

Restoring the Chesapeake Bay -- Virginia's Progress & Our Path Forward

ANN JENNINGS

OCTOBER 25, 2018

MIDDLE JAMES ROUNDTABLE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING



West Virginia

Baltimore, MD

Maryland

Washington, DC

Delaware

Charlottesville, VA

Salisbury, MD

Virginia

Richmond, VA

Norfolk, VA



Governor Ralph S. Northam

January 13, 2018, Inaugural Address

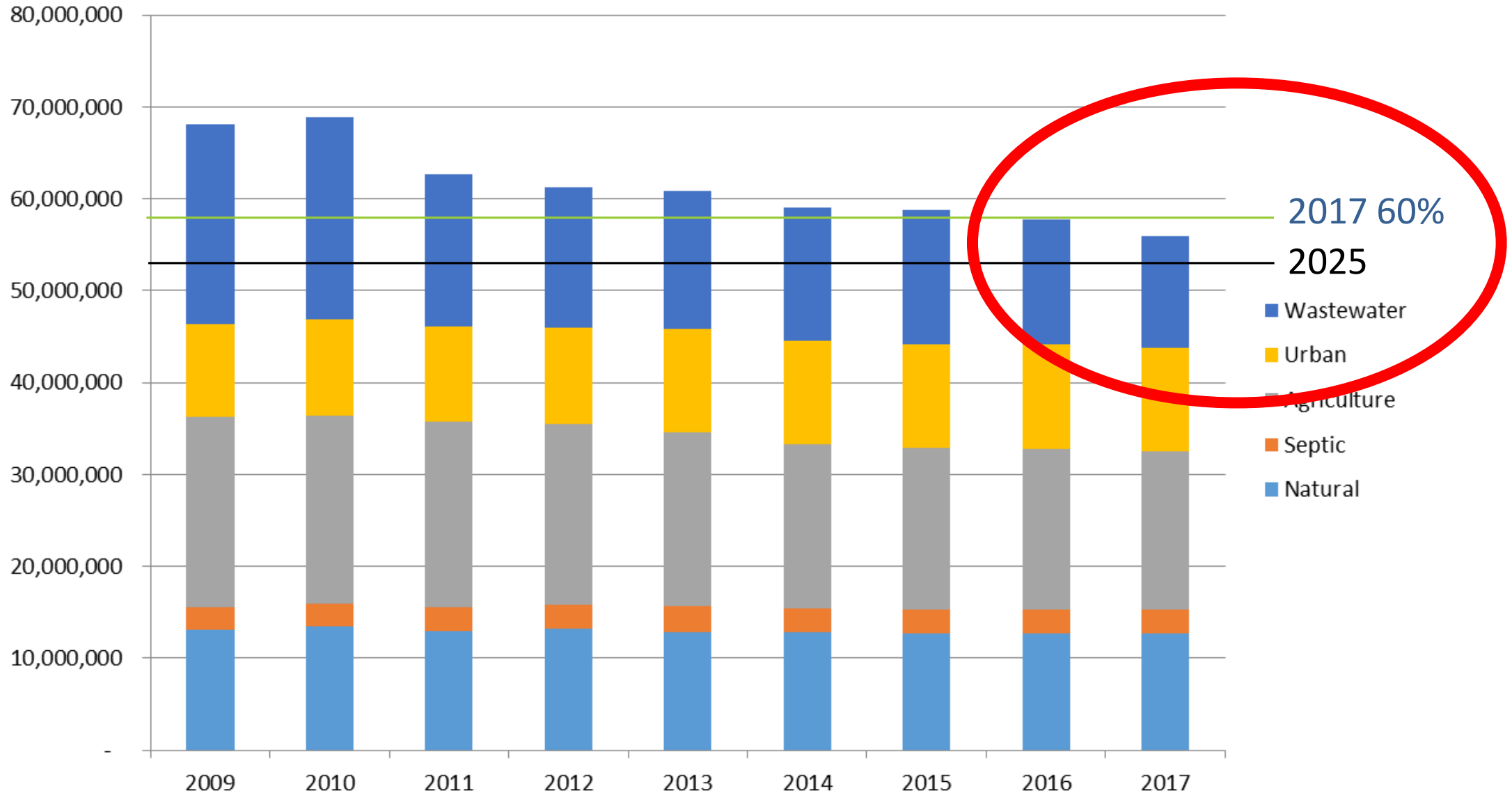
“As a kid I spent hours behind our house, crabbing and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay. To this day that is where I find peace.”



How healthy is your Chesapeake Bay?



