

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
RECREATION**

**AN EVALUATION OF METHODS TO STABILIZE
THE FLUCTUATIONS IN FUNDING FOR
AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES**

**TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS, SENATE
FINANCE, AND HOUSE AND SENATE AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEES**



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
NOVEMBER 2017**

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

November 15, 2017

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Chris S. Jones
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Richard H. Stuart
Chair, Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Daniel W. Marshall, III
Chair, House Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Senator Hanger, Senator Norment, Delegate Jones, Senator Stuart, and Delegate Marshall:

I am pleased to provide this report, *An Evaluation of Methods to Stabilize the Fluctuations in Funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices*, on behalf of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

This report is presented in accordance with the requirements established in Item 364 R of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly in which the Department of Conservation and Recreation is directed to convene a stakeholder group to evaluate methods to stabilize the fluctuations in funding for agricultural best management practices.

If you have any questions regarding this report or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clyde E. Cristman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Clyde E. Cristman

Preface

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements established in Item 364 R of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly. The Item states:

"1. The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall convene a stakeholder group to include, at a minimum: two members of the House of Delegates and one member of the Senate from the membership of the Chesapeake Bay Commission who will be selected by the Joint Rules Committee, representatives of the Virginia Farm Bureau Foundation, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation or his designee, the Secretary of Natural Resources or her designee, and staff from the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees to evaluate methods to stabilize the fluctuations in funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs).

2. Such a review shall, at a minimum, (i) consider increasing the portion of any deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) directed to the WQIF reserve, (ii) limiting the portion of the WQIF reserve that may be utilized in any given year, (iii) evaluating the combined revenues available from the WQIF and the Natural Resources Commitment Fund as a step in establishing appropriate expenditures from the combined funds in a given fiscal year, and (iv) distributing any funds to be deposited into the WQIF pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 21.1 of Title 10.1, Code of Virginia, across a biennial period. Such review shall also consider the impact on the staffing and technical assistance needs of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure that staffing requirements do not fluctuate or exceed their annual ability to fully implement and oversee practices with the funding made available.

The members of the stakeholder group included:

The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr.,
VIRGINIA*forever*

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.,
Virginia Senate

The Honorable David L. Bulova, Virginia
House of Delegates

Ms. Adrienne Kotula, James River
Association

Mr. Richard Chaffin, Virginia Association of
Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Honorable L. Scott Lingamfelter,
Virginia House of Delegates

Mr. Clyde Cristman, Department of
Conservation and Recreation

Ms. Martha Moore, Virginia Farm Bureau
Federation

Ms. Katie Frazier, Virginia Agribusiness
Council

Ms. Anne Oman, House Appropriations
Committee

Mr. Jason Powell, Senate Finance
Committee

Ms. Peggy Sanner, Chesapeake Bay
Foundation

Mr. Richard Street, Virginia Soil and Water
Conservation Board

Dr. Kendall Tyree, Virginia Association of
Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Honorable Molly Ward, Secretary of
Natural Resources

The Department would like to thank all the members of the stakeholder group for their insight and contributions to this report.

Table of Contents

Preface	i
Executive Summary	1
1. Funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices	2
Water Quality Improvement Fund.....	2
Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund	3
Appropriations to the WQIF and the VNRCF	3
Recordation Fee Revenues	3
Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve Fund.....	4
2. Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts	5
Funding for District Administration, Operations, and Technical Assistance	5
Administration and Operations Funding	6
Technical Assistance Funding	7
3. Funding Needs for Agriculture BMPs and the Districts	7
Agricultural Needs Assessment	8
Budget Template Process	8
Livestock Exclusion.....	9
4. Potential Funding Sources Presented to the SAG	9
5. Recommendations	10
6. Appendix A	12

Table of Abbreviations

BMP	Best Management Practices
RMP	Resource Management Plans
SAG	Stakeholder Advisory Group
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
VACS	Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program
VAST	Virginia Assessment and Scenario Tool
VLCF	Virginia Land Conservation Fund
WIP	Watershed Implementation Plan
VNRFCF	Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund
WQIF	Water Quality Improvement Fund

Executive Summary

Item 364 R of the 2017 Acts of Assembly directed the Department of Conservation and Recreation (Department) to establish a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) "to evaluate methods to stabilize the fluctuations in funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices".

