

December 15, 2007

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable John Chichester  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Vince Callahan,  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

c/o Division of Legislative Automated Systems (DLAS)  
910 Capitol Square  
General Assembly Building, Suite 660  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Attention: Legislative Documents and Reports Processing

Re: 2007 Accomplishment of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission

Dear Governor Kaine:

As Chairman of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission, I am pleased to present this report to you on the accomplishments during 2007. I remain deeply appreciative of the continued membership and the work efforts expended by members of the Senate and my fellow co-workers in the House of Delegates.

Please do not hesitate to call upon me if I may be of further assistance.

With kindest personal regards and all best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Robert J. Wittman  
Chairman

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As defined in Section 61.1-659.27 of the Code of Virginia, the Commission's purpose and mission is to provide guidance for the stewardship and enhancement of the water quality and natural resources of the Rappahannock River Basin. The Commission is a forum in which the state, and fourteen local governments to include The City of Fredericksburg and the counties of Culpeper, Spotsylvania, King George, Orange, Richmond, Essex, Westmoreland, Fauquier, Caroline, Rappahannock, Stafford, Lancaster, and Madison County and citizens of the Commonwealth work to affect the Basin's water quality, quantity and other natural resources. We continue to promote communication, coordination and education, and by seeking appropriate solutions to identified problems, the Commission promotes activities by local, state and federal governments and individuals that foster voluntary resource stewardship for the environmental and economic health of the Basin.

Since our last report, we have continued to carry out our designated work program with significant success. In 2007, we conducted four meetings in March, June, September and December in the town of Warsaw, city of Fredericksburg, town of Warrenton and the city Richmond (at the General Assembly Building) respectively. Meeting materials are available on the Commission's website: [www.RappRiverBasin.org](http://www.RappRiverBasin.org)

The Rappahannock River Basin Nonpoint Source Workgroup: There have been eleven meetings of the Nonpoint Source Workgroup. Their charge is how the tributary strategy can be implemented in a reasonable way with a high degree of success. Dr. William Cox of Virginia Tech, who had previously worked with the RRBC and its Water Allocation Group, prepared a summary of the laws, regulations and agreements that govern water quality in Virginia in 2005. This past year RRBC staff completed its second update to Dr. Cox's summary. This summary is posted on the Commission's website and is used by water resource professional across the Commonwealth.

The Work Group was charged by the Commission to plan and conduct the Rappahannock River Summit 2007. The objectives of the Summit were for participants:

1. To become familiar with the work that is ongoing at the federal, state level AND the implications for governmental action at the local level
2. To have a meaningful dialogue on how water quality expectations can best be addressed locally and, possibly, regionally through a cooperative approach
3. To provide recommendations to local, regional, state and national entities relative to local needs in addressing water quality expectations

The Summit was held on October 30, 2007 with just under 100 participants representing, local, regional, state and federal agencies, several non-government organizations, private citizens and businesses. The outcome of the Summit was for the Work Group to develop a list of recommendations for the Commission to consider in a work session at the December meeting. The Commission endorsed three of the initial recommendations for immediate action:

1. The Secretary of Natural Resources should be given specific responsibility to insure coordination of technical assistance, information and training to ensure

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- consistency of water quality information from the Commonwealth to all stakeholders (legislation will be introduced by Delegate Harvey Morgan);
2. Support efforts to develop adequate and consistent funding streams (e.g. WQIF) for non-point source efforts in addition to point source pollution efforts; and
  3. Encourage the establishing of “No- Discharge” Zones in the tidal Rappahannock.

The Commission also asked the Work Group to refine the remaining recommendations and to bring them back for additional discussion at the March 2008 meeting (there were over 2 dozen other recommendations developed by participants in the Summit).

The Commission staff continues to maintain information on the website. In addition to a listing of members and meetings and events it contains information on Commission meetings and the continuing efforts of the Non-point Source Group.