

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) not only awarded nearly \$5 million in grants during FY2021 but also worked with our existing grant partners by providing flexibility to ensure their success in the use of our grant funds. As a result, many grant recipients were able to continue their work and accomplish their goals.

While continuing to provide funding for the restoration of the James River through our James River Water Quality Improvement Program, VEE also launched the Community Conservation Program, providing over \$908,000 for a variety of water quality, environmental education, and public health initiatives in Southwest Virginia localities where historically we have not made many grants. We also continued to provide college scholarship funds for two deserving high school students and partnered with Virginia Sea Grant to help fund the Commonwealth Coastal & Marine Policy Fellowship Program.

## 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 strategic priorities for VEE 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

VEE is a nonprofit, independent grant-making foundation originally created 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., Allied used a portion of this fine (\$8 million) to fund the creation of VEE 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 our 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. VEE administers these funds through its James River Water Quality Improvement Program.

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 catalyze land conservation successes, drive water quality improvements, advance environmental literacy, build conservation organization capacity, and generate environmental improvements.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The March 31, 2021, reviewed asset value of VEE was \$41,074,927. During this past fiscal year of FY2021 (April 2020 – March 2021), the Board of Directors approved 32 grants totaling \$ 4,968,461. 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
- James River Water Quality Improvement Program
- Community Conservation Program
- Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys Program

### VIRGINIA PROGRAM

In FY2021, we awarded \$462,493 under the Virginia Program. This program provides support to nonprofit organizations, academia, governmental agencies, and more for:

- 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

This past year, VEE added to our proposal criteria a request for information from each applicant on whether the proposal would impact socially vulnerable communities, engage people of color, and/or improve the environmental quality of life for such communities and individuals.

## JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (JRWQIP)

The James River Water Quality Improvement Program (JRWQIP) focuses on producing significant water quality improvements in the James River.

The JRWQIP grants 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 FY2021, the JRWQIP funded \$3,552,715 in environmental initiatives. Total funding to date will accomplish an estimated pollution reduction to the James River in excess of 319,000 pounds of nitrogen, 26,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 7 million pounds of sediment.

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

VEE's newest program focuses on water quality protection, restoration, and improvement; land conservation support; and environmental literacy and awareness within the counties of Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pittsylvania and Roanoke, and the cities of Salem and Roanoke.

FY2021 was the first year of operation of this program. In FY2021, VEE made an initial six awards totaling \$908,748. These awards included funds for riparian buffer construction, septic tank replacements, agricultural conservation assistance, drinking water testing and remediation, and environmental education.

## KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

Limited to the Kanawha and Ohio River Valleys of Kentucky and West Virginia, VEE in FY2021 began closing out this program while working with two long-time partners on legacy grants that, due to the complications of the pandemic, were postponed till next year.

Since 1981, this program has supported research, education, citizen water quality monitoring, and community action on water quality and the effects of water pollution on public health and the environment in Kentucky and West Virginia.

## GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA AND DEADLINES

Each of VEE's grant programs has its own specific set of grant application procedures tailored to that program. For specific grant criteria and proposal requirements relating to each of our programs, please see the Grant Programs page of our website: <https://www.vee.org/grant-programs-application>

General grant criteria include the following:

- VEE provides grants to nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organizations and institutions and governmental agencies.
- VEE encourages requests that promise measurable results to improve the environment. Applicants should describe specifically how they propose to measure the success of a proposal.
- General support, overhead, indirect costs, capital projects, land purchases, building construction and renovation, endowments, lawsuits, or individuals are not eligible for funding.

- Matching fund requirements vary by grant program. The Virginia Program, for example, requires matching funds in amounts equal to or in excess of the funding request.
- VEE does in certain circumstances award challenge grants to provide leverage in fundraising.
- Grants must align with the mission and priorities of VEE and the applicable grant program. VEE may decline without further review proposals that are clearly outside the purposes and geographic limitations of our programs.
- VEE requires grantees to submit periodic reports of progress, expenditures, and results. VEE provides grantees with funds in installments, typically on a reimbursement basis.
- VEE does not reimburse project costs 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.
- VEE does not consider proposals it has previously denied absent prior express authorization for resubmittal.
- 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.
- Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the complete proposal signed by the organization's chief executive officer or board chair by the program deadline date.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

VEE must receive proposals by 5 p.m. (ET) on the following dates:

Virginia Program: June 15 and December 1

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.

For the latest information on application deadlines and other criteria, we urge applicants to always review the materials located on our website.

## GRANT AWARDS

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

## ADDRESSES

### MAILING ADDRESS

Joseph H. Maroon  
Executive Director  
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Richmond, VA 23218-0790

### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

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804.644.5000

### EMAIL ADDRESS

info@vee.org

## 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 at [www.vee.org/the-fund-for-the-virginia-environmental-endowment/](http://www.vee.org/the-fund-for-the-virginia-environmental-endowment/).

