

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

EMMETT W. HANGER, JR.
24TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF AUGUSTA, GREENE, AND HIGHLAND
COUNTIES; ALL OF THE CITIES OF LEXINGTON,
STAUNTON, AND WAYNESBORO; AND PART OF
ALBEMARLE, ROCKBRIDGE, AND ROCKINGHAM COUNTIES
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

January 13, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Charles Colgan
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Lacy Putney,
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: 2010 Accomplishment of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission

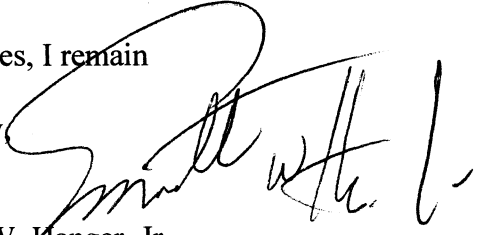
Dear Governor McDonnell:

As Chairman of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission, I am pleased to present this report to you on the accomplishments during 2010. I remain deeply appreciative of the continued membership and the work efforts expended by members of the House of Delegates and my fellow co-workers in the Senate.

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,


Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
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 fifteen local governments to include the city of Fredericksburg and the counties of Rappahannock, Madison, Fauquier, Culpeper, Orange, Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Caroline, Essex, Westmoreland, Middlesex, Richmond and Lancaster 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 are very pleased to report that Middlesex County has rejoined the Commission. As in previous years, we have continued to carry out our designated work program with significant success. In 2010, we conducted four meetings in March, June, September and December in the Fredericksburg, Lancaster County (Belle Isle State Park), Culpeper County and the city Richmond (in the Capitol building) respectively. Meeting materials are available on the Commission's website: www.RappRiverBasin.org

The Commission spent considerable time reviewing the development of the TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). With the assistance of the Non-Point Source Pollution Work Group the Commission developed and submitted comments on the draft document. Commission staff also participated as a member of the TMDL WIP Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Dr. William Cox of Virginia Tech, who had previously worked with the RRBC and its Water Allocation Group, prepared a detailed summary of the laws, regulations and agreements that govern water quality in Virginia in 2005. This past year RRBC staff completed its fifth 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 Rappahannock River Basin Nonpoint Source Workgroup: There have been nine meetings of the Nonpoint Source Workgroup. Serving as the Commission's technical advisory group their charge is to advise us on how water quality measures can be implemented in a reasonable way with a high degree of success. There were also multiple meetings of several subcommittees of the work group on specific tasks, primarily associated with efforts to implement recommendations of the 2009 Symposium on developing market-based strategies to promoting water quality.

The Work Group was asked this year to continue working on some of the recommendations of the 2007 Rappahannock River Summit. The primary effort has been to continue to develop recommendations for facilitating market-based approaches to our non-point source pollution problems. It was pointed out at the 2007 summit that it is highly unlikely that there will ever be sufficient public-sector resources to clean up the

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Rappahannock River (and the Chesapeake Bay) to desired levels and therefore we must investigate ways to encourage and facilitate private-sector investment.

To that end the work group planned the 2009 symposium on the topic. The Work Group assisted in establishing a Business Advisory Council (BAC) to support development of realistic market-based recommendations. The BAC, an outgrowth of the symposium, held a kickoff meeting in June. Over 40 attendees, representing the private sector, higher education and non-government organizations participated in the half-day event. The Work Group and BAC members have assisted in the development of the first of several grant requests to support the testing of potential market-based approaches. More will be developed in this area in 2011 and it is the Commission's intent to use what is learned to provide input in the WIP Phase 2 process.

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