Virginia Achieves Midpoint Clean Water Goals for Nitrogen

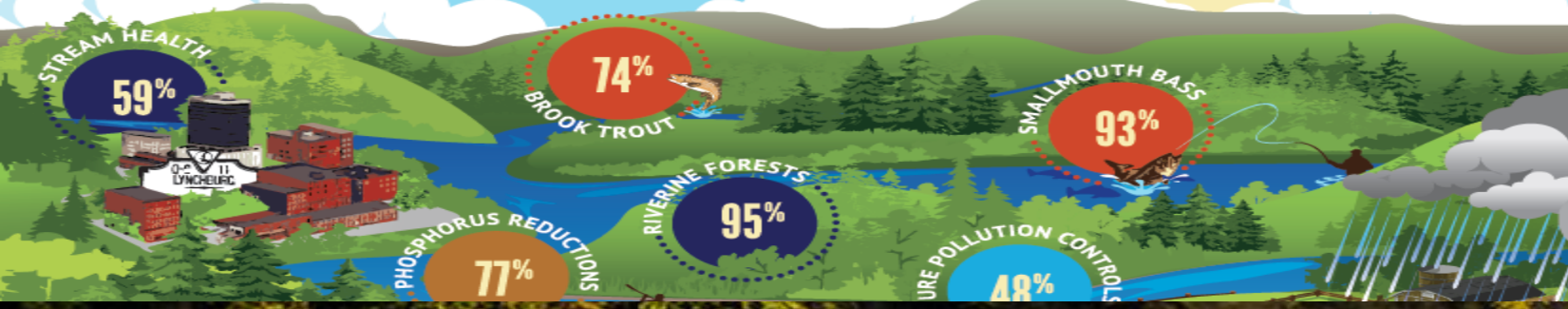




STATE OF THE JAMES

2017 RIVER HEALTH		
	SCORE	GRADE
FISH & WILDLIFE	66%	B
HABITAT	61%	B-
POLLUTION REDUCTIONS	56%	C+
PROTECTION & RESTORATION ACTIONS	65%	B
OVERALL	62%	B-

