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## Weekly Watershed Announcements November 22, 2017

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Thank you for your continued support of the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT)!

If you have information that you would like shared in the MJRT weekly announcements, please send it to [dur24@henrico.us](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In The News

#### **Chesapeake Bay Funding Could Get A Big Boost Under New Farm Bills**

*(Daily Press)*



Federal funding to restore the Chesapeake Bay has declined in recent years and is under threat in Washington today, but could get a big boost under bipartisan bills just introduced in Congress.

The Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancements Act of 2017 would triple the amount of conservation funds available for the bay and other regions from \$100 million to \$300 million, increase mandatory funding for the bay and enhance agricultural conservation efforts.

To read the full article by Tamara Dietrich, click [here](#).

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#### **Endangered Sturgeon's Return To James River Could Be Hurdle For Industry**

*(Bay Journal)*



In the James River south of Richmond, endangered Atlantic sturgeon have become so common that observant spring and fall boaters are nearly guaranteed to see one breach. It's hard to miss - a 6- or 7-foot fish exploding out of the water, as if shot from a cannon, wiggling for a split second in midair, then belly-flopping back into the river with a theatrical splash.

To read the full article by Whitney Popkin, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### **VAEE Certification Program Certifying Advisory Board Nominations**

*(Due December 1, 2017)*



At this year's Virginia Naturally Conference there were many conversations about the forthcoming Virginia Environmental Education Certification Program. For this process to move forward, we are now seeking nominations for members of the Certifying Advisory Board (CAB). Nominations are due December 1. Click [here](#) for the nomination form.

Before applying, review the documents on the VAEE Certification Trello Board. For access to this board, please email Dan Cohen at [dcohen@roanoke.edu](mailto:dcohen@roanoke.edu).

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### **Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Training & Certification**



DEQ's 2018 Stormwater and Erosion training schedules have been posted. Continuing education classes will be open for enrollment on November 13. Certification classes are available now.

For more information and to enroll in a class, click [here](#).

## Funding Opportunity For Nonpoint Source Implementation Projects

(VA Department of Environmental Quality)



The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Watershed Programs is making federal Section 319(h) grant funding available to support Nonpoint Source (NPS) implementation projects that will result in advancement of NPS pollution goals and milestones provided in eligible TMDL implementation plans or watershed based plans (IPs). Eligible implementation plan areas are provided in Table 1.

The purpose of the 2018-2019 Virginia Section 319(h) TMDL Implementation Program Request for Applications (RFA) is to establish a priority list of TMDL implementation projects. Projects on this list will be developed into sub-award agreements as funding becomes available in 2018 and 2019. The complete RFA package can be downloaded from the Department of Environmental Quality

(DEQ) Nonpoint Source Grant Funding web page at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/CleanWaterFinancingAssistance/NonpointSourceFunding.aspx>.

OR directly from:

[http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/NonpointSource/NPSRFA/2018\\_DEQ-NPSTMDL-RFA.pdf](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/NonpointSource/NPSRFA/2018_DEQ-NPSTMDL-RFA.pdf)

Funding is available to support two different categories of projects. Requests for funding must identify the applicable category.

- Category 1 - New Implementation Projects: Duration up to 36 months, award range \$100,000 - \$400,000.
- Category 2 - Continuing Implementation Projects: Duration up to 36 months, award range \$100,000 - \$400,000.

**The Deadline for applications is 11:59 pm, Friday, February 9, 2018.**

DEQ's Office of Watershed Programs will also host a webinar "TMDL Implementation RFA Q&A webinar and Proposal Development Training" to help prepare potential applicants for submitting applications.

Training Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 pm (tentative schedule Part 1 8:30-10:30, Part 2 10:30-12:30)

Location: Webinar, registration required

Description: DEQ's Office of Watershed Programs is issuing a Request for Applications (RFA) to for TMDL Implementation Projects to start between 10/1/2018 and 10/1/2019. The deadline for the RFA is 2/9/2018. This webinar will be a combination training intended to assist potential applicants in developing and submitting better, more effective applications for funding under this RFA as well as answer any questions attendees may have about the RFA.

