

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 20, 2011

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Walter A. Stosch
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Lacey E. 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: 2011 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 2011. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Chairman

Annual Report of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission December 2011

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, as in previous years, we have continued to carry out our designated work program with significant success. In 2011, we conducted four meetings in March, June, September and December in King George County, Tappahannock, Orange County and the city of 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 Phase II TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and the Nutrient Trading Program Expansion Study (SJR 334). With the assistance of the RRBC Technical Committee the Commission developed and submitted comments to DEQ on the expansion study. Commission staff participated as a member of the Expansion Study Committee.

Dr. William Cox, formerly 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 sixth 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 Commission's Technical Committee: The Nonpoint Source Workgroup was reformed in early 2011 to expand its membership to include representatives of point sources and expand private sector representation. There were eight meetings of the Technical Committee. 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 subcommittees of the work group on specific tasks, primarily associated with developing recommendations to the Commission on input to the Nutrient Credit Trading Expansion Study.

The Technical Committee was asked to develop recommended comments on the expansion of nutrient credit trading program. This was done to provide technical advice to the Commission on the submission of formal comments to the DEQ and its Study Committee. Comments were submitted and reinforced by staff at the fall meeting of the Study Committee. Many of the Commission's comments were reflected in the final draft of the study report.

The Technical Committee has begun working with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Norfolk District, to investigate opportunities for cooperative planning and study efforts in 2012 and beyond. The USACE gave a presentation to the Commission at its December meeting on such opportunities. The Commission directed staff and the Technical Committee to make a recommendation at the March 2012 Commission meeting on how to take advantage of the resources of the USACE to further water resources planning in the basin.

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 Technical Committee.