During the first of three meetings, the Stakeholder Advisory Group discussed the stability of funding and adequacy of funding. While acknowledging the difference between stability and adequacy, the SAG adopted the following clarifying statement to focus future discussion and efforts: "provide the annual consistency by establishing a predictable funding source to adequately support operational need, technical assistance, and cost-share to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts) for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to meet the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)." With this statement in mind, the SAG offers the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Stabilize Funding for a Base-level Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share (VACS) Program at \$35 Million Annually

Provide a minimum amount of \$35 million annually to the VACS Program. Districts have demonstrated their ability to administer a VACS Program of this amount effectively and efficiently.

Recommendation 2: Utilize the Second Half of the Recordation Fee Revenue to Stabilize the Reserve Fund

Deposit the other half of the current \$20 recordation fee established by the Appropriation Act into the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve Fund. While recordation revenues do fluctuate, the revenue would provide a continual, and potentially stabilizing, stream of monies for the Reserve Fund.

Recommendation 3: Provide Adequate Funding for District Administration, Operations, and Technical Assistance

Provide adequate funding for District administration, operations, and technical assistance. Merging the administration, operation, and technical assistance funding into one complete District base program should be examined as it would reduce the need to address the technical assistance funding as part of the WQIF deposit and would stabilize the funding for Districts. As programs are developed to assist Virginia in meeting its water quality goals, such as the Resource Management Plan Program, it is critical that the Districts receive adequate funding to fully implement these programs.

1. Funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices

Virginia utilizes both general fund revenue and nongeneral fund revenue to incentivize the implementation and installation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs). There are two primary funds that receive revenue for agricultural BMPs, the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) and the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund (VNRFCF). The Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve Fund (Reserve Fund) affords a funding option for agricultural BMPs when there is limited general fund support.

Water Quality Improvement Fund (§10.1-2128)

Established by the 1997 General Assembly (Chapter 21 of the 1997 Acts of Assembly), the WQIF provides grants for both point and nonpoint source pollution prevention, reduction, and control programs.

Section 10.1-2128 of the *Code of Virginia* provides the funding mechanisms for the WQIF as (i) ten percent of the annual general fund revenue collections that are in excess of the official estimates, (ii) ten percent of any unrestricted and uncommitted general fund balance at the close of each fiscal year whose reappropriation is not required in the general appropriation act, and (iii) other monies that may be made available to it. When annual general fund revenue is in excess of the official estimates, §10.1-2129 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that funds will be distributed in accordance with the following:

- 70 percent to the Department of Conservation and Recreation with a priority on agricultural BMPs; and
- 30 percent to the Department of Environmental Quality for grants to publicly owned treatment works.

If in any fiscal year when funds are not appropriated to the WQIF or when funds appropriated to the WQIF are less than 40 percent of those specified in §10.1-2128 (A), the Secretary of Natural Resources shall recommend that the appropriation of funds be split between point and nonpoint sources. Distribution of funds can also be provided for in the Appropriation Act.

Eligible grantees include local governments, Districts, state agencies, institutions of higher learning, and individuals. Monies in the WQIF have been utilized for:

- The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share (VACS) Program and the implementation and installation of BMPs;
- Technical assistance services provided by Districts;
- Matching funds for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program;
- Silvicultural BMPs;
- Golf course nutrient management plans;
- Department database development; and
- Other special water quality projects.

Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund (§10.1-2128.1)

