

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) awarded over \$4 million in grants during FY 2020. While we centered a large part of our grant-making this year on investments in water quality improvements in the James River, VEE awarded additional grants throughout Virginia as well in parts of West Virginia and Kentucky. VEE's investments in the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys, for example, reached over \$3 million total in 2020 – having started with \$1 million in settlement funds in 1981. VEE's new Community Conservation Grant Program, launched in 2019, will make its first grants in the spring of 2020.

MISSION AND FOCUS

VEE's mission 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 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, environmental literacy and public awareness, and emerging issues of concern including 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, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia fined Allied Chemical Corporation \$13.2 million for polluting the James River with the insecticide Kepone. With the approval of District 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 with the express purpose of improving the quality of Virginia's environment. The income from this corpus continues to provide the funds for VEE's Virginia Program.

Between 1981 and 1991, VEE received another \$1.4 million in five court settlements, one of which expanded the Endowment's work beyond Virginia into the Kanawha River and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia.

In 2017, VEE was again the recipient of additional funds. One of several organizations specified in the terms of a mitigation agreement governing the construction of an electric utility line, VEE received \$15.595 million directed to the improvement of water quality in Virginia's James River watershed. The funds are to be spent over the next 10 years.

More recently, VEE received an additional \$3 million from another mitigation agreement which enabled it to launch the Community Conservation Program. This program targets conservation initiatives located within the counties of Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pittsylvania and Roanoke, and the cities of Salem and Roanoke.

For more than four decades, VEE has worked collaboratively with its partner organizations and grantees, serving as a leader and convener to improve environmental quality, catalyze land conservation successes, drive water quality improvements, advance environmental literacy, and build conservation organization capacity.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The March 31, 2020 reviewed asset value of the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) was \$37,896,426. During this past fiscal year (April 2019 – March 2020), the Board of Directors approved 37 grants totaling \$4,058,209. When combined with matching funds, VEE has accomplished over \$100 million in environmental improvements since 1977.

GRANT PROGRAMS

VEE awards grants through four programs:

- Virginia Program
- Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program
- James River Water Quality Improvement Program
- Community Conservation 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. The Virginia Program's funding priorities 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 125 grants totaling over \$3 million.

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

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (JRWQIP)

In the summer of 2017, VEE established a new James River Water Quality Improvement Program (JRWQIP) which focuses on producing significant water quality improvements in the James River. VEE's Strategic Investment Plan serves as a guide for grant-making under the JRWQIP.

In October 2018, VEE awarded its first set of JRWQIP grants totaling over \$4.4 million, which represented the largest amount VEE has awarded in a single year. In October 2019, VEE made seven more awards of over \$3.45 million.

The JRWQIP grants will advance a host of strategic investment priorities in the Upper, Middle, and Lower James River watershed. These include new initiatives to establish forested riparian buffers, accelerate pollution reductions from agricultural sources through innovative practices, restore streams and stabilize shorelines, and address failing septic systems.

In the first two years of the JRWQIP, VEE has awarded over \$7.9 million. These dollars will accomplish an estimated pollution reduction to the James River in excess of 22,800 pounds of nitrogen, 2,842 pounds of phosphorus, and 696,725 pounds of sediment.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

VEE's newest program focuses on conservation initiatives in the counties of Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pittsylvania and Roanoke, and the cities of Salem and Roanoke. VEE will award its first Community Conservation Program grants during FY 2021. The Endowment has \$3 million dollars available for the Program.

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA AND DEADLINES

Each of VEE's grant programs has its own specific set of grant application procedures tailored to that program. Applicants should review the current procedures on VEE's website. General grant criteria include the following guidelines:

- The Endowment 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.
- Matching fund requirements vary by grant program. Virginia Program projects, for example, 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.
- Grants must align with the mission and priorities of VEE and the applicable grant program.
- 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.
- Each year 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.

- A copy of the complete proposal signed by the organization's chief executive officer or board chair must be received by the program deadline date.
- Please email the proposal and cover letter to VEE as well as a Word document (send to info@vee.org). Two hard copies should also be sent to VEE.
Note: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the requirement for hard copies has been suspended for the time being. Be sure to check the website for the latest information.

For specific grant criteria and proposal requirements relating to the Virginia Program, James River Water Quality Improvement Program, and Community Conservation Program, please see our website, 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

Community Conservation Program: January 15

Please note that when the deadline for our receipt of an application falls on a weekend or holiday, VEE accepts the application until the close of the following business day. We do, however, observe the deadlines strictly.

GRANT AWARDS

Board decisions on grant applications are normally made in April and October (April for the December and January application deadlines, October for the June application deadline).

ADDRESSES

MAILING ADDRESS

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PACKAGE DELIVERY ADDRESS

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HELLO AND FAREWELL

We are pleased to announce that Heather McDonald has joined the staff of VEE as its new Administrative Assistant, filling the position previously held by Jean Wildbore who is retiring. Heather comes to VEE with extensive administrative experience including bookkeeping and financial reporting to management of a small business. Heather has indicated that she is "extremely excited to be a part of the great work VEE supports."

At the same time, we say farewell to Jean Wildbore who has served with distinction and dedication for over 22 years. She takes with her an incredible amount of institutional knowledge. VEE shares with Jean our fondest wishes for her retirement.

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Heather McDonald, *Administrative Assistant*

DONATING TO VEE'S WORK

Anyone wishing to contribute to VEE's strategic grant-making may do so by giving to the Fund for VEE. You can find the donation instructions on our website at www.vee.org.

