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## Weekly Watershed Announcements December 15, 2017

### In This Issue

[In The News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Grant Opportunities](#)

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

#### Northam Announces Cabinet Picks For Natural Resources, Agriculture and Forestry (Richmond Times-Dispatch)



Governor-elect Ralph Northam has named one of his former legislative aides, currently a senior adviser to a key congressional committee, as Virginia's next secretary of Natural Resources, one of two Cabinet picks announced Thursday.

To read the full article by Robert Zullo, click [here](#).

#### Water Quality in Chesapeake Bay Approaches Record High (Augusta Free Press)



The Chesapeake Bay Program announced today that estimated water quality in the tidal Chesapeake Bay has reached a near-record high.

According to [preliminary data](#), almost 40 percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries met clean water standards for clarity, oxygen and algae growth between 2014 and 2016. This two percent increase from the previous assessment period is due in large part to a rise in [dissolved oxygen](#) in the deep channel of the Bay.

While this positive sign of resiliency in the nation's largest estuary indicates our ecosystem has recovered from the damages sustained during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, water quality must improve in 60 percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries if the estuary is to function as a healthy ecosystem.

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

#### McAuliffe Announces Agreements to Protect Virginia's Aquifers (Augusta Free Press)



On December 13, 2017 Governor Terry McAuliffe announced agreements to limit groundwater withdrawals from the Commonwealth's at-risk coastal

aquifers.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will issue new permits for 14 major groundwater users in eastern Virginia, reducing total allowable withdrawals by 69 million gallons a day.

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

## Upcoming Events

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



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](#).

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### James River Association Upcoming Events



For more information on all upcoming events, see <https://jrava.org/>.

**James River Lunch & Learn: Advocacy for a Clean River - January 10, 2018** (12-1pm) - Great Shiplock Park, Richmond, VA - For more information, see <https://form.jotform.com/73165679987984>.

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### Volunteer Opportunity

*(Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)*



Are you interested in learning more about your local stream? The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay needs volunteers to collect important data on streams in Virginia. We will provide training and supplies. All you have to do is commit to attending the training and monitoring a site once a month.

You'll be analyzing water to collect data on core parameters such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, water clarity and bacteria. All of these tests will be performed in the field using kits and equipment provided to you.

Date: January 27, 2017

Time: 9am-12pm

Location: City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities Lab  
1801 Commerce Road, Richmond, VA 23224

Registration is required. Click [here](#) to register.

For more information, contact Amy Hagerdon at 804-793-8786 or [ahagerdon@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:ahagerdon@allianceforthebay.org).

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## Grant Opportunities

### 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-NPS-TMDL-RFA.pdf](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/NonpointSource/NPSRFA/2018_DEQ-NPS-TMDL-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).

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).

Register: Registration is required in order to get call information  
<https://attendeegotowebinar.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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## 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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