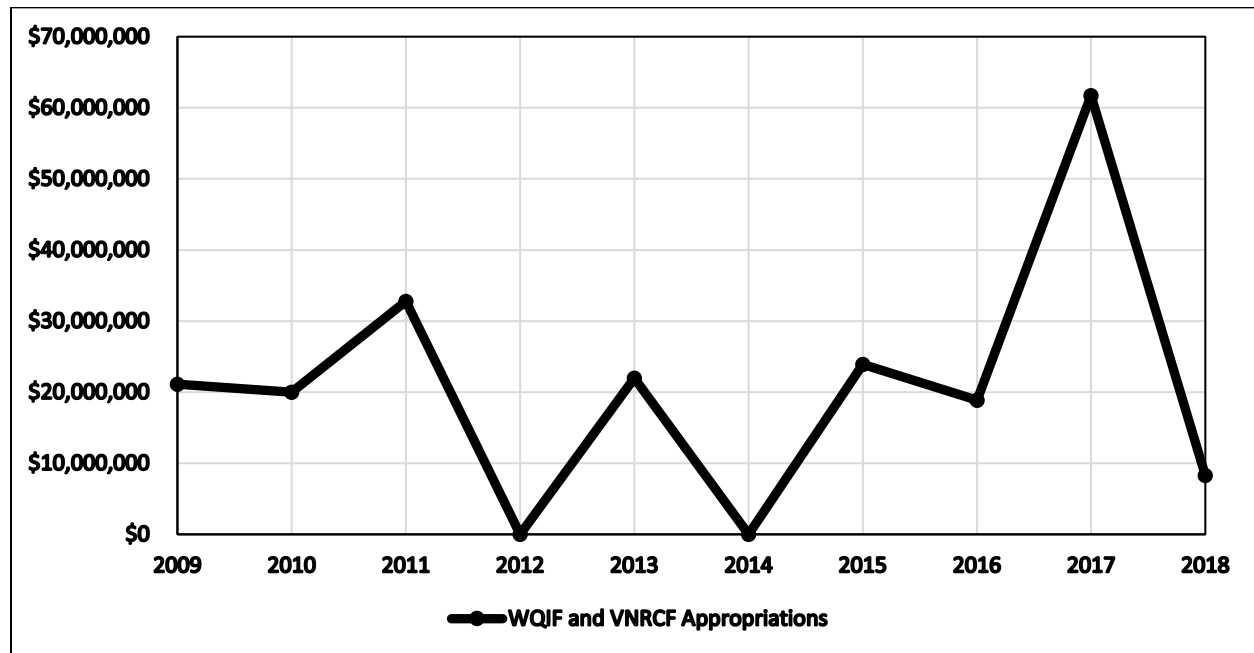
The VNRCF, a subfund of the WQIF, provides funding for Virginia's Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program (VACS) and for technical assistance services provided by the Districts.

Funds from the VNRCF are appropriated in accordance with either §10.1-2128.1 of the *Code of Virginia* or the Appropriations Act. Section 10.1-2128.1 sets out the following distribution:

- 8 percent to Districts for technical assistance services provided;
- 55 percent for the installation and implementation of agricultural BMPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and
- 37 percent for the installation and implementation of agricultural BMPs outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Appropriations to the WQIF and the VNRCF

The graph below illustrates the fluctuations in the amount of funding provided to both the WQIF and the VNRCF.



Recordation Fee Revenues (Item 3-6.01)

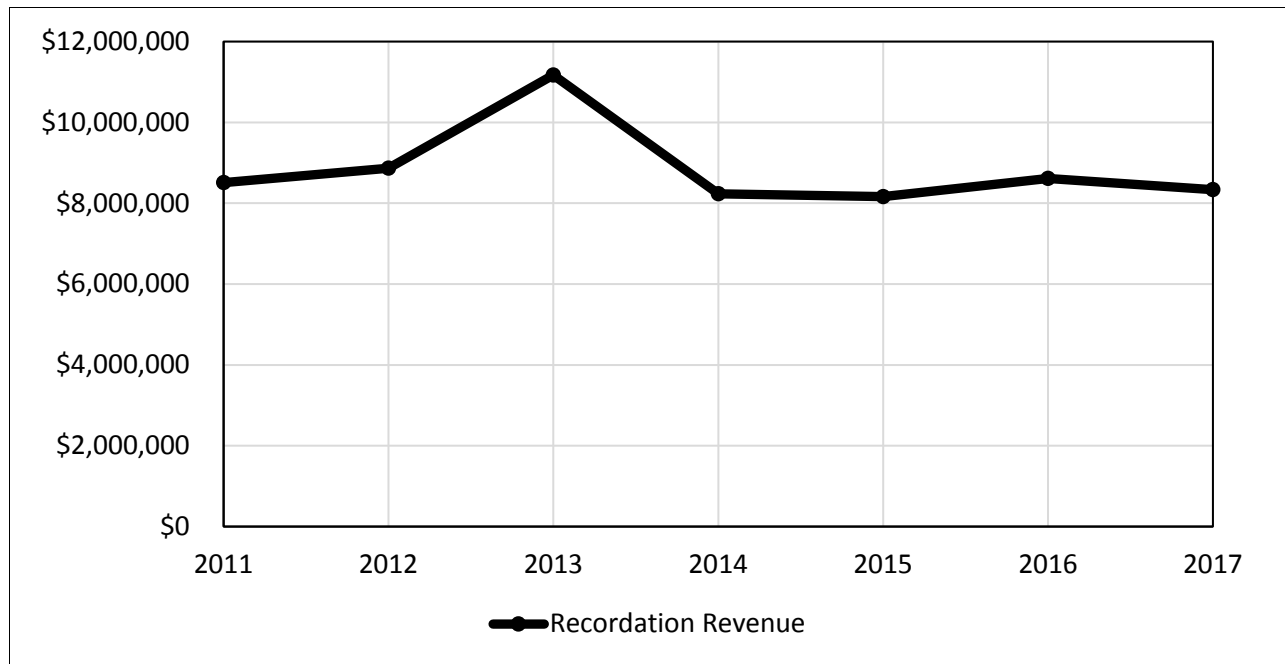
Chapter 874 of the 2010 Acts of Assembly initially established a \$20 recordation fee for:

