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Weekly Watershed Announcements June 12, 2020

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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.

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In the News

See the James Like Never Before (RVAHub)



For more than 40 years, the James River Association (JRA) has been working to restore the James River to full health. The organization was founded when a group of concerned citizens banded together in 1976 to restore and protect the river at a time when toxic chemical contamination led to the James being known as one of the most polluted waterways in America. JRA has grown over the last four decades to include watershed restoration, student education, advocacy, and community conservation efforts that have improved the overall health of the James from a grade of D- to a B- in JRA's biennial State of the James report. This remarkable improvement garnered the river international recognition through winning the 2019 Thiess International Riverprize.

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

Virginia Clean the Bay Day Reimagined For 2020, "WALK THE WATERSHED" Added (Chesapeake Bay Magazine)



The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Clean the Bay Day may have been canceled for 2020, but CBF has dreamed up a new event, and two of those leading the way are a billion-dollar beer maker and a 15 year old nicknamed "Oyster Boy."

Instead of a traditional Clean the Bay Day, the foundation's annual Virginia waterway cleanup, CBF is encouraging Bay savers to take part in "Walk the Watershed", a virtual fundraising challenge that asks teams to log a combined 200 miles (just about the length of the Chesapeake Bay) of walking and litter cleanup before the end of the month.

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

Upcoming Events

VRA/SWANA Conference Postponed (Virginia Recycling Association)



New Dates: October 27-30, 2020
Location: Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront

The VRA Board has been monitoring the spread of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) in Virginia, along with the concerns of our members and sponsors. The Board has conferred with our SWANA colleagues and agree that the best decision is to postpone the annual conference.

We are working together with SWANA to finalize the details for the rescheduled conference and we are now able to provide you with the new dates. Thank you for your patience as we took a measured approach to this decision.

Hotel Reservations:

Please cancel your individual reservations booked directly with the hotel as soon as possible. Neither VRA nor the hotel may cancel your reservation without your knowledge so it is very important that you do this immediately. VRA will not be responsible for any fees incurred due to not cancelling your hotel reservation.

VRA Board Elections:

The situation with the COVID-19 that caused us to postpone the 2020 conference also impacts the VRA Board Elections that were scheduled during the conference. The Board is determining how we will handle governance matters in the interim, and we will send out an election update as soon as possible.

Grant Opportunities

Virginia Environmental Endowment Grants



Virginia Environmental Endowment Grants - Extended Deadlines: July 15, 2020 (James River); August 1, 2020 (Virginia). For more information, see <http://www.vee.org/>.

++ **James River Water Quality Improvement Program:** Funds for improving the water quality of the James River and its tributaries in Virginia. See the [James River Water Quality Improvement Program](#) page and the associated documents for additional information and application instructions.

++ **Virginia Program:** Grant-making priorities are focused on water quality, Chesapeake Bay, land conservation and use, environmental education and awareness, climate adaptation, and other emerging issues. See the [Virginia Program](#) page for details and the [Proposal Submission](#) page for application instructions.

Job Opportunities

Biosolids Specialist

(Department of Environmental Quality)



The Department of Environmental Quality is seeking a biosolids specialist position, working out of the DEQ Central Office in Richmond. This position will perform both permitting and inspection duties related to biosolids..

Full Details and application instructions may be accessed at the following link: <https://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com/postings/188928>.

Staff Scientist

(James River Association)



The James River Association is seeking a Staff Scientist. The Staff Scientist is a key member of JRA's Advocacy Program, and acts as the lead staff person collecting, interpreting and translating scientific information to support JRA's policy agenda and broader advocacy work. JRA's Advocacy team develops strategies to address threats to river health utilizing a range of advocacy, science and legal tools as needed. This position will report to the JRA's Senior Advocacy Manager/Riverkeeper.

For more information, and to apply go to <https://thejamesriver.org/about-the-james-river-association/employment/>.

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