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## VIRGINIA PROGRAM

**Audubon Naturalist Society, Chevy Chase, MD**  
*Growing the Community of Environmental Stewards in Northern Virginia (2-year grant)*  
\$27,500 / matched by \$27,500

**Bay Journal Media, Seven Valleys, PA**  
*Bay Journal Local Government Edition*  
\$15,000 / matched by \$55,000

**Blue Sky Fund, Richmond, VA**  
*Blue Sky Fund Explorers Program*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$175,000

**Ever Green Team, Blackstone, VA**  
*Southside Virginia Land Conservation*  
\$15,000 / matched by \$15,000

**Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Petersburg, VA**  
*Advance Land Conservation along the Lower Appomattox River Greenway-Blueway*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,680

**Friends of the Rappahannock, Fredericksburg, VA**  
*Rappahannock River Steward Program Support*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$51,950

**James River Association, Richmond, VA**  
*Securing Policies and Public Support to Achieve a Grade-A James River*  
\$30,000 / matched by \$359,637

**Land Trust Alliance, Washington, DC**  
*Advancing Land Conservation Capacity and Partnerships in Virginia (18-month grant)*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$25,000

**Living River Trust, Norfolk, VA**  
*Maturing the Movement: Community Conservation for Coastal Virginia*  
\$23,000 / matched by \$32,192

**Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, VA**  
*Rappahannock River Public Access Projects*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$42,896

**Potomac Conservancy, Winchester, VA**  
*Access Edition – of the larger Northern Shenandoah Valley Priority Lands Project*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$136,233

**Rivanna Conservation Alliance, Charlottesville, VA**  
*RCA's Water Quality Monitoring Program*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$80,960

**Southern Environmental Law Center, Charlottesville, VA**  
*Leadership for Advancing Sustainable Land Use and Land Conservation in Virginia and Protecting Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay and Throughout the Commonwealth*  
\$30,000 / matched by \$120,000

**The Nature Conservancy of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**  
*Smart from the Start*  
\$11,300 / matched by \$11,400

**University of Virginia/Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, Charlottesville, VA**  
*Advancing Environmental Justice and Equity in VA's Natural Resources*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

**Virginia Coastal Policy Center, William and Mary School of Law, Williamsburg, VA**  
*Supporting Informed Decision-Making*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$50,000

**Virginia Conservation Network, Richmond, VA**  
*Chesapeake Bay & Healthy Rivers Campaign*  
\$30,000 / matched by \$72,000

**Virginia Junior Academy of Science, Richmond, VA**  
*The Frances and Sydney Lewis Environmental Science Scholarship (4-year grant)*  
\$24,000

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA**  
*Virginia Master Naturalist Program – Engaging Diverse Populations*  
\$16,198 / matched by \$16,198

**Virginia's United Land Trusts, Richmond, VA**  
*Filling the Land Conservation Gaps: Regional Collaborations and Partnerships*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$120,000

**Waterkeepers Chesapeake, Takoma Park, MD**  
*Expanding Virginia's Capacity for Clean Water Advocacy*  
\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

**VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$466,998**

## KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

**West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Charleston, WV**  
*Water Policies in West Virginia: Maintaining an Independent and Science-Based Voice to Protect Water Resources*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

**West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Charleston, WV**  
*Water Policies in West Virginia: Maintaining an independent and science-based voice to protect water resources*  
\$20,000 / matched by \$28,844

**KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM TOTAL: \$40,000**

**GRANT AWARDS** *continued*

**COMMUNITY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**Dan River Basin Association, Collinsville, VA**

*Students Taking on Environmental Matters (STEM) Project  
(2-year grant)*

\$50,000 / matched by \$18,700

**New River Conservancy, West Jefferson, NC**

*River Builder Riparian Restoration Program Description  
(3-year grant)*

\$251,860 / matched by \$451,384

**New River Land Trust, Blacksburg, VA**

*Northern Headwaters of the Roanoke River Project  
(2-year grant)*

\$229,318 / matched by \$296,482

**Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project,  
Roanoke, VA**

*Septic System Maintenance Education & Pump-Out Program  
(2-year grant)*

\$93,114 / matched by \$74,048

**Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation  
Districts, Mechanicsville, VA**

*Soil and Water Conservation Technical Assistance Support  
(3-year grant)*

\$186,725 / matched by \$298,760

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,  
Blacksburg, VA**

*Identifying key challenges in maintaining water quality for  
households dependent on private water supplies in Southwest  
Virginia (3-year grant)*

\$97,731 / matched by \$67,782

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
TOTAL: \$908,748**

**JAMES RIVER WATER  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**Boy Scouts of America, Tidewater Council,  
Virginia Beach, VA**

*Pipsico Scout Reservation – Lions Beach Living Shoreline  
\$834,088 / matched by \$834,088*

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Richmond, VA**

*Buffer Restoration in the Upper James River Watershed  
\$1,098,029 / matched by \$139,300*

**James River Association, Richmond, VA**

*Expanding the James River Buffer Program across the  
Middle James*

\$1,620,598 / matched by \$458,000

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM TOTAL: \$3,552,715**

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**FY 2021 TOTAL**

**TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$4,968,461**