GRADING SCALE: A 80%-100% B 60%-79% C 40%-59% D 20%-39% F LESS THAN 20%



POTOMAC REPORT CARD
potomacreportcard.org

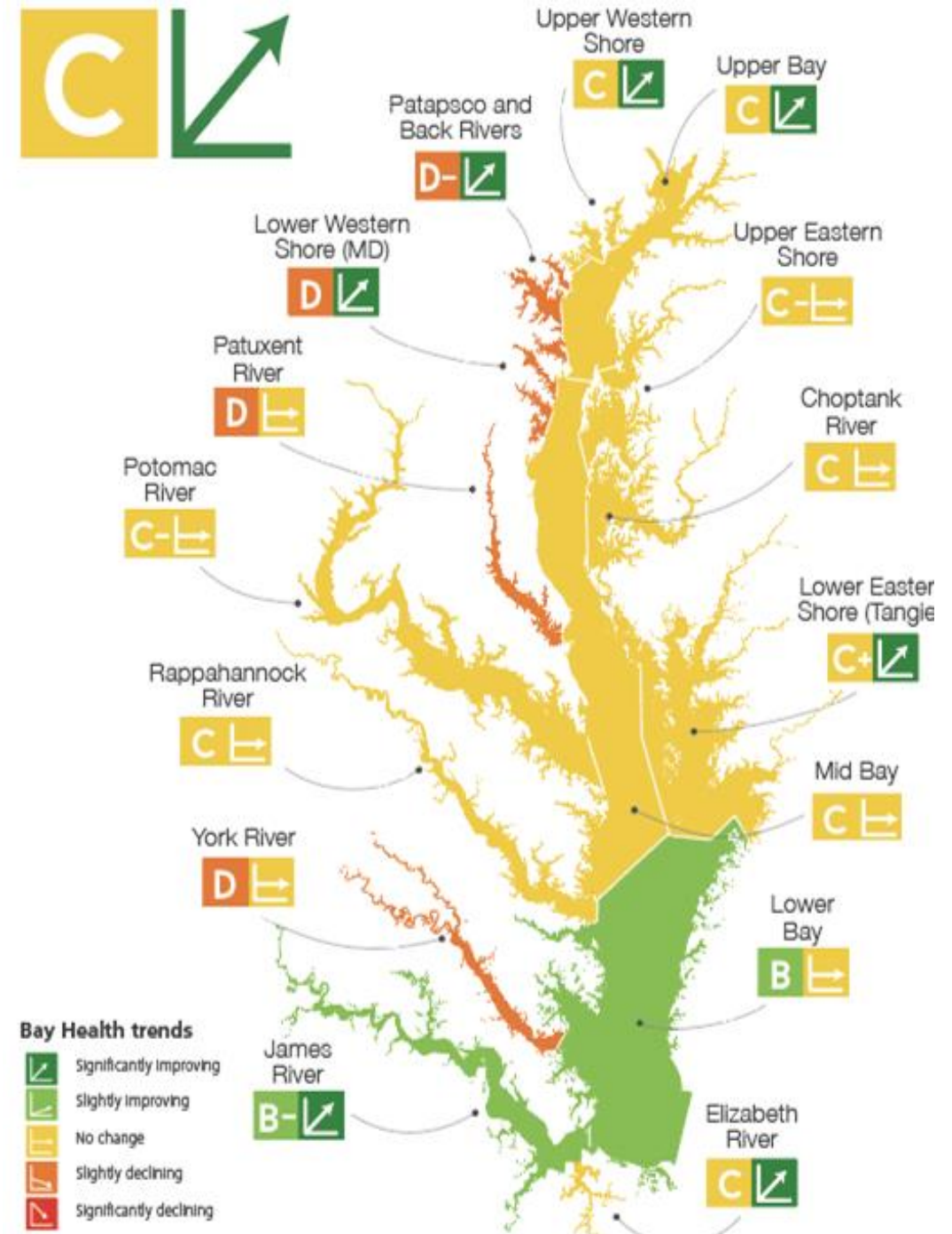
2016 STATE OF THE BAY

health index
34/C-



Region's Scientists Assess the Overall Bay Health in 2017

Read more at ecoreportcard.org



ECO HEALTH
REPORT CARDS

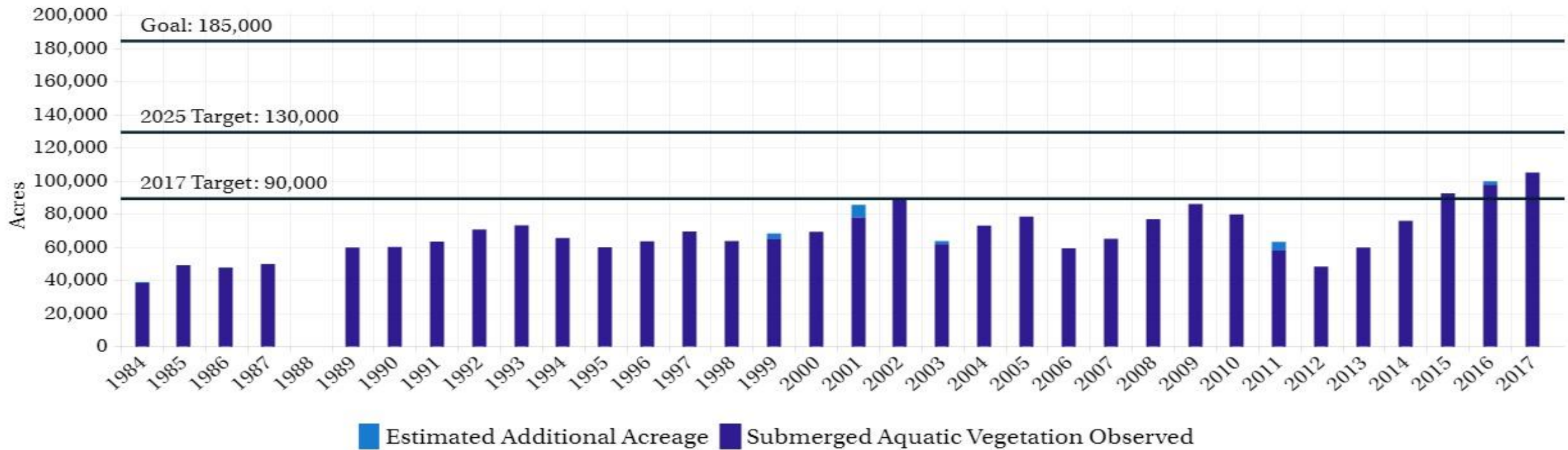
HOME HEALTH INDICATORS REGIONS ISSUES PUBLICATIONS TAKE ACTION ABOUT

How healthy is your
Chesapeake Bay?





Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Abundance (1984-2017)



