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## Weekly Watershed Announcements June 29, 2018

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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 Program releases 2018 Blue Crab Advisory Report

*(Augusta Free Press)*



The annual Blue Crab Advisory Report, released Wednesday by the Chesapeake Bay Program and developed by the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee, finds that the overall Chesapeake Bay blue crab population decreased by almost 18 percent from 455 million in 2017 to 372 million in 2018.

The report provides scientific analysis of the Bay's blue crab population to help Bay resource managers as they set blue crab fishing regulations. The Chesapeake Bay Program's Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team recently approved the 2018 edition of the report.

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

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**James River Watch Website**  
*(James River Association)*



This website is designed to give advice on swimming, boating, and fishing conditions at various locations on the James River and includes a map with monitoring sites that are color-coded (green, yellow, red) to help users easily see recent conditions. The information is provided by the James River Rats, who monitor every week throughout the summer for E. coli bacteria using Coliscan. The obtained data are for informational purposes only, as the group does not issue closures. To access the website, visit <http://jamesriverassociation.org/jrw/>. Sponsored by the James River Association.

## Upcoming Events

### **VMI 2018 STEM Education Conference** (October 2-3, 2018)



Attendee registration and presentation proposals are now open for the 7th Annual 2018 VMI STEM Conference. For Attendee Registration, click [here](#). For Presentation Proposals, click [here](#).

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### **2018 Chesapeake Watershed Forum** (November 2-4, 2018)



The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's 13th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum (held November 2-4, 2018 in Shepherdstown, WV) is a watershed-wide event reaching over 400 restoration and protection practitioners annual to inspire and empower local action towards clean water.

We do this by sharing successful tools and techniques, building the capacity of local organizations and governments, building partnerships, educating new initiatives, networking amongst each other, and celebrating our successes.

This year's theme, "Connecting Our Communities: Celebrating Diverse and Innovative Partnerships" was chosen so that we may celebrate the many diverse partnerships that have proven successful in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. We are especially interested in engaging, interactive learning sessions that highlight innovative

partnerships, leading to success. Each track will incorporate one or more sessions that demonstrate partnering success.

For more information, click [here](#).

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## Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE)

(Various dates and locations)



This research and field-based training program aims to improve teachers' understanding of the environment using local research. The program also promotes the stewardship of watersheds and estuaries. TOTE workshops are a minimum of 15 contact hours, giving teachers the opportunity to: Explore coastal habitats and conduct field investigations; Interact with local scientists and experienced coastal educators; Integrate local and national monitoring data into the classroom; and Learn hands-on field activities highlighting the Estuaries 101 curriculum. Hosted by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

For more information, including dates, see <https://coast.noaa.gov/estuaries/teachers-on-the-estuary/>.

## Job Opportunities

### Northern Neck SWCD Employment Opportunities



The Northern Neck Soil & Water Conservation District (NNSWCD), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, is seeking to fill two permanent full-time positions. Selected individuals will assist in fulfilling the District's mission of promoting the stewardship of natural resources through leadership, education, and technical assistance within Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland Counties.

#### Conservation Specialist

Shall have a B.S. degree in agriculture/natural resources field or related experience. Certification as a Nutrient Management Planner must be obtained within a reasonable period of time taking into consideration the experience requirements established. Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting, administering, and implementing the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program;
- Identifying soil and water quality concerns within the District;
- Providing technical assistance to farmers, landowners, homeowners, citizen groups, partner agencies, local government, and non-governmental organizations.

Permanent full-time with maximum 40 hours/week. Salary Range: \$30,000 - \$60,000 based on qualifications; plus benefits

#### Non-Point Source Specialist

Shall have a B.S. degree or related experience in natural resources and/or grant writing. Certification as an E&S Plan Reviewer and/or Stormwater Management Plan Reviewer may be obtained within a reasonable period of time taking into consideration the experience requirements established and program funding availability. Job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with the promotion/processing of nutrient, sediment, and storm water reduction practices on all land in the Northern Neck;
- Seeking new funding opportunities;
- Providing administrative support and data management for NNSWCD programs.

Permanent full-time with maximum 40 hours/week. Salary Range: \$30,000 - \$60,000 based on qualifications; plus benefits

Complete Job Descriptions and fillable NNSWCD Employment Applications for each position are available at: [www.nswcd.org/employment](http://www.nswcd.org/employment). Submit cover letter, resume, and relevant NNSWCD Employment Application for each position by no later than 4:30PM on July 20, 2018. Email to: [kathy.clarke@nswcd.org](mailto:kathy.clarke@nswcd.org)  
Mail via postal service to: Northern Neck SWCD, Attn: District Managers P.O. Box 220 Warsaw, VA 22572.

## Grant Opportunities

### **VEE James River Grant Program**

*(Virginia Environmental Endowment)*



The Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE) recently launched the new James River Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

We have posted on the VEE website a host of documents that describe the details of the new grant program including a fact sheet which lists the initial funding priorities, the solicitation notice, and the application process. They can be found at:

<http://www.vee.org/grant-programs-application/james-river-water-quality-improvement-program/>

The first applications are due no later than June 15. Grant decisions will be announced in October.

Please take a look at the website and let us know if you have any questions. We would also appreciate it if you pass this along to others who you think may be interested in knowing about the program.

I think you will find that the VEE James River Program reflects a thoughtful and strategic approach that we hope will help to accelerate water quality improvements in the River.

For more information, please contact [jrwqip@vee.org](mailto:jrwqip@vee.org)

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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 in all soil and water district localities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

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

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