

FY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

During FY 2024 (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024), the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) awarded over \$1.4 million in grants. With three active grant programs, VEE provided funds to 26 grant recipients. For each of these three programs, the FY 2024 total awards were::

- Virginia Program: \$589,625
- James River Water Quality Improvement Program: \$509,291
- Community Conservation Program: \$332,529

The final pages of this Annual Report provide more detail on each Program and its FY 2024 awards.

Once again, VEE's awards reflect its ongoing commitment to collaborative work with many partners to catalyze and advance 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.

In 2020, 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 \$33,633,125. During FY 2024, the Board of Directors approved 28 grants totaling \$1,431,445. When combined with matching funds, VEE has accomplished over \$127 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 2024, we awarded \$589,625 to 24 recipients under the Virginia Program. This program provides support to nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, 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.

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

In FY 2024, VEE funded an additional \$509,921 in James River initiatives. These funds focus on continued implementation of forested riparian buffers and living shorelines within the James watershed.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

VEE’s targeted Western Virginia 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 2024, VEE awarded a total of \$332,529 under this program. The FY 2024 awards focus on community access to trail networks and building climate resiliency within several counties within the program’s geographic jurisdiction.

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 our website.

General grant criteria include the following:

- VEE provides grants to nonprofit tax-exempt charitable organizations, academic 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. Applications must be submitted electronically.

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

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**

jrwwqip@vee.org

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

communityconservation@vee.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND STAFF**

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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

BLUE RIDGE PRISM, WHITE HALL, VA

Building on Landowner Education for Landscape-Scale Conservation

\$20,000 / matched by \$20,000

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION, RICHMOND, VA

Engaging Virginians on Wetlands

\$10,000 / matched by \$11,130

CHINCOTEAGUE BAY FIELD STATION, WALLOPS ISLAND, VA

Hands-on, Feet-wet Learning and Professional Development Opportunities for Virginia Teachers and Accomack and Northampton County Public School Students

\$24,125 / matched by \$44,308

FRIENDS OF THE LOWER APPOMATTOX RIVER, PETERSBURG, VA

Expand Implementation and Update GIS Tool to Advance Land Conservation Along the Lower Appomattox River Greenway-Blueway Corridor

\$20,000 / matched by \$36,450

FRIENDS OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK, FREDERICKSBURG, VA

Leveraging Volunteerism for River Protection

\$26,000 / matched by \$40,500

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND, VA

Addressing Critical Conservation Issues Facing the James River Through Advocacy Initiatives

\$30,000 / matched by \$355,480

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE, WASHINGTON, DC

To Advance Land Conservation Capacity and Partnerships in Virginia

\$30,000 / matched by \$30,000

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST, ANNANDALE, VA

Stafford County Conservation Capacity Expansion

\$25,000 / matched by \$25,378

PIEDMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, WARRENTON, VA

Enhanced Partnerships to Maintain Riparian Buffers and Map Priority Lands in the Virginia Piedmont

\$25,000 / matched by \$234,778

POTOMAC CONSERVANCY, SILVER SPRING, MD

Potomac Headwaters Conservation Project

\$22,000 / matched by \$170,000

POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK, WASHINGTON, DC

Virginia Coal Ash Work

\$30,000 / matched by \$50,000

RIVANNA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Water Quality Monitoring Program

\$25,000 / matched by \$106,260

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 \$160,000

THE MARINERS' MUSEUM AND PARK, NEWPORT NEWS, VA

Expanding Environmental Literacy through Mariners' Educational Enrichment

\$25,000 / matched by \$85,000

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

STEP—Paths to Careers in Conservation

\$30,000 / matched by \$215,429

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

Continued Implementation of The RAFT (Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool) in the Cities of Hopewell and Petersburg of Crater District, VA and Adaptation of the RAFT Scorecard for Inland Localities

\$25,000 / matched by \$25,000

VALLEY CONSERVATION COUNCIL, STAUNTON, VA

Supporting BIPOC Land Conservation and Restoration in the Shenandoah Valley

\$25,000 / matched by \$1,067,000

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CHESTERFIELD, VA

Virginia Environmental Education Certification Program

\$11,500 / matched by \$27,085

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK, RICHMOND, VA

Our 2024 Common Agenda for Clean Water Project

\$40,000 / matched by \$80,000

VIRGINIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, RICHMOND, VA

Lewis and MacKenzie College Scholarships

\$24,000

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

Environment Virginia Symposium

\$7,000

VIRGINIA SEA GRANT, GLOUCESTER POINT, VA

Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellowship

\$30,000 / matched by \$30,000

VIRGINIA'S UNITED LAND TRUSTS, RICHMOND, VA

Advancing Land Conservation through Convening, Collaboration, and Coordination

\$20,000 / matched by \$85,000

WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE, TAKOMA PARK, MD

Expanding Virginia's Capacity for Clean Water Advocacy

\$25,000 / matched by \$53,500

VIRGINIA PROGRAM TOTAL: \$589,625

GRANT AWARDS *continued*

**JAMES RIVER WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM**

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION, RICHMOND, VA

*Expanding the James River Buffer Program Across the Middle
James (grant amendment)*
\$125,192

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION

*Accelerating the Implementation and Awareness of the James
River Living Shoreline Cost Share Program*
\$384,099 / matched by \$50,265

**JAMES RIVER WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM TOTAL TOTAL: \$509,291**

**COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

THE MOUNTAIN LAKE CONSERVANCY, PEMBROKE, VA

*Mountain Lake Trail Network Conservation &
Connection Project*
\$106,975 / matched by \$1,200,000

WETLANDS WATCH, NORFOLK, VA

*Building Land Conservation and Floodplain Management
Capacity in Western Virginia*
\$225,554

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM
TOTAL: \$332,529**

FY 2024 TOTAL

TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS: \$1,431,445