

**REPORT ON EXPENDITURES FROM THE CHESAPEAKE BAY
RESTORATION FUND**

**Prepared Pursuant to § 58.1-344.3.C.2.c of the Code of
Virginia**

Presented by the Secretary of Natural Resources

Annual Report on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
By the Secretary of Natural Resources
November 1, 2016

This report fulfills the requirements of § 58.1-344.3.C.2.c 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.”

The purpose of the fund is to fulfill the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to achieve the nutrient and sediment reduction requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

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 both York River and Belle Isle State Park on the Rappahannock River. We have since found that the funds set aside are sufficient for both projects, therefore amending last year’s report that only cited Belle Isle as the beneficiary. No disbursements were made from the fund in 2016 while we await final approval by the USACE on these projects. The balance of the fund on October 31, 2016 is \$251,750.12 (which includes the \$207,686 committed.)

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 and benefit 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.” Stream bank and shoreline erosion will be available as creditable practices in the WIP.

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

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

Following the feasibility analysis, 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.

Other projects to advance WIP implementation are currently under review, but have not been finalized as of the writing of this report.

For further information:

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