

REPORT ON EXPENDITURES FROM THE CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION FUND

**Prepared Pursuant to Section 58.1-344.3.C.2.c of the Code of Virginia IT
Infrastructure Partnership**

Presented by the Secretary of Natural Resources

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**Annual Report on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
by the Secretary of Natural Resources
November 1, 2015**

This report fulfills the requirements of Section 58.1-344.3.C.2.c that requires that “[no] later than November 1 of each year, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit a report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources; the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources; the House Committee on Appropriations; the Senate Committee on Finance; and the Virginia delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission, describing the grants awarded from moneys deposited in the (Chesapeake Bay Restoration) fund. The report shall include a list of grant recipients, a description of the purpose of each grant, the amount received by each grant recipient, and an assessment of activities or initiatives supported by each grant.”

On May 14, 2015, \$207,686 from the fund was committed to the Department of Conservation and Recreation to match federal funds from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to address shoreline erosion at Belle Isle State Park on the Rappahannock River. No other disbursements were made from the fund in 2015. The balance of the fund on October 27, 2015 is \$218,821.54 (which includes the \$207,686 committed to this project.)

An expert panel, convened by the Chesapeake Bay Program, concluded in its report¹ that shoreline and streambank erosion are significant contributors of pollutants to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. They also concluded that shoreline stabilization is a feasible practice, obviously dependent on the particulars of the site, which can significantly reduce pollution inputs as well as benefit to nearby habitats.

The panel concluded that “[e]rosion of unconsolidated shorelines is a major source of sediment to the Chesapeake Bay.” They further found that “[s]horeline erosion is increasingly understood and a contributor of nutrients and sediments to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.”

According to the work of the panel, practices that stabilize and prevent such erosion have specific water quality and habitat benefits for the adjacent waters.

Following the feasibility analysis, and project design and construction, specific reductions will be reported according to the provisions of the Code of Virginia. As design and construction has not yet taken place, a “specific assessment” is not available at this time. Such assessment will be provided as the project moves forward.

¹ http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21151/attachment_c--uswg_shoreline_management_041414.pdf