- Every deed for which the tax is collected pursuant to §58.1-801 and §58.1-803; and
- Every certificate of satisfaction admitted when a lien is released pursuant to §55-66.6.

This action has been continued in the biennial Appropriation Act since 2010. The nongeneral fund revenues generated by this fee are deposited evenly between the VNRCF and the state general fund. A portion of the amount appropriated to the VNRCF, either 8 percent or \$1.2 million (whichever is greater), is dedicated to funding the technical assistance services provided by the Districts.

From FY2011-FY2014, \$9.1 million was appropriated each year to the VNRCF from the recordation revenues received. Beginning in FY2015, \$10 million has been appropriated each year to the VNRCF. Every year, \$1.2 million has been set aside for the funding of the Districts' technical assistance services.

The graph below shows the amount of funding provided to the VNRCF since 2011. While the General Assembly has appropriated \$10 million from this revenue source over the last several years, the revenue actually deposited into the VNRCF averages approximately \$8.3 million over that same timeframe.



Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve Fund (Appropriation Act Item 363)

Established in the Appropriation Act during the 2004 Special Session, the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve Fund (Reserve Fund) supports the purposes of the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1997 when year-end general fund surpluses are unavailable.

When annual general fund revenue is in excess of the official estimate, 15 percent of that revenue must be deposited into the Reserve Fund. When there is no general fund surplus, the monies in the Reserve Fund may be used for the purposes of the WQIF, as directed by the

General Assembly. However, no monies can be utilized by the Department without a specific appropriation from the General Assembly.

The chart below illustrates the actual deposits that have been made to the Reserve Fund in the last nine years. These deposits have not materially alleviated the instability of funding for the VACS Program, as the Reserve Fund does not accumulate a balance over more than a one-year period. Between 2004 and 2009, the Reserve Fund cumulative deposits totaled approximately \$5 million.

Year	Reserve Fund Deposit	Reserve Funds Appropriated
2009	\$613,300	\$5,000,000
2010	\$0	\$0
2011	\$4,919,805	\$0
2012	\$0	\$0
2013	\$1,300,000	\$0
2014	\$0	\$0
2015	\$2,897,500	\$0
2016	\$0	\$8,185,417
2017	\$8,244,210	\$0
2018	\$0	\$8,274,474

2. Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts

The Virginia Districts were established in the 1930s to develop comprehensive programs and plans to conserve soil resources, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floods and conserve, develop, utilize, and dispose water. Under §10.1-546.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, the 47 Districts are charged with the delivery of the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share (VACS) Program at the local level. Operational support for Districts has always been supported through the general fund and allows Districts to provide basic services. Funding for technical assistance, which provides for specifically-trained personnel, is not included in the operational support for Districts.

Funding for District Administration, Operations, and Technical Assistance

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (Board) approves policies each spring related to the funding of District administration, operations, and technical assistance provided related to the VACS Program. The policies are implemented through two separate grant agreements with each District. These grant agreements guide the distribution and disbursements of funds and ensure accountability by the Districts.

