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Weekly Watershed Announcements June 26, 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

After a less rainy spring, the Chesapeake Bay may see smaller dead zone than normal

(NBC 12 Richmond, VA)



Thanks to a less rainy spring, the Chesapeake Bay's "dead zone" is likely to be slightly smaller this summer than normal, though it will still be bigger than long-term targets for the nation's largest estuary, scientists announced Wednesday.

Ecologically, a dead zone is part of a body of water that is unable to sustain plant or animal life due to a lack of oxygen, a condition known as hypoxia. The phenomenon is the result of years of excess nutrients, particularly nitrogen, flowing into waters from agricultural fields, wastewater sites and urban and suburban areas. These nutrients fuel enormous growths of algae that eventually die and decompose, depleting the waters of oxygen. While the biggest dead zone in the U.S. is found in the Gulf of Mexico, the Chesapeake Bay has also long suffered from hypoxia, giving rise to the emergence of a dead zone.

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

Bernie Fowler "Sneaker Index" Streams Live For 1st Time

(Chesapeake Bay Magazine)



Hundreds of Chesapeake Bay enthusiasts, who'd never witnessed former Sen. Bernie Fowler's traditional Patuxent River wade-in, got to see it unfold on Facebook Live this year.

96-year-old Fowler is a passionate champion of Bay environmental issues with no plans of slowing down in his fight for clean water.

The former Maryland Senator has been wading into the Patuxent in a pair of white sneakers since at least 1969, measuring to see how deep he can go before his sneakers disappear into murkiness. Back then, he could see clear to the bottom in 57 inches of water, a measurement he hasn't seen since.

The unscientific water clarity test is held at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum on the second Sunday of June, marking the end of Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. Usually a large group turns out to support Fowler and they all wade in together, arm in arm.

Because of social distancing concerns, this year the group of onlookers was small. Fowler spoke from a podium wearing his signature overalls and cowboy hat (with an American flag sticking out of the top like a plume).

To read the full article by Meg Walburn Viviano, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

VRA/SWANA Conference Postponed

(Virginia Recycling Association)



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

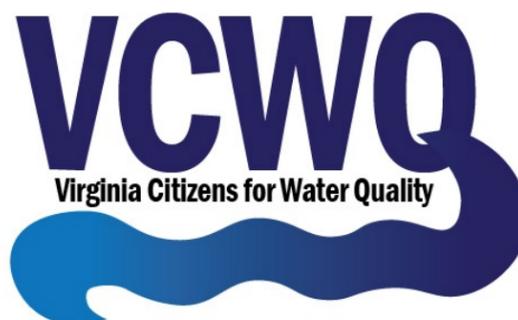
The VRA Board has been monitoring the spread of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) in Virginia, along with the concerns of our members and sponsors. The Board has conferred with our SWANA colleagues and agree that the best decision is to postpone the annual conference.

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.

Virginia Citizens for Water Quality Summit 2020 Cancelled (VCWQ)



Due to the current COVID pandemic, VCWQ will not be hosting a 2020 summit. VCWQ does not feel that it is possible or safe at this time to gather a large group in person given the uncertainty of the coming months. VCWQ Summit will resume again in the fall of 2021. Information will be provided closer to the 2021 date at <https://vcwq.wordpress.com/>.

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>.

Conservation Specialist
(Hanover-Caroline SWCD)



The Hanover-Caroline Soil & Water Conservation District (H-CSWCD) has an opening for a full time District Conservation Specialist. The Conservation Specialist is responsible for performing a wide range of technical duties that pertain to the implementation of cost-share programs, services and outreach. The position will focus on providing support to the VA Agricultural Cost-share and Tax Credit Program, the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Additional activities include conservation planning, data entry, reporting, presentations, and outdoor fieldwork.

To learn more about the position and how to apply click [here](#).

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