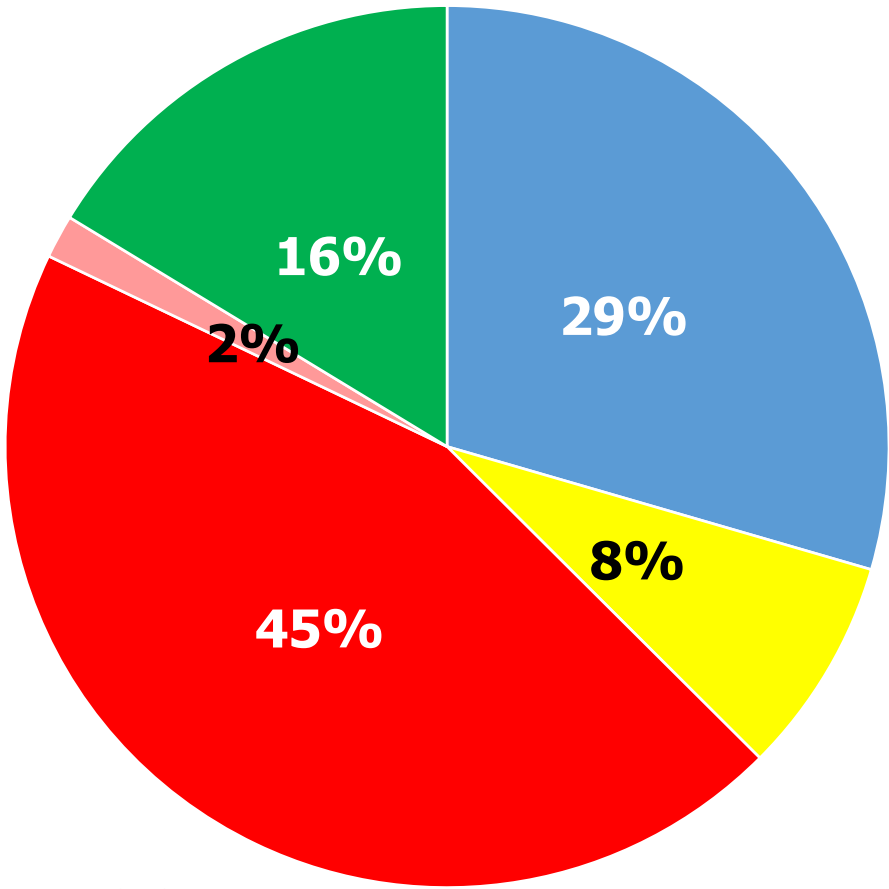


The Chesapeake Bay is an Economic Engine

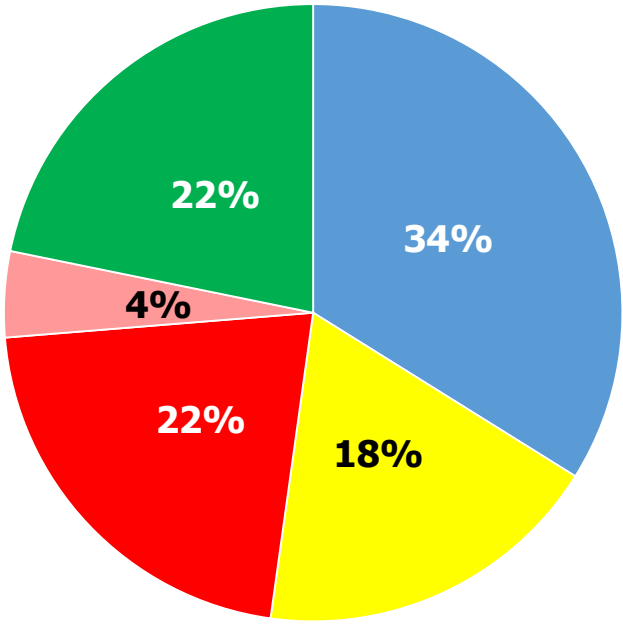
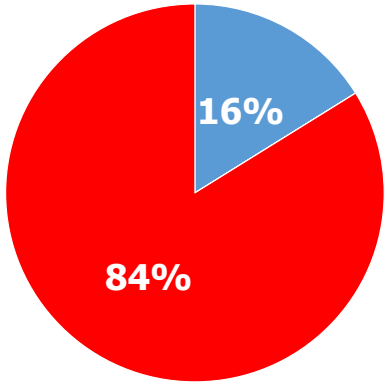


What Led Our Nitrogen Reductions?

