

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the challenges and opportunities presented by the second year of the pandemic, the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) awarded over \$2.2 million in grants during FY 2022 (April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022). We continued working with our existing grant partners by providing flexibility and support to ensure their success in the use of our grant funds and accomplishing their goals. VEE also placed a greater emphasis on projects serving socially vulnerable and underserved communities.

In our 45th year, VEE continued to operate three ongoing grant programs: our traditional Virginia Program, the James River Water Quality Improvement Program, and the Community Conservation Program. Taken together, these three programs provided grants this year to 30 recipients across the Commonwealth for a variety of water quality, land conservation, environmental education, climate resilience, and public health initiatives. Working with the Junior Academy of Science, we continued to provide college scholarship funds for two deserving high school students again this year and partnered with Virginia Sea Grant on the Commonwealth Coastal & Marine Policy (post Graduate) Fellowship Program. FY 2022 was also the second year of the continued close out of the Kanawha and Ohio Program with two legacy grants to long-standing partners in West Virginia and Kentucky.

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, coastal climate adaptation and emerging issues of concern.

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 in FY 2021. 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 partners, serving as a leader in catalyzing and advancing land conservation, water quality improvement, environmental literacy, and organizational capacity.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The March 31, 2022, reviewed asset value of VEE was \$39,137,764. During this past fiscal year of FY2022 (April 2021 – March 2022), the Board of Directors approved 30 grants totaling \$2,228,111. When combined with matching funds, VEE has accomplished over \$112 million in environmental improvements since 1977.

GRANT PROGRAMS

VEE awards grants through three programs: the Virginia Program, the James River Water Quality Improvement Program and the Community Conservation Program.

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

In FY2022, we awarded \$541,800 to 23 recipients 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

GRANT PROGRAMS *continued*

- Environmental literacy and public awareness
- Climate adaptation and emerging issues of concern

In addition, VEE now includes in 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 (JRQIP)

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

The JRQIP 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 FY2022, the JRQIP funded an additional three-year grant of \$754,700 to Trout Unlimited for its work in the Upper James watershed. Total funding to date will accomplish an estimated pollution reduction to the James River in excess of 488,000 pounds of nitrogen, 42,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 8 million pounds of sediment. A link to the “story map” created for this Program can be found on the VEE website.

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 FY2022, VEE made four additional awards totaling \$566,611. These multi-year awards included funds for the operation of a county-wide septic pump-out program, development of a community environmental center, restoration of a degraded waterway, and development of a women-of-color youth conservation corps.

KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

As VEE winds down this Program, it made two legacy grants for a total of \$365,000 in FY2022 to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the Watershed Watch in Kentucky. This Program is closed to new applications.

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.

GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA AND DEADLINES *continued*

- 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. Applications must be submitted electronically; VEE no longer accepts hard copies.

GRANT AWARDS

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

EMAIL ADDRESSES

GENERAL INFO AND VIRGINIA PROGRAM

info@vee.org

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

jrwqip@vee.org

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

communityconservation@vee.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

OFFICERS

Dixon M. Butler, *President*
Robert B. Smith Jr., *Senior Vice President*
Nina Randolph, *Treasurer*
Joseph H. Maroon, *Secretary*

DIRECTORS

Robin D. Baliles, *Charlottesville*
Dixon M. Butler, *Washington, DC*
Celia Dallas, *Great Falls*
Nina Randolph, *Alexandria*
Nancy Newton Rogers, *Richmond*
Robert B. Smith Jr., *Washington DC*
Blair Wimbush, *Virginia Beach*

William B. Cummings, *Alexandria, President Emeritus*
Frances A. Lewis, *Richmond, Director Emeritus*

STAFF

Joseph H. Maroon, Executive Director
Roy A. Hoagland, Esq., Senior Program Officer
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 at www.vee.org/the-fund-for-the-virginia-environmental-endowment/.

