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## Weekly Watershed Announcements December 13, 2019

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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

#### **Northam proposes \$733 million in environmental spending, with big chunk for Bay cleanup**

*(The Washington Post)*



Gov. Ralph Northam on Wednesday proposed a \$733 million package of environmental spending, including programs to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, encourage wind energy and preserve open spaces.

The proposals, most of which involve bond-financed capital spending, will be part of the two-year budget plan Northam (D) presents next Tuesday to legislators in the General Assembly's money committees.

"As sea levels continue to rise and flooding and extreme weather become more frequent and widespread, Virginia must act," Northam said in presenting his plan during an appearance in Virginia Beach.

The centerpiece of the package is \$400 million in proposed new funding to support cleanup of the Bay and meet the state's goals under federal guidelines to restore water health by 2025. That includes a boost to the state's Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to help with runoff issues in regions such as Hampton Roads.

To read the full article by Gregory S. Schneider, click [here](#).

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#### **Virginia lawmakers have a conservation mandate in 2020**

*(The Washington Post)*



Virginia voters spoke loudly on Nov. 5. Given the choice between maintaining the status quo of climate obstruction and modest - if any - gains to protect our environment, or bold action to hold corporate polluters accountable and address the climate crisis, voters chose the latter in sweeping fashion.

With a decisive conservation majority in place, lawmakers have a clear mandate in 2020 to take bold action to address climate change, safeguard our natural resources and ensure all Virginians have access to clean air and water.

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

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### **Report says 4 of 6 Bay states cut funding, staff for top agencies handling pollution**

*(Bay Journal)*



Four of 6 states in the Chesapeake Bay region cut funding or staff to their main pollution control agency over the last 10 years, says a report released today by the Environmental Integrity Project.

Environmental agencies in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York each saw budget reductions, even after adjustments for inflation, between 2008 and 2018, according to the report, *The Thin Green Line: Cuts in State Pollution Control Agencies Threaten Public Health*. Those states, as well as Maryland, also reduced their environmental workforce during the same time period.

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

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Save the Date: Virginia Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference**

*(February 26-28, 2020)*



## VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

This year's conference theme "EE for EverybodEE" is a celebration and call to action to make environmental education accessible to everyone in the Commonwealth. Featuring workshops, networking, field trips and a day and a half of concurrent session VAAEE 2020 promises to be our most exciting conference yet!

The 2020 Virginia Environmental Education Conference will be held at the Florence Elston Inn & Conference Center at Sweet Briar College in Amherst, Virginia from Wednesday, February 26th to Friday, February 28th.

For more information, go to <https://vaeewildapricot.org/VAAEE2020/>.

### Grant Opportunities

#### **Virginia's Environmental Endowment announces \$3.7 million in grants**

*(Augusta Free Press)*



The Virginia Environmental Endowment is providing more than \$3.7 million in new grants to 22 partner organizations dedicated to advancing water quality and Chesapeake Bay improvements, land conservation practices, environmental literacy, climate resiliency, and invasive species control.

These awards - together with those announced last spring - bring the total VEE grants for calendar year 2019 to over \$4 million, which is the second highest yearly amount awarded in its 42 year history. The list of awards includes \$3.45 million in grants to seven partners to directly improve water quality in the James River.

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

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#### **Mini Environmental Education Grant Program**

*(Chesapeake Bay Trust)*



Deadline to apply is 4pm on January 9, 2020.

Provides up to \$5,000 for projects that involve students investigating a local environmental issue, problem, or phenomenon through indoor and outdoor research culminating in developing solutions and taking action in their school or community - also known as the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) model. Funds can cover costs for field trips, fieldwork, transportation, substitute fees, and supplies for student projects. This grant program also funds attendance to or development of professional development trainings for educators. Projects must be complete by September 1, 2020 due to NOAA funding source restrictions. For more information, see <https://cbtrust.org/grants/environmental-education-mini/>.

Middle James Roundtable | [dmr24@henrico.us](mailto:dmr24@henrico.us) | <http://www.mjrt.org>  
P.O. Box 90775  
Henrico, VA 23273

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