■ Agriculture ■ Developed ■ Wastewater ■ Septic ■ Natural

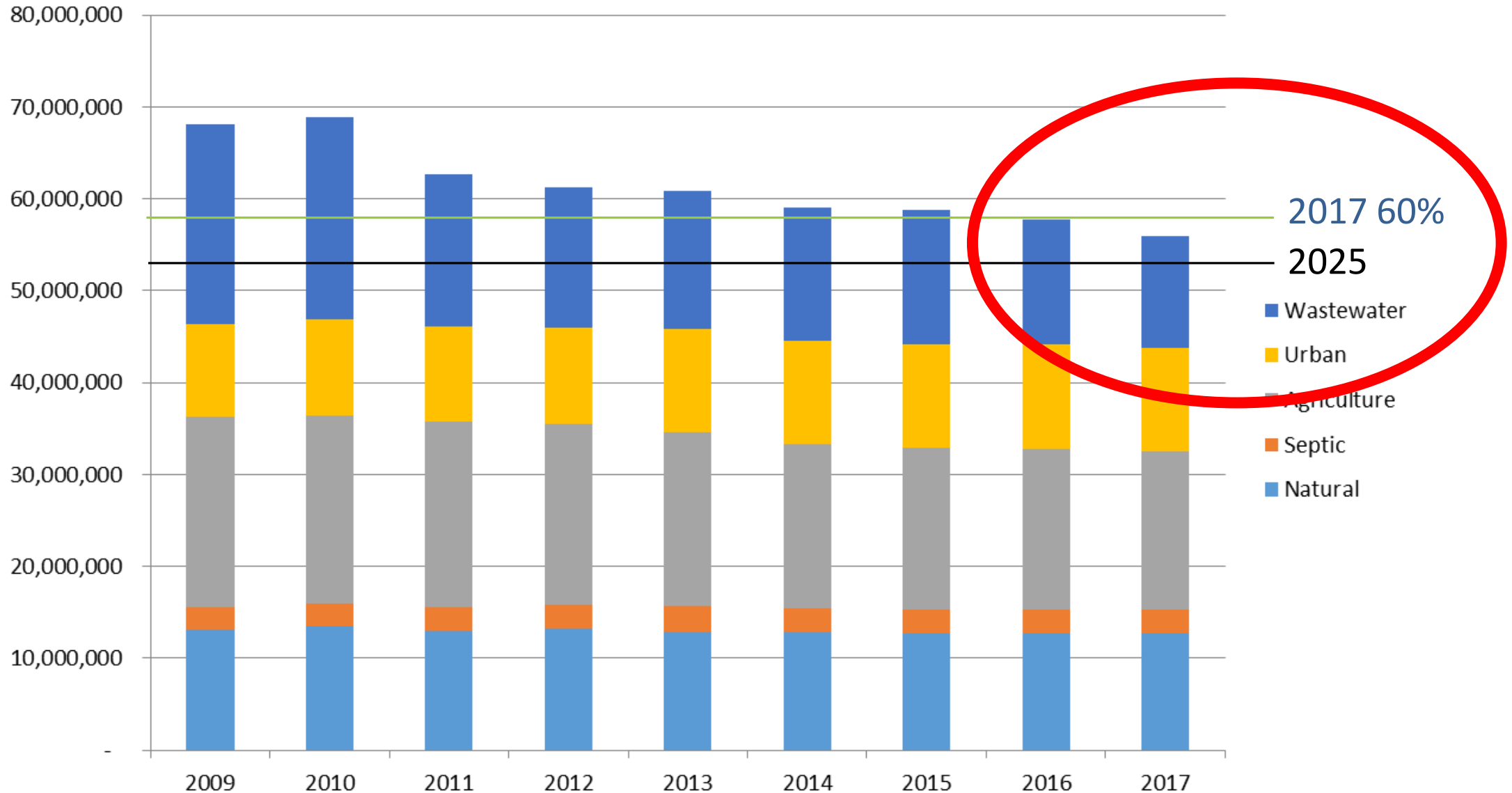


1985



2017

Virginia Achieves Midpoint Clean Water Goals for Nitrogen



Governor Ralph S. Northam
April 4, 2018, Environment Virginia, VMI

“Our DEQ experts tell us that at our current Bay restoration pace, we will fall millions of pounds short of our goals to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus. So my Administration is committed to preparing a new cleanup plan that incorporates input from local decision makers, prioritizes nature-based solutions, and tackles the impact of climate change on our clean water goals.”



Our Rivers, Our Bay:
Virginia's Path to Clean Water

Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase III WIP Timeline

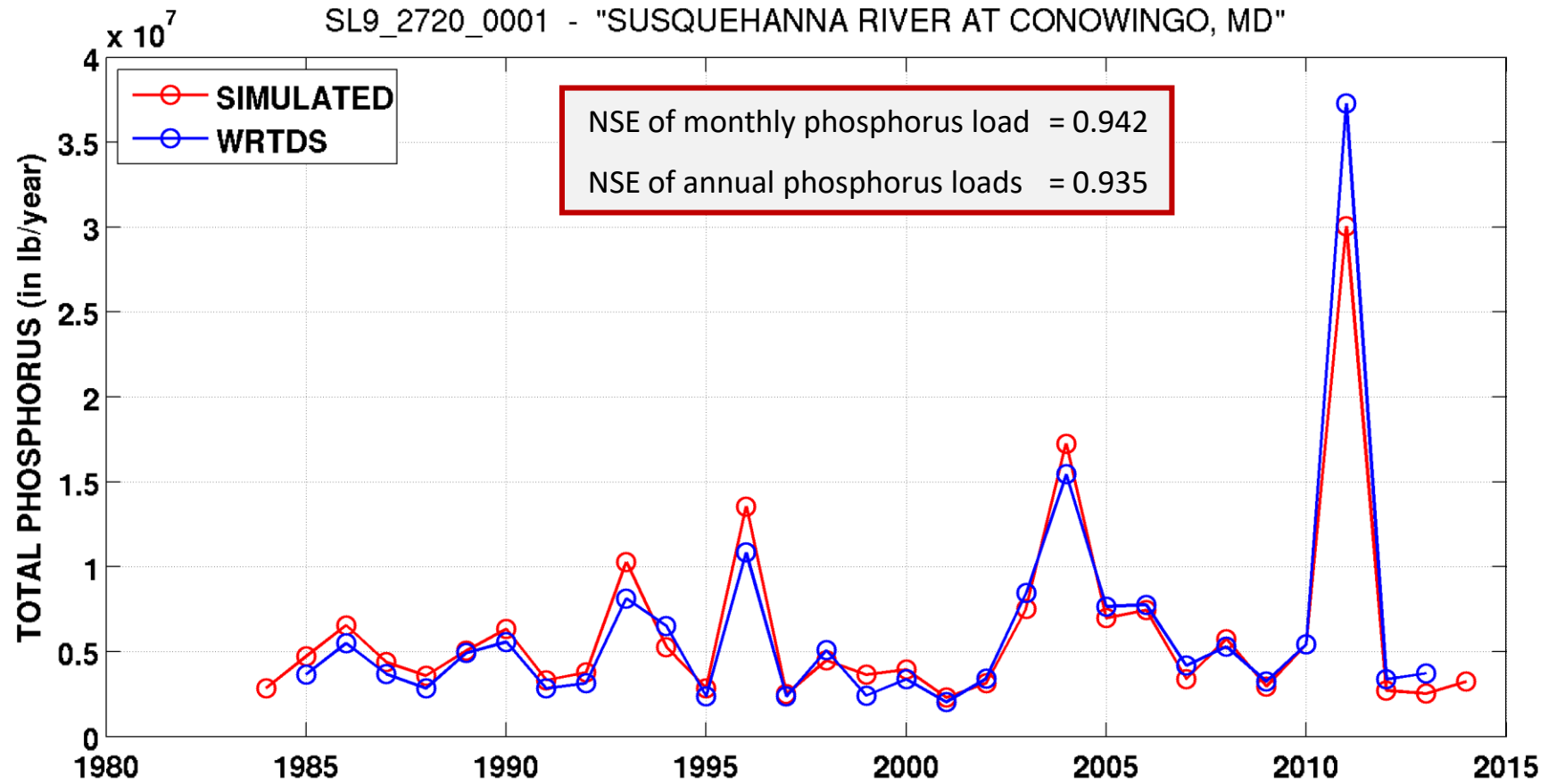
- All of 2017 through 2018 – outreach to local decision makers
- July 9, 2018 – CBP Partnership Principals Staff Committee -- finalize planning targets
- Late Spring to Late Fall, 2018 – Engaging local communities through PDCs and SWCDs; see Virginia Townhall for meeting schedules
- April 12, 2019 – Draft Phase III WIP due to EPA; launch of formal public comment period
- August 9, 2019 – Final Phase III WIP due to EPA