○ **Administration and Operations Funding**

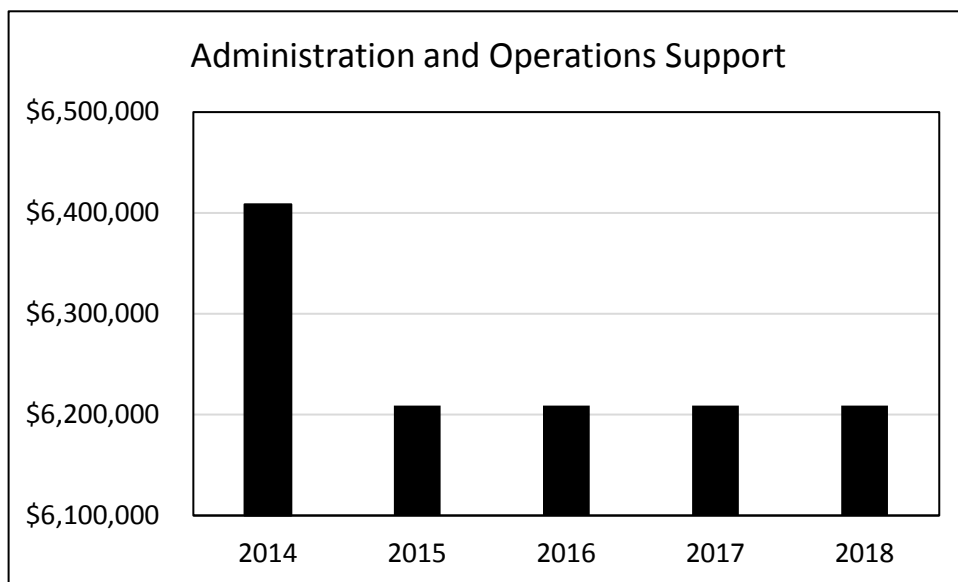
One grant agreement provides funding for core administrative and operations functions including personnel, training, rent, travel, utilities, office support, and equipment. A District responsible for an impounding structure (dam) will also receive funds for the maintenance and repairs of that structure through this grant agreement. Under the current grant agreement for FY2018, Districts are required to be involved in, report on, and implement the following programs:

- Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share (VACS) Program;
- Virginia Agricultural Tax Credit Program;
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; and
- Resource Management Plan Program.

Districts are also involved with:

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development and implementation processes;
- Agriculture Stewardship Act provisions; and
- Voluntary BMP installation reporting and verification.

After a slight reduction in funding in 2015, funding for District administration and operations has remained relatively stable.

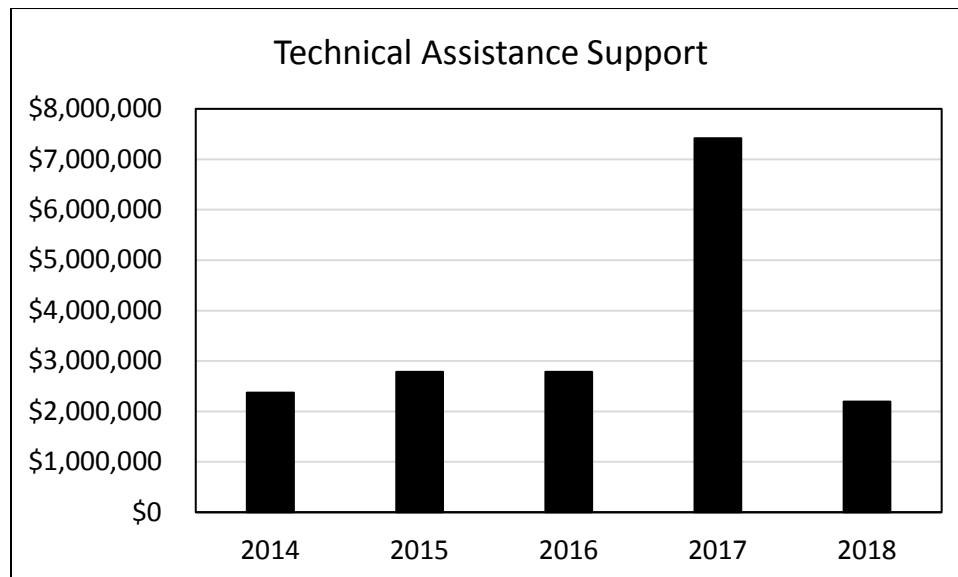


○ **Technical Assistance Funding**

The second grant agreement relates to District responsibilities for implementing the VACS Program. Under this grant agreement, Districts are responsible for:

- Delivering the VACS Program in accordance with Board policies;
- Obligating at least 90% of the VACS cost-share allocations to participants within the grant period; and
- Submitting quarterly financial reports.