VIRGINIA PROGRAM

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis, MD

Chesapeake Watershed Virginia Local Elected Officials Peer to Peer Learning Exchange
\$15,000 / matched by \$15,000

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 (challenge grant)
\$20,000 / matched by \$46,243

Blue Sky Fund, Richmond, VA

Explorers Program
\$25,000 / matched by \$350,864

Calleva, Poolesville, MD

Connecting the Community with Nature
\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

Capital Region Land Conservancy, Richmond, VA

Leveraging Every Dollar (over 2 yrs.)
\$50,000 / matched by \$50,000

Ever Green Team, Blackstone, VA

Southside Virginia Land Conservation
\$10,000 / matched by \$15,000

James River Association, Richmond, VA

Evaluating Impacts to Socially Vulnerable Communities and Catalyzing Policies to Alleviate Toxic Chemicals within the James River Watershed
\$30,000 / matched by \$343,560

Land Trust of Virginia, Middleburg, VA

Expanding the Elements of the Land Trust of Virginia's Core Work
\$20,000 / matched by \$57,000

Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Annandale, VA

NVCT Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Work in Arlington County
\$20,000 / matched by \$27,204

Piedmont Environmental Council, Warrenton, VA

Restoring Riparian Buffers in the Upper Potomac Watershed
\$21,250 / matched by \$94,623

Potomac Riverkeeper Network, Washington, DC

Virginians for Swimmable Waterways Program
\$23,300 / matched by \$60,000

Ridge to Reefs Inc., Sykesville, MD

Addressing Legacy Nitrate Pollution in Shenandoah Valley
\$30,000 / matched by \$276,000

Rivanna Conservation Alliance, Inc., Charlottesville, VA

Water Quality Monitoring Program
\$27,500 / matched by \$90,891

Science Museum of Virginia Foundation, Richmond, VA

The Stormwater Management Demonstration Bed at the Green at the Science Museum of Virginia
\$25,000 / matched by \$50,177

Southern Environmental Law Center, Charlottesville, VA

Leadership for Advancing Sustainable Land Use and Land Conservation in Virginia, Promoting Coastal Resiliency, and Protecting Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay and throughout the Commonwealth
\$40,000 / matched by \$2,201,300

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

Implementing The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) on the Middle Peninsula
\$29,000 / matched by \$29,000

University of Virginia's College at Wise, Wise, VA

High Knob Sustainable Recreation Partnership
\$10,000 / matched by \$18,000

Virginia Conservation Network, Richmond, VA

Our 2022 Common Agenda: Welcoming a New Administration
\$30,000 / matched by \$70,800

Virginia Sea Grant, Gloucester Point, VA

Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellowship (2 years)
\$30,000 / matched by \$30,000

Virginia's United Land Trusts, Richmond, VA

Words to Action: Policies that Serve All Communities
\$20,000 / matched by \$52,000

Wetlands Watch, Norfolk VA

Training Planning Commissioners on Plans for Resilience
\$10,750 / matched by \$10,750

William & Mary Law School Virginia Coastal Policy Center, Williamsburg, VA

Coastal Resilience in the Commonwealth
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$541,800

KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM

Watershed Watch in Kentucky, Frankfort, KY

Support of a Citizen Science Monitoring Program Through Focus on Financial Stability (3 years)
\$150,000 / matched by \$331,450

West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Charleston, WV

Sustainability for Protection of the Kanawha and Ohio River Watersheds (3 years)
\$215,000 / matched by \$548,045

**KANAWHA AND OHIO RIVER VALLEYS PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$365,000**

GRANT AWARDS *continued*

COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, Roanoke, VA

*Setting Community-based Conservation Priorities in Virginia's
Blue Ridge (3 years)*

\$63,152 / matched by \$39,865

New River Land Trust, Blacksburg, VA

*Northern Headwaters of the Roanoke River Project: 2021-
2022 (18 months)*

\$189,134 / matched by \$184,702

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

*Accelerating Implementation of Residential Scale Stormwater
BMPs through targeted VCAP Funding (3 years)*

\$177,600 / matched by \$124,200

Western Virginia Water Authority, Roanoke, VA

*Community and Environmental Harm Reduction through
Proper Storage and Disposal of Medications (2 years)*

\$136,725 / matched by \$395,000

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$566,611**

JAMES RIVER WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM

Trout Unlimited, Inc., Arlington, VA

*James River Headwaters: Accelerating Water Quality
Improvement through Collaborative Technical Assistance
and Implementation*

\$754,700 / matched by \$2,578,535

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM TOTAL: \$754,700**

FY 2022 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$2,228,111