Virginia Major Basin Planning Targets

Geography	Planning Target	
Major Basin	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Eastern Shore	1.43	0.164
James (Does not include ChIA)	25.92	2.731
Potomac	16.00	1.892
Rappahannock	6.85	0.849
York	5.52	0.556
VA	55.73	6.192

Best Match with Monitoring Data Ever!

Conowingo Phase 6 Simulation Compared to Annual WRTDS Loads



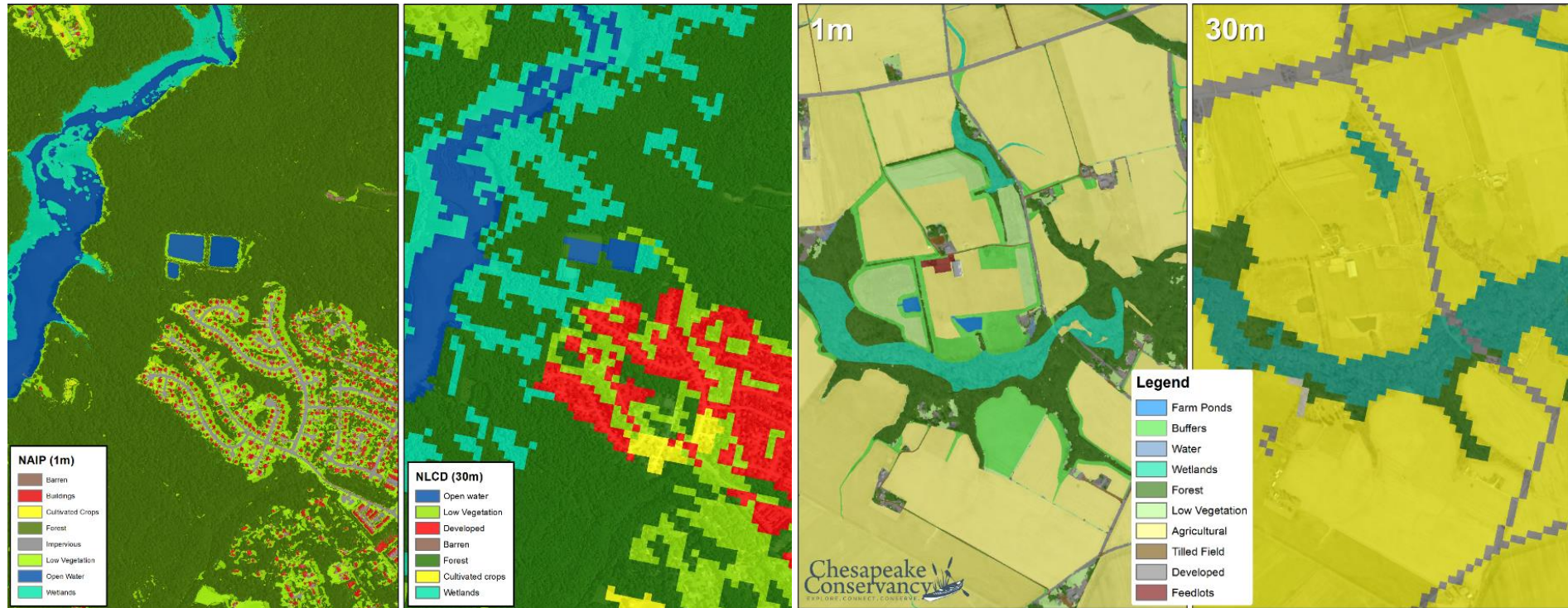
Focused on Factoring in Local Data into Shared Decision Support Tools

1 Meter

30 Meter

1 Meter

30 Meter



Urban/Suburban Settings

Rural Settings

1 meter resolution land cover data for entire Bay watershed and all of Virginia supplemented by local government's submission of local land cover, land use, planning and zoning data