Technical assistance funding is directly linked to the amount of funding provided to the VACS Program. It should be noted that technical assistance is primarily provided by specifically-trained District employees. The funding amounts fluctuate dramatically from year to year, creating difficulties for Districts to hire and retain qualified employees. As mentioned above, Districts receive \$1.2 or 8 percent, whichever is greater, of the recordation revenue deposited to the VNRCF in accordance with §10.1-2128.1 of the *Code of Virginia*. Because this level of District support has been insufficient, in recent years, the Appropriation Act has overridden this provision and approximately 13 percent of the deposit has been appropriated to Districts for technical assistance.



3. Funding Needs for Agricultural BMPs and the Districts

Estimating the funding needs for agricultural BMPs and the Districts is coordinated through two main efforts, the agricultural needs assessment required in §10.1-2128.1 of the *Code of Virginia* and the budget template process.

Agricultural Needs Assessment (§10.1-2128.1)

Section 10.1-2128.1 of the *Code of Virginia* requires the Department, in consultation with stakeholders, to determine the annual funding need for effective District technical assistance and implementation of agricultural BMPs. This assessment is required every two years in conjunction with the development of the biennial budget and is reported in the Impaired Waters Clean-Up Plan submitted by the Secretary of Natural Resources in accordance with §62.1-44.118 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The methodology of the needs assessment utilizes the pollution reduction goals based on the current version of the Chesapeake Bay Model (5.3.2) and the Virginia Assessment and Scenario Tool (VAST). The methodology was revised in 2015 to account for Virginia's significant investment in livestock exclusion BMPs.

The most recent assessment predicts a need of \$65 million for both FY2019 and FY2020 respectively for the VACS Program alone. This amount does not include the funding needed to meet the remaining requests for the livestock exclusion practices.

Based on the new Chesapeake Bay Model, new planning targets, and new tools, the needs assessment is expected to be substantially modified. The new Chesapeake Bay Model is expected to be released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in December 2017.

Budget Template Process

Initially developed in 2012 by a stakeholder advisory group, the budget template process is designed to capture all costs Districts incur associated with providing programs, including programs such as the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act that are not funded through the Department. Information is collected in four key program areas:

- Central operations;
- Agricultural program implementation;
- Dam maintenance; and
- Environmental education.

The budget template process is a peer-reviewed process. A peer-review committee consists of one representative from each of the six District areas; this committee reviews all submissions for outliers in the information provided.

The table below provides the estimated financial needs, as reported by the Districts, for administration, operations, and technical assistance.

Year	Total administrative and operations support needs*	Cost-share technical assistance support	Total program delivery support needs	Increase in requested needs
2014	\$9,123,680	\$4,758,589	\$13,882,269	
2015	\$9,821,082	\$4,965,636	\$14,786,718	6.5%
2016	\$10,403,939	\$5,042,231	\$15,446,170	4.5%
2017	\$10,830,763	\$5,204,089	\$16,034,852	3.8%
Average needs	\$10,044,866	\$4,992,636	\$15,037,502	

*Administrative support includes funding for District audits, District information technology support, and other services provided by the Department such as bonding, contracts, and training.

Livestock Exclusion

Virginia has made significant investments in livestock exclusion BMPs since 2015. Agricultural producers were able to sign-up for 100% cost-shared livestock exclusion practices (SL-6) creating a backlog of requests for such BMPs.

Since the inception of the 100% cost-shared SL-6 in 2015, requests totaled \$107 million. As of September 1, 2017, the remaining requests for SL-6 practices is approximately \$13 million. Approximately \$3.5 million of those remaining BMPs are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, while \$9.5 million are located in the Southern Rivers portion of Virginia. Across the state, \$69 million of SL-6 practices have been completed and an additional \$25 million has been approved by local Districts and are awaiting completion.

Through September 1, 2017, roughly 1,900 completed SL-6 practices have resulted in over 7 million linear feet of stream banks protected and over 89,000 animal units excluded.

4. Potential Funding Sources Presented to the SAG

Many studies, commissions, and committees have examined funding strategies for natural resources over the years; the ideas below were presented to the SAG as discussion points. An additional document listing previous study recommendations and legislative proposals was also presented to the SAG and is available in Appendix A.

