

Senate Finance Committee

Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee

January 26, 2016



Agency Overview

HB30/SB30, as introduced

FY 2017	\$123.5 million GF	\$50.6 million NGF	\$174.1 million total
FY 2018	\$61.5 million GF	\$50.3 million NGF	\$111.8 million total
Authorized MEL	452 FTE	Currently filled- Vacant-	408 FTE 44 FTE
Current Wage Positions	704 Filled	Expected Wage Positions In-season	1,630 +/- (Includes life guards, snack bars, YCC staff)
Active Federal Grants	\$20.9 million NGF	Major Grant Sources	NPS, FHWA(DOT), EPA via DEQ, FEMA, FWS, USDA, CNCS via VDSS



Dam Safety

- \$546,080 proposed in introduced budget to rebuild the dam safety and floodplain management programs
- Probable Maximum Precipitation study completed
 - Of the 24,000 new PMP 2.5 square mile grid points across the Commonwealth, when compared to historic values, ~95% of the new PMPs were lower, many by as much as 20 to 30%.
 - Cost Savings Estimate - ~\$72 M (very conservative); only high and significant hazard
 - 45 District High Hazard Dams identified for rehabilitation previously – Total estimated savings of ~\$19 M; ~25% savings; 5 dams potentially will not require upgrades.
 - Pre-run the PMPs for 900 high and significant hazard impoundments.

Natural Heritage

- \$500,000 increase provided by 2015 General Assembly continued in base budget
 - Essential staff
 - Natural Area Stewards
 - (Lee County and Chesapeake Bay Region)
 - Karst Protection Coordinator
 - Partial funding for Geographic Information System Manager
 - Maintenance to access roads, parking areas, trails and boardwalks
 - New interpretive signs
 - Necessary equipment (trucks, prescribed fire equipment)



Water Quality Improvement Fund

- \$61.7 million proposed in FY2017
 - \$51.8 million for implementation of agricultural best management practices
 - \$19.6 for implementation of previously approved livestock exclusion practices
 - \$6.2 million for technical assistance for SWCD technical assistance
 - \$8.2 million for the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve
 - \$800,000 for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - \$100,000 for nutrient plans for golf courses

Recordation Fee Revenue

- Provides the recordation fee proceeds dedicated to the implementation of agricultural best management practices
 - \$10 million in non-general funds projected in FY2017 and FY2018
- Reversal of action in Chapter 665
 - Retained \$1 million each year from this fee that had been used to balance general fund budget