EPA Expectations for the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (June 20, 2018)

- ❑ By 2025, implement best management practices to reach planning targets for nitrogen and phosphorus reductions
- ❑ Develop programmatic and numeric implementation commitments
- ❑ Engage local, regional and federal partners
- ❑ Incorporate co-benefits
- ❑ Establish local are planning goals

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources

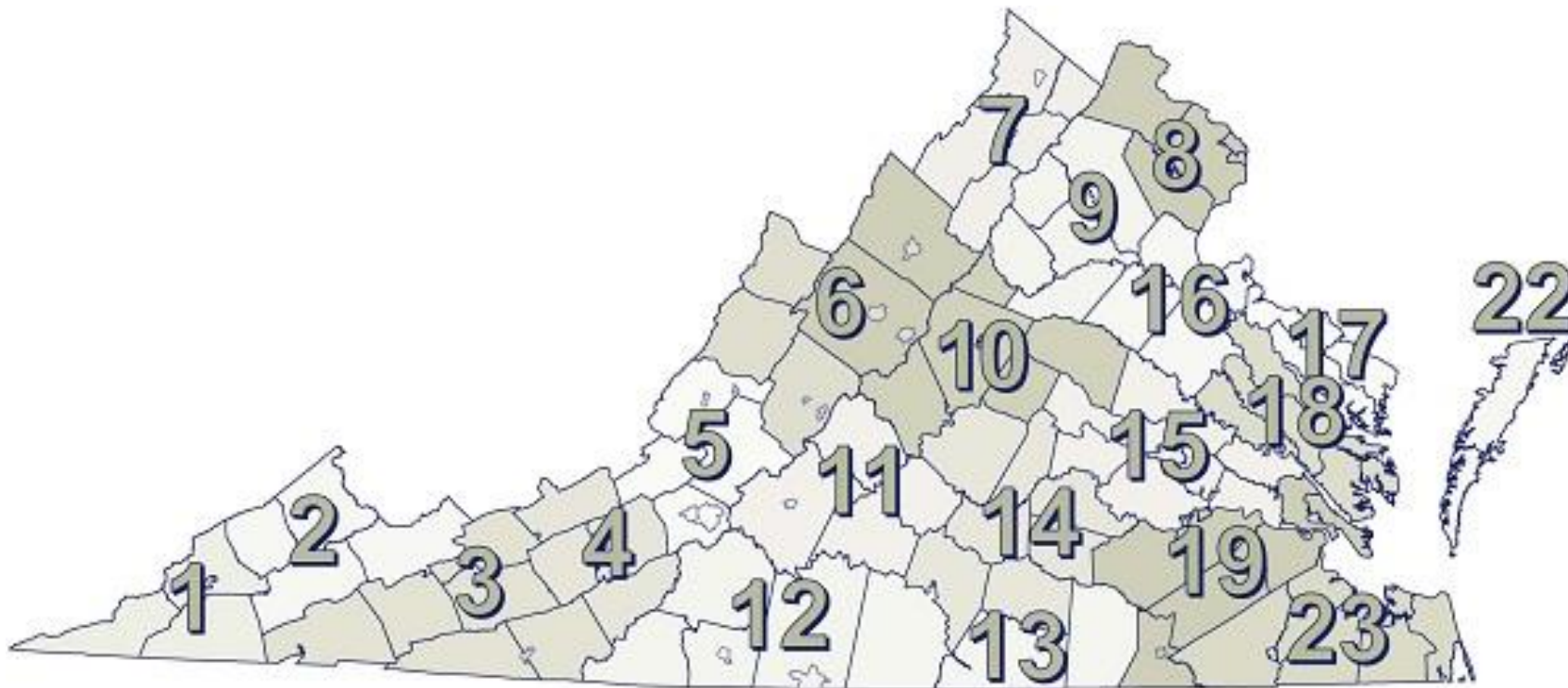
Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders Advisory Group

Soil and Water Conservation District Areas:
1) Adjust template bmp input decks
2) Identify funding and policy needs

Planning District Commissions:
1) Adjust template bmp input decks
2) Identify funding and policy needs
3) Convene all sector stakeholders

