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Weekly Watershed Announcements

January 15, 2016

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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

Swimmers, River Advocates Concerned Over Dominion's Proposed Dumping Permit In James (wtvr.com)



RICHMOND, Va. - A group of local swimmers and advocates of the James River will gather Saturday to demonstrate against Dominion Virginia Power's plan to release millions of gallons of coal ash wastewater into the James, believing it could have devastating consequences for the health of nearby communities and the river.

Organizers hope the event can spread awareness of the issue before the State Water Control Board's final vote on Thursday, Jan. 14, to grant the utility company the state permit required to pump waste from the coal ash ponds at Bremono Bluff Power Station in Fluvanna, up river of Richmond.

There are three coal ash ponds which contain approximately 357 million gallons of water (dependent on rainfall) to be cleared at Bremono.

Dominion Virginia Power and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) officials, on record, have declared that the plan is safe and up to standard, and the proposed permit has gone through public comment and revision.

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

Seeing Riparian Forest Buffers Through The Farmer's Eyes (Virginia Naturally E-News)



Robert Whitescarver wrote a free e-book titled "Bobby's Seven Principles: Selling Riparian Forest Buffers." He received support for the book from the Campbell Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The purpose of this book is to explain to farmers how they and their livestock will benefit from having riparian buffers. One example given for how farmers will benefit from one best management practice (BMP) is by fencing cattle out of streams. When cattle have stream access the cattle are more likely to develop illnesses plus cattle in the stream impacts water quality down stream. Chapters included in this book are How to Build Trust, A Winning Team, Master the Process to Meeting Your Goal, Making it Simple, Marketing Through Outreach and Knowing Your Products.

To read Robert Whitescarver's free e-book, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Volunteer Monitors Needed: Bacteria Monitoring Program

One-day Training Workshops: January 23-25, 2016 - Charlottesville, VA -- No prior experience necessary. Full training will be provided. For more information or to sign up for a workshop, visit <http://rivannariver.org/volunteer-training> or contact Anne Dunckel at 434-249-5306 or anne@streamwatch.org. Organized by the Rivanna Conservation Alliance (formerly StreamWatch).

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Training and Certification News

Announcing new Program Administrator for ESC and new Inspector for ESC course availability for 2015. DEQ's 2016 training schedule will be announced next month, but the following classes are still available for enrollment in the DEQ Knowledge Center (KC).

Plan Reviewer for ESC
* January 26, 2016 (Gainesville)

Plan Reviewer for SWM
* No availability until 2016

Course Enrollment Instructions
Enroll for SWM or ESC classes through the DEQ Knowledge Center (KC). For detailed enrollment instructions watch a video posted on the KC login page called: "How to Enroll in a Course". Note: VDOT State Employees register for DEQ classes through the VDOT COV KC. (Contractors enroll through DEQ KC).

For the latest information on DEQ Training & Certification please visit our website at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/connectwithdeq/trainingcertification.aspx>

Watershed Educators Institute

Various Dates through June 2016

To receive a Certificate of Recognition as a Watershed Leader for the Commonwealth of Virginia, you must complete five workshops, including the required workshop.

- ++ Designing and Leading a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) for School Groups -- January 20, 2016 - Charlottesville, VA or February 18, 2016 -- Pocahontas State Park (Required to receive the Certificate of Recognition as a Watershed Educator Leader)
- ++ Introducing Watersheds -- March 9, 2016 -- Charles City, VA
- ++ Methods for Teaching Biological Assessment of Stream Health -- April 12, 2016 - Charlottesville, VA
- ++ Freshwater Wetlands Investigation -- May 20, 2016 -- Providence Forge, VA
- ++ Coastal Wetlands Investigation -- June 6-7, 2016 -- Port Isabel (Meet at Smith Point Marina)

<http://www.deq.state.va.us/Portals/0/DEQ/ConnectwithDEQ/EnvironmentalInformation/2015-2016WEIBrochure.pdf> for more details and for a link to register.

