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## Weekly Watershed Announcements November 8, 2019

### In This Issue

#### [Upcoming Events](#)

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Thank you for your continued support of the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT)!

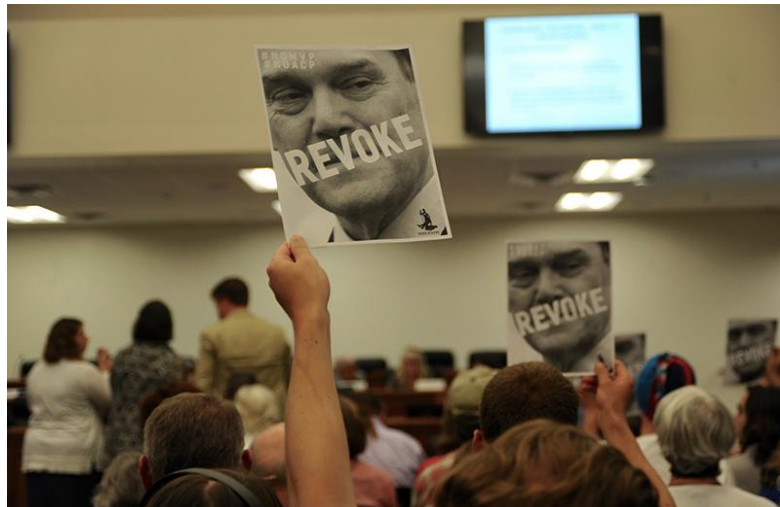
If you have information that you would like shared in the MJRT weekly announcements, please send it to [dur24@henrico.us](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In the News

#### **Virginia wants to boost its environmental agency, but will it get the money?**

*(Bay Journal)*



Ralph Northam campaigned for Virginia's highest office on his Chesapeake Bay roots, and he seemed to be making good on those promises when he made reforming the state's environmental agency his sixth order of business last year.

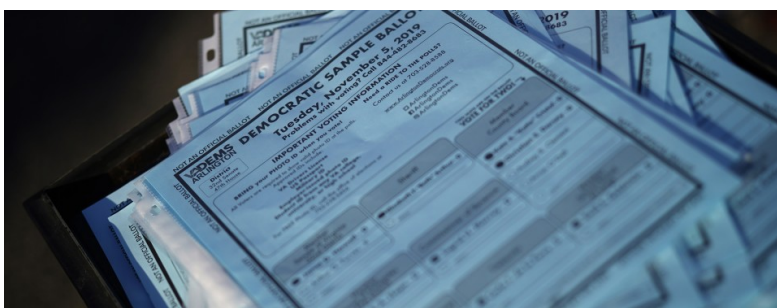
A new report details what the state's Department of Environmental Quality needs to fulfill its mission, though it will face some financial hurdles to be enacted. Since 2001, DEQ's general fund appropriations have been reduced by \$46 million, and 74 positions have been lost. Overseen by Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Strickler, the report suggests that restoring the agency's budget and staff won't be enough.

To read the full article by Whitney Pipkin, click [here](#)

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#### **Virginia's New Democratic Majority to Make Environment a Priority**

*(Bloomberg Environment)*



Democratic control of Virginia's Legislature could be a boon for clean energy and environmental policy in the Commonwealth but may prove challenging for power producers and gas pipeline proponents.

Democrats won full control of both houses of the Virginia General Assembly in the Nov. 5 election. In 2020, Democrats will control the main levers of government—the Legislature and governor's mansion—for the first time in a quarter century.

Clean water, air, and energy emerged as top issues for voters, and will be among the majority's priorities moving forward, said Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, leader of the House Democratic Caucus.

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

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### **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](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Farm Field Day**

*(November 19, 2019)*



Join the James River Association, VA Department of Forestry, Thomas Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation District and Conservation Services, Inc. to learn about managing invasive species, restoring hardwood tree buggers, live-stock exclusion fencing and rotational grazing, improving wildlife habitat and much more!

Registration is required and lunch is provided. To register, click [here](#).

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**Save the Date: Virginia Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference**  
(February 26-28, 2020)



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 sessions VAEE 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/VAEE2020/>.

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