Additional potential funding sources presented to the SAG include:

- Use of unallocated land preservation tax credit;
- A line of credit for certain BMPs; and

- A voluntary donation or "round-up" charge at the point of sale for certain items.

Members of the SAG were unable to reach consensus on which sources should be recommended as funding options.

5. Recommendations

During the first meeting, the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) discussed the concept of stability of funding over adequacy of funding. While acknowledging the difference between stability and adequacy, the SAG adopted the following clarifying statement to focus future discussion and efforts: "provide the annual consistency by establishing a predictable funding source to adequately support operational need, technical assistance, and cost-share to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for agricultural BMPs to meet the TMDLs." With this statement in mind, the SAG offers the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Stabilize Funding for a Base-level VACS Program at \$35 Million Annually

Provide an annual minimum amount of \$35 million (to be potentially adjusted in the future for inflation) to the VACS Program. Districts have demonstrated their ability to administer a VACS Program of this amount effectively and efficiently. A stable, consistent level of funding at this amount would:

- Support a program that provides base-level funding for implementation of key BMPs including cover crops, nutrient management plans, animal waste control facilities, livestock exclusion, and conservation tillage;
- Provide the agricultural community with assurance that funding will be available which will assist producers in their own financial planning; and
- Allow Districts to anticipate and hire the necessary staff to provide technical assistance to producers.

The SAG acknowledges that the \$35 million base-level funding does not reflect the existing and anticipated future needs for the VACS Program to meet Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan goals and to address local TMDLs through increased implementation and installation of BMPs. However, providing a stable funding level for the program would be a critical component in meeting Virginia's water quality goals and would be a substantial investment in Virginia's agricultural and natural resources. If this recommendation was combined with Recommendation 3 below, then the \$35 base-level funding would be devoted solely to the VACS program.

Recommendation 2: Utilize the Second Half of the Recordation Fee Revenue to Stabilize the Reserve Fund

As provided for in Item 3-6.01 of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly, one-half of the recordation fee revenue is deposited to the VNRCF; the other half is deposited in the state's general fund. Instead of depositing revenue into the general fund, the recommendation of the SAG is to deposit the revenue into the Reserve Fund. While recordation revenues do fluctuate, the revenue would provide a continual, and potentially stabilizing, stream of monies for the Reserve Fund. If the balance in the Reserve Fund exceeded \$50 million, any amount over the \$50 million could be allocated to the VACS Program in the following fiscal year. It should be noted that no monies can be utilized by the Department without a specific appropriation from the General Assembly.

Recommendation 3: Provide Adequate Funding for District Administration, Operations, and Technical Assistance

Provide adequate funding for District administration, operations, and technical assistance. Merging the administration, operation, and technical assistance funding into one complete District base program should be examined as it would reduce the need to address the technical assistance funding as part of the WQIF deposit and would stabilize the funding for Districts. Funding could be provided through a new revenue stream, utilizing the second half of the recordation fee revenue, or a general fund transfer.

The SAG recognizes the linkage between this legislative study effort and the effort undertaken in accordance with Item 364 Q of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly. Item 364 Q directs a stakeholder advisory group to examine the funding, training, and resource needs, as well as explore new incentives, for additional implementation of Resource Management Plans (RMP). If the RMP Program is to be successful, ensuring Districts have adequate funding for agricultural BMPs and technical staff is critical. The report directed by this study, ***An Examination of the Needs and Potential Incentives to Encourage Implementation of Resource Management Plans*** is available at [http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD3532017/\\$file/RD353.pdf](http://leg2.state.va.us/dls/h&sdocs.nsf/By+Year/RD3532017/$file/RD353.pdf).