Grant Opportunities

Virginia's DEQ's TMDL Implementation Plan Seeks Requests for Applications for Assistance

(See deadlines below)

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is making approximately \$2 million in Federal [Section 319\(h\)](#) grant funding available to support [projects](#) that will result in advancement of goals and milestones included in eligible TMDL implementation plans and watershed-based plans (IPs). The purpose of this [RFA](#) is to solicit funding requests in order to establish sub-award agreements for TMDL implementation projects that could start between July 1, 2016 and October 1, 2017, as resources become available.

Funding is available statewide for TMDL implementation projects that address NPS source pollution due to agricultural, residential septic, pet waste, urban, and mining activities. See [Table 1](#) for a list of eligible implementation areas based upon project category. All proposed pollution reduction activities (BMPs, education and outreach) must be specifically identified in the IP or demonstrate equivalence.

Funding is available for 3 categories of projects:

Category 1 - Start-Up Projects: IP watersheds that have not received previous Section 319(h) funding (not including 319(h) funded roundtable activity). Projects are 12-18 months in duration and award range is \$25,000 - \$100,000.

Category 2 - New Implementation Projects: IP watersheds that have not received previous Section 319(h) funding (not including 319(h) funded roundtable activity). Projects will be 18-30 months in duration and the award range is \$100,000 - \$500,000.

Category 3 - Continuing Implementation Projects: Restricted to Grantees with current 319(h) funded projects whose projects are slated to end 12/31/15 through 12/31/16. Projects will be 12-24 months in duration and the award range will be \$100,000 - \$500,000.

Deadlines and review dates:

Reviews begin April 1, 2016 for applications submitted by March 31, 2016.

Reviews begin September 1, 2016 for applications submitted April 1, 2016 through

August 31, 2016.

Documents:

[2016-2017 TMDL Implementation Program Request for Applications for Assistance \(PDF\)](#),
[Table 1-Eligible TMDL IP areas \(Excel\)](#),
[Attachment 1-Application \(Word\)](#),
[Attachment 2-Narrative Template \(Word\)](#),
[Attachment 3 -Other Documents \(Excel\)](#),
[Attachment 4 - Water Quality Monitoring Plan \(Word\)](#),
[Commonwealth of Virginia Substitute W9 Form \(PDF\)](#)

A webinar will be held January 27, 2016 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/335231570953427202>

More information on NPS Funding at Virginia DEQ can be found at:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/CleanWaterFinancingAssistance/NonpointSourceFunding.aspx>

Questions? Contact npsgrants@deq.virginia.gov

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

2016 Request for Proposals is Open- Closes February 3, 2016

On November 3, 2015 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) [announced an RFP](#) for this public-private partnership, funded in part by EPA's Wetlands and Urban Waters Programs and the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and in conjunction with the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

Approximately \$2.1 million in combined total funding will be available to support projects such as stormwater management, addressing water scarcity, source water protection as well as wetlands, riparian, forest and water quality protection and restoration projects in local communities especially underserved communities across the country. In 2016, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership will give special consideration to projects which directly advance priorities of the 19 Urban Water Federal Partnership designated locations. For more information the priorities of the 19 designated locations, go to:

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/news-about-urban-waters#projectbackgrounds>.

The geographic boundaries of the designated locations can be found in the RFP on the NFWF website.

NFWF will host a webinar for potential applicants on November 18, 2015. This RFP closes February 3, 2016.

For more information go to www.nfwf.org/fivestar.

EPA Announces New Funding Opportunity: EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Grants

Proposals due: February 12, 2016

EPA is seeking applicants for a total of \$1.2 million in [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving](#) (EJCPS) cooperative agreements to be awarded in 2016. Cooperative agreements will be awarded to local community-based organizations seeking to address environmental and/or public health concerns in their communities through collaboration with other stakeholders, such as state and local governments, industry, academia and non-governmental organizations. Organizations are encouraged to have a connection between the proposed project activities and applicable neighborhood, local, city, or regional land use planning efforts.

