



Economic Development and Natural Resources Subcommittee

Senate Finance Committee

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L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources





Land Conservation Funding

\$20 million for land conservation.

Conserving land improves water quality, recreation, and quality of life, and preserves the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Commonwealth.

- \$13,700,000 for matching grants from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF) for local, private and state land conservation projects (natural areas, open spaces and parks, farmland and forest preservation, historic preservation).
- \$950,000 in support for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to provide assistance to landowners with placing property under conservation easements. Growing demand is creating a backlog.

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Land Conservation Funding

- \$5,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to match local government purchase of development rights (PDR) programs.
- Also, modest staff increases:
 - \$99,040 and two positions to support the Department of Conservation and Recreation's promotion and administration of land conservation programs. (One is for new land preservation tax credit responsibilities.)
 - \$151,920 and two positions to the Department of Historic Resources for administration of the Historic Easement Program.



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Water Quality Improvement Fund Deposit

- \$7.5 million total for nonpoint source
 - \$3.8 million – remainder of mandatory deposit required by WQIA
 - \$3.7 million additional funding



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Dam Safety

- 3 dam safety engineers
- Downstream development is requiring increased regulation of private and publicly owned dams
- \$616,000 in funding to match federal grants for SWCD owned dams.



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State Parks

- \$198,039 in 2008 (GF)
 - Maintenance equipment
 - Replacement of old vehicles
 - Replace tractors, mowers, chippers, etc.
- \$15 million in supplemental capital funding for State Parks and Natural Areas GOB projects
 - Address market increases in cost of goods and services for construction





Virginia Water Protection Program Staffing

- 6 FTEs
- Will meet demands for improved service delivery
- Working with USCOE on expansion of State Programmatic General Permit.



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Solid Waste Program Staffing

- Continuation of funding for 5 positions.
 - One to manage new office of Solid Waste Coordination
 - Four to meet quarterly inspection goals, provide more timely monitoring, and provide guidance to staff and regulated community



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CSO Funding

- Funding for Richmond and Lynchburg CSO projects
 - \$3.1 million in 2007 for Lynchburg only
 - \$3.0 million in 2008 for both Lynchburg and Richmond



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DHR Mandated Environmental Reviews

- \$75,028 and an increase of one position
 - Position will review and advise federal and state actions subject to mandatory environmental reviews



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Virginia Indian Heritage Program

- \$250,000 in 2007 from GF
 - Funding to augment the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail funded by the 2005 General Assembly.
 - Develop educational tools.
 - Enrich tourism.
 - Pass through to Virginia Foundation for Humanities.



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Marine Habitat and Waterways

- \$500,000 in 2008 from NGF
 - Adds funds for coordination, development and implementation of VMRC's Marine Habitat and Waterways Improvement Fund
 - Fund is supported by royalties paid for the use of state-owned bottomlands.



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Funding for VMNH Staff

- Grand opening of new facility in March!
- \$125,272 – GF
- \$315,884 – NGF
 - Funding for research, education, and visitor services support staff.
 - Total of 9 additional positions, only portions of which will be supported by GF



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Chesapeake Bay Bonds

- Authorizes VPBA to issue \$250 million in bonds for the installation of nutrient removal technologies at specified POTWs.
- Bonds will only be issued as needed to meet demand based on construction schedules filed with DEQ but not before July 1, 2008.





Bay Bonds Are Needed To:

1. Meet federal mandates and our obligations under the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement,
2. Provide local governments certainty in financing,
3. Meet the Commonwealth's commitment under the WQIA to finance the required upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, and
4. Ensure the Commonwealth's goals for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers are met.



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Bay Bonds Management

- Bond proceeds managed through the WQIF just like current grant program.
- Issuing authority given to VPBA
 - VPBA offers most competitive financing rate and does not charge fees for administering the bond issuance.



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Why 2007?

- Give local governments assurance when they are making financial decisions.
- Give Treasury adequate time to prepare for bond issuance.



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Questions?

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