

**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, 2017

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).

Shoreline Stabilization

Previously, on May 14, 2015, funds were committed to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to match federal funds from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to address shoreline erosion and stabilization at both York River and Belle Isle State Parks on the Rappahannock River. Since that time, a final cost-sharing agreement has been modified based on additional analysis by DCR and the Corps. In the intervening time, no disbursements were made from the fund in 2016 for these projects pending final approval by both parties on the cost sharing agreement. Agreement was finally reached in August 2017 and therefore of the balance in the fund as on October 19, 2017 (\$325,125.98) \$161,923 is allocated for Belle Isle and \$160,000 for York River.

The purpose of these projects and the relationship to the meeting the goals of the watershed implementation plan is as follows. 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

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

tributaries.” Stream bank and shoreline erosion are now 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.

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.

Local Government Outreach

The Bay Journal, published by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Bay Journal Media, is a respected outlet for news and information on issues related to the Chesapeake Bay. In 2016, the Journal embarked on publishing an edition specifically targeting local government officials on bay issues and more specifically on issues related to local involvement in the implementation of the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. In May of 2017, a \$10,000 grants was awarded from the Restoration Fund to Bay Journal Media for support for this important education and communication publications.

The “expectations” document² prepared by EPA to guide the development of the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans specifically calls for comprehensive strategies for the engagement of local partners in the implementation of the WIP. Specifically, the documents says “the implementation of the pollutant reduction practices, as articulated in the jurisdictions’ WIPs, is expected to be carried out by state governments, in partnership with federal agencies, regional and local governments, quasi- and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, including businesses, farmers and individual citizens. Therefore, the Phase III WIP development process should include timely communication and engagement of local, regional, and federal partners and other entities. The Phase III WIPs should also clearly articulate how local, regional, and federal partners will be engaged in implementation.”

This grant will assist with the needed communication to localities as the WIP planning and development process moves forward. The first edition of the Bay Journal “Local Government Edition” was published in 2017 and contains specific information about the TMDL, the WIP, including state-specific contact information and contains case studies that show local actions that will improve water quality and assist in meeting TMDL goals.

For further information:

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² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Interim Expectations for the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans, Revised July 18, 2017