In 2003, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) launched the first solicitation for the EJCPS Cooperative Agreement Program. Since the Program's inception, EPA has provided funding to 62 projects to help communities understand and address exposure to environmental harms and risks. Projects must use the Collaborative Problem Solving model, comprised of seven elements of a successful collaborative partnership, to address local environmental and/or public health issues.

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race or income, in the environmental decision-making process. These awards represent EPA's commitment to promoting localized, community-based actions to address environmental justice issues.

More information about EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Cooperative Agreement Program: <http://www3.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-cps-grants.html>. Read more about how to apply at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=EPA-OECA-OEJ-16-01>.

Virginia DEQ Seeks Requests for Assistance Through the Nonpoint Source Water Quality Improvement Fund

Deadline February 16, 2016

DEQ is seeking requests for financial assistance through the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF). DEQ will have about \$2.5 million in matching grant funds for distribution. Funding is available, statewide, for projects that reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution from stormwater runoff, failing onsite sewage disposal systems, abandoned or orphaned mine lands, or other non-agricultural sources of NPS pollution. Read more about the [WQIF NPS Request for Assistance](#).

Application and Submittal Documents:

Questions contact npsgrants@deq.virginia.gov

Job Opportunities

Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, a regional non-profit organization based in Annapolis, Maryland with offices in Virginia and Pennsylvania, seeks an enthusiastic and creative person to join the Virginia staff to implement and coordinate the Alliance's Water Quality Monitoring programs and related projects in Virginia. This position will work out of the Alliance's Virginia Office, located in Richmond.

This position works with citizen scientists, nonprofit organizations, community associations, as well as local, state, and federal government partners. The Water Quality Program Coordinator will be responsible for conducting water quality monitoring trainings for volunteers, maintaining chemical water monitoring equipment and supplies; maintaining databases of volunteer data; & maintaining citizen monitoring networks and contracts. This position will also work with the State Director to coordinate the Chesapeake Bay Nontraditional Monitoring Program development, requiring familiarity with water quality monitoring protocols, data collection, tracking, and reporting methods, as well as project and grant management skills. Familiarity with the Chesapeake Bay Program mission, structure, and goals is beneficial to this work, but not required.

The successful candidate must also enjoy working with the public, be comfortable giving presentations, trainings, and speaking publicly, and be comfortable working independently, as well as part of a collaborative team. The position requires excellent project management and organization skills to manage budgets, submit grant reports on time, and ensure the project deliverables are completed on time and within their allocated budget. Being highly organized and a self-starter are a bonus!

To learn more about this position, click [here](#).

Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Support Staff (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

(Closing Date: January 27, 2016)

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, a regional non-profit organization based in Annapolis, Maryland with offices in Virginia and Pennsylvania, seeks a qualified and highly motivated person to provide administrative support to the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC).

About the Alliance: The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay was founded in 1971, and since its beginning, has been in the forefront of restoration efforts in the watershed. The Alliance's core mission is to lead, support and inspire local action to restore and protect the lands, rivers and streams of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This mission is accomplished through strong partnerships with communities, businesses, NGOs and governments across the watershed States and Washington DC; working to inspire people and communities to be stewards of their local streams and take part in the work of restoration; and through creation and support of innovative local and regional programs that produce measurable results. The Alliance supports the CAC and LGAC under a Cooperative Agreement with the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP).

Job Description: The position provides support to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), under the direct supervision of CAC and LGAC Coordinators. The CAC and LGAC provide insight and feedback to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partners and other federal, state and local stakeholders, and encourage and facilitate protection and restoration throughout the watershed, in accordance with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Location: The position is located at the Alliance office in Richmond, Virginia. Ability to travel throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed is required.

Salary: \$35,000+ commensurate with experience

To Apply: Please submit cover letter, resume, salary requirement and references to: jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org with CAC/LGAC Support Staff Application in the subject line. No phone inquiries please. To see the complete job description click [here](#).

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