APPENDIX A

Year	Source of Funding and Rate of Funding	Revenue Estimates (reflective of the year of study)	Study or Legislative Reference
2017	Water Quality Improvement Act line of credit.	Up to \$30 M	Virginia Senate, 2016-2018 Biennium Budget, SB 900.
2016	Multiple states with volume-related groundwater fees (AK, AZ, CA, CT, KS, ME, MA, MO, TX, RI, VT, and WA).	Variable	Water Resource Planning and Management Study, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2013	Dedicated funding (\$100 M – (\$100 M x CPI-U)) to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF).	Up to \$20 M	House Bill 1398, Delegate Lee Ware patron, enacted by Virginia General Assembly.
2012	Recordation tax surcharge of 0.10 cent.	\$1.3 M	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2012	Increase the Land Preservation Tax Credit transfer fee from 5% to 5.25%.	\$300,000	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2012	Increase the \$1 recordation fee to \$1.50 and expand statewide.	\$400,000	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2012	Divert interest on the VLCF funds from the general fund.	\$200,000	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2012	Require hunters and anglers to buy an annual conservation stamp.	\$1.2 M	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2012	Surcharge on state park fees of 5%.	\$800,000	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2012	Other state mechanisms: lottery income (MN); dedicated sales tax revenue (NJ).	Variable	Dedicated Revenue Sources for Land Conservation in Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.
2010	50% of a \$20 document recordation fee.	Approx. \$10 M	Enacted by Virginia General Assembly, 2008-2010 Biennium Budget, Chapter 872, Item 3-6.01.

2008	20% of recordation taxes not allocated; unallocated land preservation tax credits	Variable	House Bill 727 (Delegate Scott); Senate Bill 470 (Senator Hanger).
2008	10% of one percent sales tax.	Up to \$100 M	House Bill 1335 (Delegate Landes); Senate Bill 511 (Senator Whipple).
2006	State Corporation Commission license tax revenues from farm owner, homeowner, and commercial insurance policies.	\$43 M	Joint Subcommittee Studying Options to Provide Funding for Clean-Up of Virginia's Polluted Waters, including the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries (HJR 640).
2006	One percent surcharge on farm owner, homeowner, and commercial insurance policy premiums.	\$19 M	Joint Subcommittee Studying Options to Provide Funding for Clean-Up of Virginia's Polluted Waters, including the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries (HJR 640).
2006	A sliding scale capital gains tax on the sale of certain real estate.	Not determined	Joint Subcommittee Studying Options to Provide Funding for Clean-Up of Virginia's Polluted Waters, including the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries (HJR 640).
2005	Annual wastewater fee of \$52 per year per household and \$1200 per year for industry.	\$160 M	House Bill 2694 (Delegate Pollard); Senate Bill 1240 (Senator Whipple).
2005	One-twelfth of the revenue from the 2% sales tax.	Up to \$160 M	House Bill 2777 (Delegate Louderback); Senate Bill 1235 (Senator Quayle); and Joint Subcommittee Studying Options to Provide Funding for Clean-Up of Virginia's Polluted Waters, including the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries (HJR 640).
2004	Document recordation fee of \$10 per recording.	\$20 M	House Bill 693 (Delegate H. Morgan); Senate Bill 569 (Senator Deeds).
2003	Water utility fee of \$2 per month for municipal systems.	\$46 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Water withdrawal fee of \$1 per 1,000 gallons.	\$477 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Sewer access fee of \$1 per connection for residential, commercial, and industrial.	\$22 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Wastewater discharge or onsite treatment fee of \$1 per MGD and \$1 per 1,000 gallons for permit fees.	\$15 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.

2003 and 2006	Document recording tax of \$0.01 per \$100.	\$17 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission; and Joint Subcommittee Studying Options to Provide Funding for Clean-Up of Virginia's Polluted Waters, including the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries (HJR 640).
2003	Document recordation fee of \$10 per recording.	\$20 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Municipal solid waste tipping fee of \$3 per 1 ton.	\$36 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Gas tax of \$0.006 per gallon.	\$36 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Fertilizer fee of \$1 per ton bulk sale and \$1 per 50 lb. bag non-agriculture use.	\$2.1 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Biosolids application fee of \$1 per ton.	\$200,000	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Cell phone surcharge of \$1 per month.	\$36 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Tax on cigarettes of \$1 per pack.	\$600 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Motor vehicle registration fee of \$1 per vehicle.	\$6 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Income tax exemption surcharge of \$1 per personal exemption.	\$6.3 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
2003	Electricity connection fee of \$2 per month.	\$75 M	Governor's Natural Resources Funding Commission.
1997	Water Quality Improvement Act, 10% of annual general fund surplus and 10% of any unreserved general fund balance.	Variable	Enacted by Virginia General Assembly.
Multiple	Plastic bag tax.	Not determined.	Legislation introduced in multiple General Assembly sessions.

NOTE: Bolded items were specifically recommended in legislation or by study.