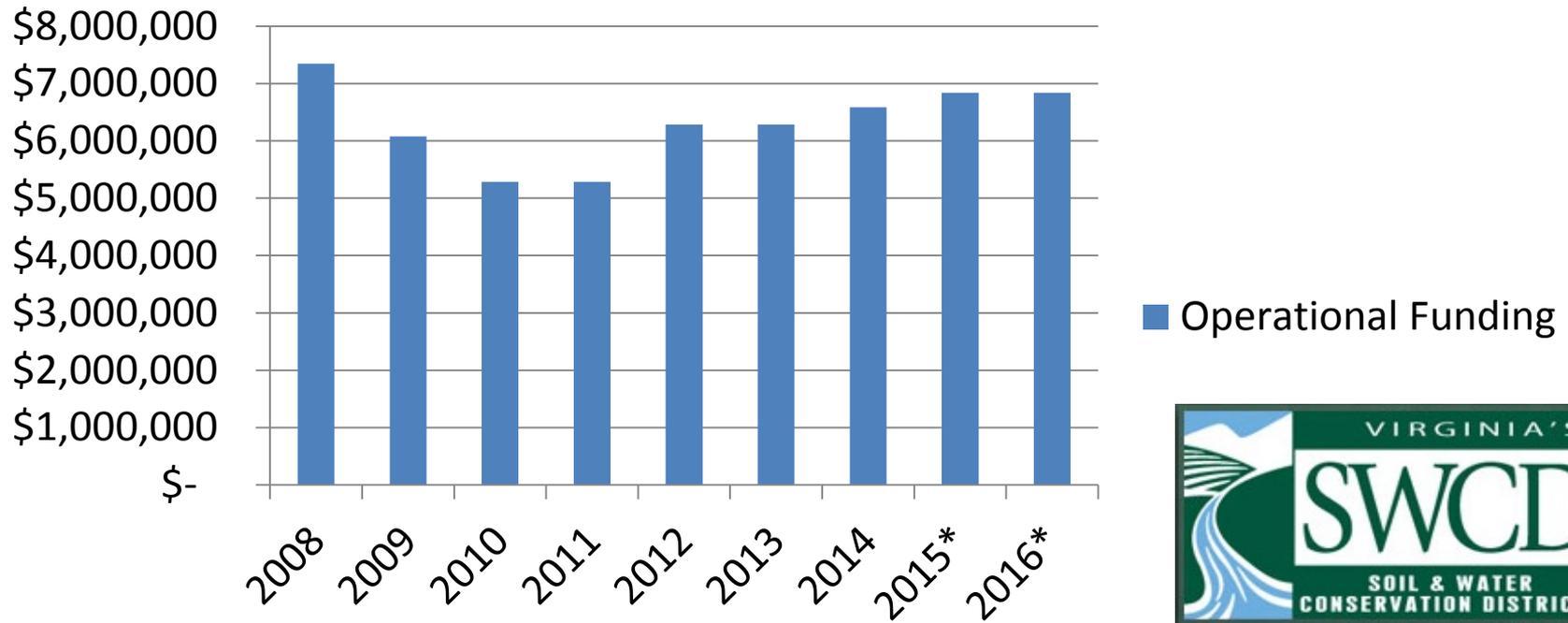
Livestock Exclusion

- Approximately \$61 million needed to meet previous commitment for FY2015
 - 100% of exclusion practice's cost covered
 - Farmers must sign contract within 90 days of funds being offered
 - 1,192 practices on waiting list
- As of July 1, 2016, SWCB set state cost share rate at 80% of practice cost with a \$70,000 project cap
- Statewide –
 - 1,291 practices have been installed
 - 4,540,457 linear feet have been protected
 - 57,910 animal units excluded



SWCD Funding Historically

Operational Funding



*Comprised of \$6,209,091 base operations, \$312,000 dam maintenance, \$150,000 small dam repairs, and \$170,000 District support (audits, bonding, training, etc.)

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

- \$16 million proposed each year for FY2017 and FY2018
 - \$4 million for the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund at the Virginia Outdoors Foundation
 - \$12 million for VLCF
 - at least 50% of the funds are to be used for grants to acquire land or easements with public access
 - Meets the requirements set out in §2.2-1509.4



Land Conservation Programs

Program	Funds Appropriated (FY2008-FY2016)	Acres Conserved
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation	\$16,402,546	23,607.93
Farmland Preservation	\$11,477,729	10,305.63
Battlefield Preservation	\$13,645,650	6,838
Total	\$41,525,925	40,751.56

Land Preservation Tax Credit

Tax Year	Credits Allocated	Cap	Number of acres
2008	\$102,287,081	\$102,287,801	60,199
2009	\$106,647,006	\$106,647,000	63,447
2010	\$106,845,000	\$106,845,000	38,545
2011	\$108,424,000	\$108,424,000	75,028
2012	\$64,084,200	\$111,054,000	45,282
2013	\$79,059,796	\$100,000,000	78,181
2014	\$44,569,227	\$100,000,000	29,806
2015	\$46,434,912	\$75,000,000	40,958
Total	\$658,351,222	\$810,257,801	431,446

Connectivity in State Parks

- Currently, many state parks have limited or no access to cell phone or internet service
- \$703,800 proposed for developing WiFi interconnectivity in state parks
 - \$655,800 in FY2017
 - \$48,000 in FY2018
- Funding would allow for the installation of fiber optic cables and implementation of WiFi capability
 - Expanded coverage would increase customer satisfaction, improve public safety efforts and enhance DCR's ability to efficiently conduct business and collect revenues
- \$250,000 proposed from State Park Conservation and Resources Fund authorized for feasibility study to enhance communication options statewide

Natural Bridge State Park

- Originally bought by Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund (VCLF) in Spring 2014
 - \$9.1 million loan from Virginia Resources Authority
 - Current balance of loan is \$7.7 million
 - VCLF currently behind on payment but working to address delinquency



- \$120,000 proposed in FY2017 and FY2018 for opening Natural Bridge State Park
 - This is in addition to \$60,000 provided in FY2016
 - Will fund 2 positions on-site
 - Chief Ranger and Park Manager
- Working with Office of the Attorney General to develop operating agreement
 - All gate receipts entered into a restricted account to pay outstanding debt service
 - Any additional revenue will be used for maintenance and operation costs
 - Would need to be authorized by the General Assembly

Seven Bends Recreation Area

- 1,066 acres in Shenandoah County near the Town of Woodstock
 - Purchased with 2002 bond proceeds
- 2015 General Assembly provided \$2.24 million
 - Abatement and demolition of dilapidated structures
 - Limited parking and trails
- \$292,000 proposed in FY2018 for limited opening



FY2015 State Park Revenues

Facility Type	Revenue
Cabins	\$5,982,178
Campgrounds	\$4,654,401
Parking fees	\$2,973,575
Merchandise	\$1,811,883
Swimming	\$1,071,996
Food concessions	\$837,255
Equipment rentals	\$399,850
All other revenue	\$1,315,528
Total	\$19,046,666

Department of Conservation and Recreation

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