

FY2023 HIGHLIGHTS

During FY 2023 (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023) the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) awarded over \$2.680 million in grants. We continued working with our existing grant partners while expanding our reach to include new partners.

Now in our 46th year, VEE continued to operate three ongoing grant programs:

- Our traditional Virginia Program
- Our rivershed specific James River Water Quality Improvement Program
- Our Community Conservation Program for the southwestern portion of the Commonwealth

VEE provided grants to 32 recipients across the Commonwealth through these three programs.

Our FY 2023 funding continued VEE's ongoing and historic collaborative work with many partners. With the passage of another year, VEE continued to serve as a leader in catalyzing and advancing land conservation, water quality improvement, environmental literacy, climate resilience, and organizational development across the Commonwealth.

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. This program targets conservation initiatives located within the counties of Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pittsylvania and Roanoke, and the cities of Salem and Roanoke.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The year-end reviewed asset value of VEE was \$34,168,054. During FY 2023, the Board of Directors approved 32 grants totaling \$2,680,383. When combined with matching funds, VEE has accomplished over \$120 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 FY 2023, we awarded \$614,784 to 26 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
- Environmental literacy and public awareness
- Climate adaptation and emerging issues of concern

VEE continues to request from each applicant information on whether the submitted proposal would impact socially vulnerable communities, engage people of color, and/or improve the environmental quality of life for such communities and individuals.

GRANT PROGRAMS *continued*

JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

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. A link to the “story map” created for the JRWQIP can be found on the VEE website.

In FY 2023, VEE funded an additional \$1,707,062 in James River initiatives. Sustainable Chesapeake received \$554,232 to continue its work with manure injection and Chesapeake Bay Foundation received \$1,152,830 to continue its riparian buffer work in the Upper James watershed.

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.

In FY 2023, VEE awarded a total of \$358,537 under this program. These dollars will help transform 10 acres of degraded urban ground into a community environmental education space; provide conservation career training for young women; restore failing septic systems in Roanoke County; and assist in a multi-year

nature park project in an underserved area located next to a tributary of the Roanoke River.

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.

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

**GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA
AND DEADLINES** *continued*

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.

For the latest information on application deadlines and other criteria, we urge applicants to always review the materials and announcements located on our website. Applications must be submitted electronically; VEE no longer accepts hard copies.

GRANT AWARDS

Our Board decisions on grant applications are normally made in April (for December and January applications) and October (for June applications).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

GENERAL INFO AND VIRGINIA PROGRAM

info@vee.org

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

jrwwip@vee.org

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

communityconservation@vee.org

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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 SHENANDOAH VALLEY, New Market, VA

Getting it Right with Solar in the Shenandoah Valley
\$27,000 / matched by \$50,500

BAY JOURNAL MEDIA, Mayo, MD

Farming & the Bay: Facing a Crossroads
\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

BLUE RIDGE DISCOVERY CENTER, Troutdale, VA

Curriculum Guide & Natural History Narrative of the Mount Rogers Region
\$17,500 / matched by \$52,298

BLUE RIDGE PRISM, White Hall, VA

Building on Landowner Education for Landscape-Scale Conservation
\$20,000 (challenge grant) / matched by \$20,000

BLUE SKY FUND, Richmond, VA

2022-2023 Explorers Program
\$25,000 / matched by \$311,078

COMMUNITY CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE, Charlottesville, VA

Fostering Youth Climate Leadership Program
\$10,000 / matched by \$25,000

DEFENSORES DE LA CUENCE, Cheverly, MD

Pescando Conocimiento (Fishing for Knowledge)
\$20,000 / matched by \$25,000

ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT, Norfolk, VA

Our Elizabeth: Achieving Equity-Centered Education Aboard the Learning Barge & More
\$25,000 / matched by \$52,500

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER APPOMATTOX RIVER, Petersburg, VA

Program Implementation to Advance Land Conservation Along the Lower Appomattox River Greenway-Blueway
\$20,000 / matched by \$20,450

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION, Richmond, VA

A Fishable, Swimmable, and Drinkable James River
\$30,000 / matched by \$286,790

LAND SAVERS UNITED, Roanoke, VA

Building Capacity for Land Conservation in Central Virginia
\$40,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$51,870

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE, Washington, DC

To Advance Land Conservation Capacity and Partnerships in Virginia
\$20,000 / matched by \$30,000

NATURE FORWARD, Chevy Chase, MD

Empowering Environmental Stewards in Northern Virginia
\$50,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$55,000

PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, Warrenton, VA

Accelerating Riparian Buffers in the Upper Rappahannock and Potomac Watersheds
\$20,800 / matched by \$178,203

POTOMAC CONSERVANCY, Silver Spring, MD

Northern Shenandoah Valley Priority Lands Project
\$20,000 / matched by \$170,000

RIVANNA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE, Charlottesville, VA

Water Quality Monitoring Program
\$25,000 / matched by \$99,686

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 \$2,901,500

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION, Charlottesville, VA

Implementing The RAFT (Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool) to Increase Resilience in the Cities of Hopewell and Petersburg of Crater District, VA
\$24,740 / matched by \$24,740

UPPER TENNESSEE RIVER ROUNDTABLE, Abingdon, VA

Experiential Education Program in the Upper Tennessee River Basin
\$10,244 / matched by \$10,244

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, Chesterfield, VA

Virginia Environmental Education Certification Program
\$10,000 / matched by \$19,000

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK, Richmond, VA

Maintaining Momentum for Clean Water in the Commonwealth
\$30,000 / matched by \$80,000

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE (CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS), Lexington, VA

Environment Virginia Symposium
\$7,000 / matched by \$7,000

VIRGINIA TECH (COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT), Blacksburg, VA

Water Internship Program for Undergraduate Students from Historically Marginalized Communities
\$20,000 (2-year grant) / matched by \$20,000

VIRGINIA'S UNITED LAND TRUSTS, Richmond, VA

Collaboration & Partnership: Funding and Policies Built Through Consensus
\$20,000 / matched by \$60,000

WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE, Takoma Park, MD

Expanding Virginia's Capacity for Clean Water Advocacy
\$22,500 / matched by \$25,000

WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL VIRGINIA COASTAL POLICY CENTER, Williamsburg, VA

Planning for a Climate-Changed Future in Virginia
\$35,000 / matched by \$40,000

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$614,784

GRANT AWARDS *continued*

COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**APPALACHIAN CONSERVATION CORPS,
Harrisonburg, VA**

The Roanoke Young Women's Youth Conservation Crew
\$151,336 (3-year grant) / matched by \$82,920

KIWANIS FOUNDATION OF ROANOKE, Roanoke, VA

Horton Branch Watershed Improvement Project
\$50,000 (3-year grant) / matched by \$205,500

ROANOKE COLLEGE, Salem, VA

*Restoring Ecosystem Function and Promoting Environmental
Literacy in a Degraded Urban Area*
\$88,601 (3-year grant) / matched by \$100,600

**ROANOKE VALLEY-ALLEGHANY REGIONAL
COMMISSION, Roanoke, VA**

*Septic System Education and Pump-out Program for
Roanoke County*
\$68,600 (3-year grant) / matched by \$26,063

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$358,537**

JAMES RIVER WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, Richmond, VA

*Buffer Restoration in the Upper James River Watershed —
Phase 2*
\$1,152,830 (3-year grant) / matched by \$202,408

SUSTAINABLE CHESAPEAKE, Richmond, VA

*Making Manure Injection the "New Normal" in the James
River Basin*
\$554,232 (3-year grant) / matched by \$719,431

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM TOTAL: \$1,707,062**

FY 2023 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$2,680,383