Virginia Interagency Chesapeake Bay TMDL Team

Virginia Partnering with Planning District Commissions on WIP III



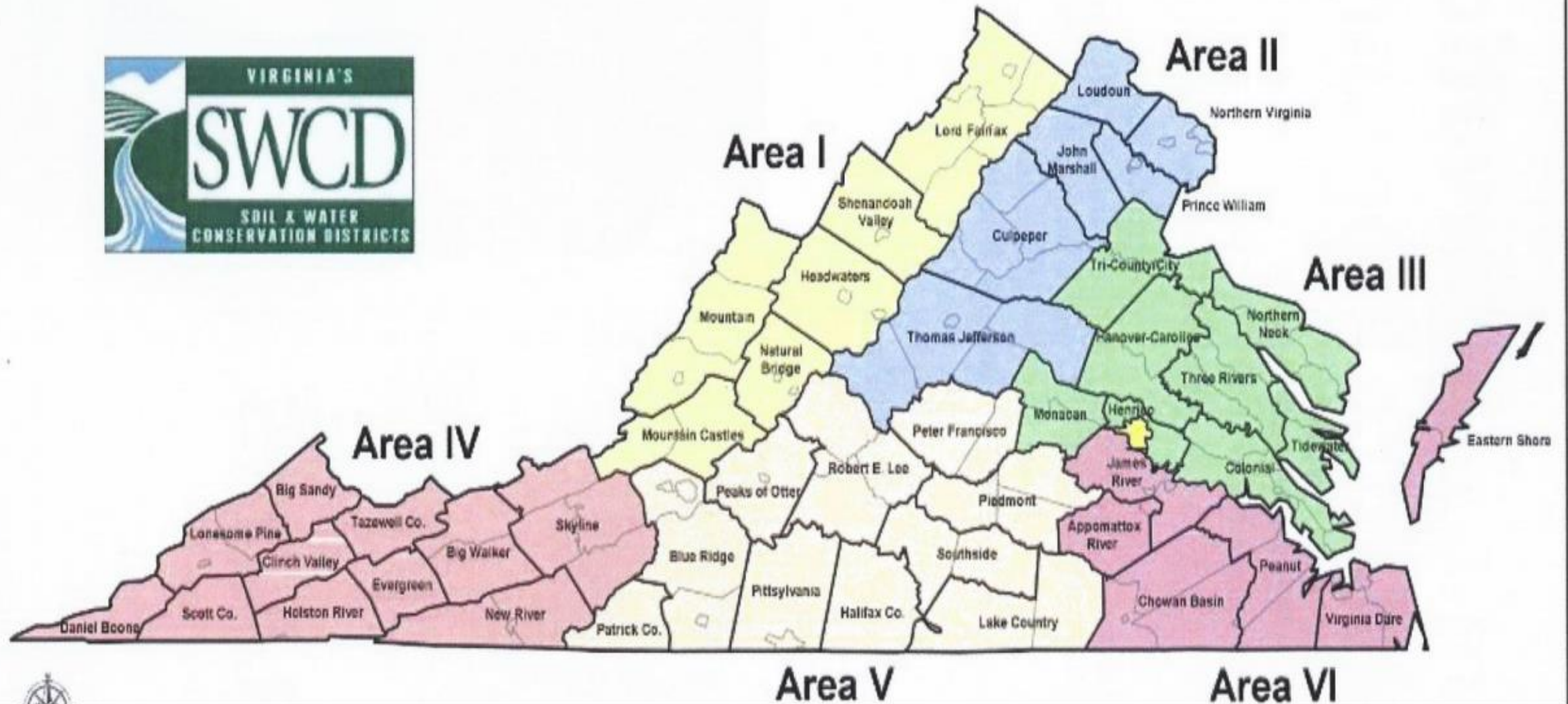
1. LENOWISCO PDC
2. Cumberland Plateau PDC
3. Mount Rogers PDC
4. New River Valley RC
5. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany RC
6. Central Shenandoah PDC
7. Northern Shenandoah Valley RC
8. Northern Virginia RC
9. Rappahannock-Rapidan RC
10. Thomas Jefferson PDC
11. Region 2000 LGC
12. West Piedmont PDC
13. Southside PDC
14. Commonwealth RC
15. Richmond Regional PDC
16. George Washington RC
17. Northern Neck PDC
18. Middle Peninsula PDC
19. Crater PDC
22. Accomack-Northampton PDC
23. Hampton Roads PDC

Virginia Partnering with Planning District Commissions on WIP III

§ 15.2-4207. Purposes of commission.

A. It is the purpose of the planning district commission to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. The cooperation resulting from this chapter is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services. Functional areas warranting regional cooperation may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) economic and physical infrastructure development; (ii) solid waste, water supply and other environmental management; (iii) transportation; (iv) criminal justice; (v) emergency management; (vi) human services; and (vii) recreation.

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts



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The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan – More than Clean Water



Forest Buffers

A photograph of a young forest with rows of saplings supported by stakes. The saplings are planted in neat rows on a grassy slope. The background shows a dense forest of taller trees.

Riparian forest buffers reduce bacteria, microorganisms, microplastic fibers, harmful algal blooms, and many emerging contaminants that are found in surface waters, including drinking water.

Riparian forest buffers keep streams cool for fish and wildlife.

Buffers help municipalities by treating stormwater, dissipating flood energy, and reducing erosion potential of streams, rivers, and tides. Buffers also improve recreation like fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing.

Engagement through Our Watershed Roundtables?



The **Middle James Roundtable** is a collaborative effort among various stakeholders in the Middle James watershed to improve water quality and the overall health of our communities. Roundtable stakeholders include elected officials, local government staff, the agricultural community, planning district commissions, business and industry, water and sewer utilities, commercial fishermen, soil and water conservation districts, developers, interested citizens, environmental groups, tourism and recreational groups, state and federal agency staff and public service authorities.

Engagement through Our Watershed Roundtables?



Ann Jennings

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Resources

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