Program Collaborative in the  
Middle James River Watershed (3-year grant)*  
\$1,457,820 / matched by \$1,071,576

#### Trout Unlimited, Arlington, VA

*James River Headwaters: Improving Water Quality  
by Building Capacity for Comprehensive Planning,  
Design and Implementation (3-year grant)*  
\$480,350 / matched by \$1,140,661

#### Virginia Department of Forestry, Charlottesville, VA

*Let's Make It Clear, Trees Make the James  
(3-year grant)*  
\$750,000 / matched by \$256,000

#### Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, VA

*James River Septic System Repair Cost-Share Program  
(3-year grant)*  
\$300,000 / matched by \$256,500

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TOTAL: \$4,410,070**

## FY 2019 TOTAL

**TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$4,902,572**

## VEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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## DONATING TO VEE'S WORK

Anyone wishing to contribute to VEE's strategic grant-making throughout Virginia may do so by giving to the Fund for VEE. Instructions can be found at [www.vee.org](http://www.vee.org).

## SPECIAL THANKS

VEE wishes to thank Ann Neil Cosby and Ryan Brown who contributed their expertise during fiscal year 2019.

Virginia Environmental Endowment  
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