- Part 1 of the training will focus on the new 2018/2019 RFA and key information regarding this new funding opportunity with ample opportunity for Questions and Answers. This will include what the RFA is covering and any significant changes from the 2016/2017 RFA.
- Part 2 of the training, "Now What? Next Steps for Securing NPS Implementation Funding Webinar", will present key materials needed that will allow attendees to go from having a TMDL Implementation Plan completed to developing a project proposal, developing partnerships, and ultimately submit an application or proposal for funding. Target audience: Any organization that may want to submit an application for funding for a new or continued TMDL Implementation Project utilizing Federal Section 319(h).

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Register: Registration is required in order to get call information  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3025152698953308419>

General questions regarding this request for applications, Section 319(h) and NPS implementation should be directed to NPS Program Coordinator, Nicole Sandberg, (804) 698-4043 or NPS Grant and Data Coordinator, Lars Bolton, (804) 698-4435 or [npsgrants@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:npsgrants@deq.virginia.gov) (email subject line: NPS Implementation RFA Question). Specific questions regarding local activity should be directed to the identified Nonpoint Source Coordinator or regional contact person for each of the DEQ Regional Offices. Coverage areas for each Regional Office can be found here:

Piedmont Regional Office:

Katie Ranger, [kaitlin.Ranger@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:kaitlin.Ranger@deq.virginia.gov), (804) 527-5018;

Tidewater Regional Office:

Kristie Britt, [Kristie.Britt@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Kristie.Britt@deq.virginia.gov), (757) 518-2153;

Northern Regional Office:

Dave Evans, [David.Evans@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:David.Evans@deq.virginia.gov), (703) 583-3835;

Valley Regional Office:

Nesha McRae, [Nesha.Mcrae@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Nesha.Mcrae@deq.virginia.gov), (540) 574-7850;

Blue Ridge Regional Office:

James Moneymaker, [James.Moneymaker@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:James.Moneymaker@deq.virginia.gov), (540) 562-6738;

Southwest Regional Office:

Stephanie Kreps; [Stephanie.Kreps@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Kreps@deq.virginia.gov), (276) 676-4803

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### **Chesapeake Bay Trust Environmental Education** (Chesapeake Bay Trust)



Applications are accepted from non-profits, state and local agencies, education institutions, community associations, and faith-based organizations for grants that build and/or expand pre-K through 12 environmental literacy programs using the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) model. MWEEs are investigations into local environmental issues that include both learning in the classroom and learning outdoors and culminate in students addressing their issue through action projects in their community.

For more information on the program and how to apply, see <https://cbtrust.org/environmental-education-2/>. Direct questions to Tara Baker at [tbaker@cbtrust.org](mailto:tbaker@cbtrust.org). Offered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Application deadline is 5pm on December 8, 2017.

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### **Five Star And Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program** **2018 Request For Proposals** (Environmental Protection Agency)



Full Proposal Due Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, and Southern Company are pleased to solicit applications for the 2018 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration program. The Five Star and Urban Waters program will award approximately \$2 million in grants nationwide.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR - Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 2pm - 3:30pm

Interested, but not sure if your project qualifies?

Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship. Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring and stormwater management. Projects should also increase access to the benefits of nature, reduce the impact of environmental hazards and engage local communities, particularly underserved communities, in project planning, outreach and implementation.

Still interested, but not sure how to apply?

Go directly to the grant program website at

<http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/2018rfp.aspx> where you can find:

- The full "Request for Proposals"
- A "Tip Sheet" that walks you through the application process and describes what is needed for each question/information prompt. This "how to" document is extremely helpful and thorough.
- A webinar opportunity on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 2pm-3:30pm at which you can interact with experts who can answer questions and you can learn about the 2018 Five Star and Urban Waters program including program priorities, funding availability and application review criteria. Register today.

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### **Virginia Conservation Assistance Program**

*(Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)*



This program provides incentive payments for several Best Management Practices such as rain gardens, cisterns, green roofs, and conservation landscaping. This program is now available to the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

See <http://vaswcd.org/vcap> for an overview or contact VCAP Coordinator Kevin Mclean at [kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org](mailto:kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org) for more information.

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