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis, MD

Virginia Local Government Roundtables
\$11,938 / matched by \$20,081

Bay Journal Media, Seven Valleys, PA

*Sustaining Bay Journal Virginia Coverage
and Bay Journal Local Government Edition*
\$25,000 / matched by \$94,690

Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, Roanoke, VA

*Southern Virginia Land Conservancy:
Filling a Conservation Need in Virginia*
\$10,000 / matched by \$15,000

Blue Ridge PRISM, Crozet, VA

*Building on Landowner Education for
Landscape-Scale Conservation*
\$20,000 / matched by \$29,938

Blue Sky Fund, Richmond, VA

*Explorers Program - Experiential Outdoor Education
for Inner City Elementary School Students*
\$25,000 / matched by \$312,467

Capital Region Land Conservancy, Richmond, VA

*Developing and Sustaining Strategic Conservation Leaders
(2-year grant)*
\$40,000 / matched by \$66,500

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

Empowering Localities to Increase Their Resilience
\$40,000 / matched by \$50,000

Ever Green Team, Blackstone, VA

Southside Virginia Land Conservation
\$20,000 / matched by \$25,000

Friends of the James River Park, Richmond, VA

James River Park Forested Wetland Protection Project
\$10,000 / matched by \$29,000

Friends of the Rappahannock, Fredericksburg, VA

*Environmental Stewardship: Rappahannock River
Roundtable and WIP Implementation*
\$27,250 / matched by \$270,348

James River Association, Richmond, VA

*Enhancing the State of the James through River Reps:
Citizen Advocates for Water Quality*
\$30,000 / matched by \$477,400

Land Trust Alliance, Washington DC

*Program to Advance Land Conservation
in Virginia's Southern Tier*
\$15,000 / matched by \$25,000

Land Trust of Virginia, Middleburg, VA

*Targeted Conservation Initiatives -
More Conservation Easements*
\$19,500 / matched by \$51,750

Maymont Foundation, Richmond, VA

*My James River Exhibit: Environmental
Stewardship at Maymont Center*
\$10,000 / matched by \$35,000

Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, VA

*Strategic Conservation for Water Quality Improvements in the
Upper Rappahannock-Rapidan Watershed*
\$20,000 / matched by \$90,970

Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Washington, DC

Virginians for Swimmable Waterways
\$15,000 / matched by \$70,000

Rivanna Conservation Alliance, Charlottesville, VA

*Water Quality Monitoring and Monitoring-Focused
Education Programs*
\$25,000 / matched by \$122,644

Southern Environmental Law Center, Charlottesville, VA

*Leadership for Conserving Open Space and Natural Areas in
Virginia and for Protecting Water Quality in the Chesapeake
Bay and Throughout the Commonwealth*
\$30,000 / matched by \$120,000

The Conservation Fund, Arlington, VA

Saving Fones Cliffs
\$10,000 / matched by \$415,000

University of Virginia, Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, Charlottesville, VA

*Implementing The RAFT (Resilience Adaptation Feasibility
Tool) to Increase Resilience in Virginia's Northern Neck*
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

Virginia Conservation Network, Richmond, VA

Chesapeake Bay and Healthy Rivers Campaign
\$20,000 / matched by \$66,500

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, Gloucester Point, VA

*Virginia Sea Grant - Commonwealth Coastal and Marine
Policy Fellowship (2-year grant)*
\$30,000 / matched by \$30,000

Virginia Junior Academy of Science, Richmond, VA

*The Henry W. MacKenzie Jr. Environmental Scholarship
(4-year grant)*
\$24,000

Virginia's United Land Trusts, Richmond, VA

*Natural and Nature-Based Solutions,
Best Practices for Land Conservation*
\$20,000 / matched by \$102,000

Wetlands Watch, Norfolk, VA

*Land Trust Pilots Adaptive Management
Along Developed Shorelines*
\$35,000 / matched by \$35,000

Support of Philanthropy

- Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
 - Exponent Philanthropy
 - Southeastern Council of Foundations
- \$5,330

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$558,018

GRANT AWARDS *continued*

**KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER
VALLEYS PROGRAM**

Watershed Watch in Kentucky, Frankfort, KY
*Growth of an Active Citizen Science and Education Program
through a Focus on Visibility Networking and Partnerships*
\$29,800 / matched by \$152,588

West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Charleston, WV
*Water Policy in West Virginia: Maintaining
an Independent and Science Based Voice
(6-month grant to Protect Water Resources)*
\$20,000 / matched by \$58,844

**KANAWHA & OHIO RIVERS VALLEY PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$49,800**

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

City of Hopewell, Hopewell, VA
*Hopewell High School - Mathis Park Stream Restoration
Project (19-month grant)*
\$261,203 / matched by \$424,176

Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, TN
*James River Living Shoreline Stabilization Project [Hog Island]
(18-month grant)*
\$701,408 / matched by \$196,858

James City County, Williamsburg, VA
Grices Run Stream Restoration (26-month grant)
\$396,000 / matched by \$643,082

James River Association, Richmond, VA
*Scaling-up Living Shoreline Implementation
in the Lower James River Watershed (3-year grant)*
\$1,039,170 / matched by \$2,120,251

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA
Glen Stream Restoration (27-month grant)
\$315,000 / matched by \$118,489

Sustainable Chesapeake, Richmond, VA
*Engaging the Private Sector to Expand Adoption and
Improve Performance on High-Impact BMPs in the James
River Basin (39-month grant)*
\$237,610 / matched by \$214,499

**Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation,
Richmond, VA**
*Animal Waste Storage in Upper and Middle James River
Watershed (3-year grant)*
\$500,000 / matched by \$2,000,000

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TOTAL: \$3,450,391**

FY 2020 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$4,058,209