



Be River Friendly  
It's Your Backyard

The Rappahannock River Basin Commission

February 12, 2014

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Chris Jones,  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Walter Stosch  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Charles Colgan  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance 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: 2013 Accomplishment of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission

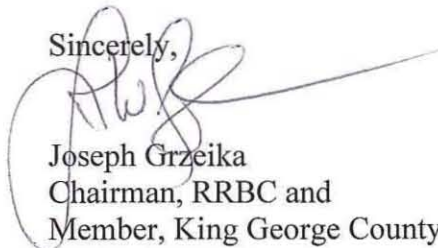
Dear Governor McAuliffe:

As Chairman of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission, I am pleased to present this report to you on the accomplishments during 2013. I remain deeply appreciative of the continued membership and the work efforts expended by members of the House of Delegates and Senate as well as my colleague members of the local governing bodies of the basin.

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,



Joseph Grzeika  
Chairman, RRBC and  
Member, King George County Board of Supervisors

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 2013, we conducted four meetings in March, June, September and December in Caroline County, Middlesex County, Culpeper County and the city of Richmond (in the Capitol building) respectively. Meeting materials are available on the Commission's website: [www.RappRiverBasin.org](http://www.RappRiverBasin.org)

The Commission spent considerable time reviewing various aspects of Virginia Stormwater Management Program regulations and statute working to develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation of the program. With the assistance of the RRBC Technical Committee the Commission provided legislative members with considerable input into legislation that has been introduced by members Delegate Ed Scott, Delegate Keith Hodge, Delegate Margaret Ransone and Senator Emmett Hanger.

The Commission and its Technical Committee has also worked extensively with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on the follow up from two studies that began in 2012 and concluded in 2013. The proposal to begin implementing the Upper Rappahannock Stream and Rainfall Gauges Public Safety project was the result of the work with the Corps of Engineers.

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 seventh 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 met nine times over the course of the year. Serving as the Commission's technical advisory group their charge is to advise us on, among other things, how water quality measures can be implemented in a reasonable way with a high degree of success.

The Technical Committee was asked to develop recommended comments on the changing stormwater program. This was done to provide technical advice to the Commission in preparation for presentations to the Commission and to develop the final recommendations offered to legislative members.

Finally, the Commission engaged with the Department of Water Quality on the state of our groundwater supply in Tidewater Virginia, specifically the Potomac Aquifer. Attached is a copy of the resolution adopted by the Commission at the December meeting asking the Commonwealth to look closely at the increasing intrusion of salt water into our groundwater supply as well as the loss of artesian head pressure across the aquifer.

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.