

# Improving the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Rivers: Our Path Forward

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*VIRGINIA'S PHASE III WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*

*Ann Jennings, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources*

# Virginia's Phase III WIP – Agriculture

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## Priority BMPs -

Nutrient  
Management  
Planning

Cover Crops

Livestock Stream  
Exclusion

Grass and Forest  
Buffers

## Incentives and Technical Assistance:

- Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program
- Governor Northam's budget proposal includes \$109 M for cost share and technical assistance
- Agricultural BMP Loan Program

## Documentation:

- Resource Management Plan and Agriculture Stewardship Act Programs;
- Document voluntary practices through 2020/2021 farm survey

## Clear Timelines:

- Set December 31, 2025 as deadline to either achieve goals for nutrient management plans on cropland and for livestock stream exclusion or sign up for cost share

# Virginia's Phase III WIP – Wastewater/Septic

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## Priority BMPs -

Wastewater  
Treatment  
Technologies

Onsite Septic  
System  
Maintenance

## Reasonable Assurance:

- Achieve additional reductions from municipal WWTPs equivalent to 4 mg/l of TN and 0.3 mg/l TP through regulatory revisions or other means
- Shift oversight of septic maintenance from local governments to Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

## Adequate Funding:

- Consult with VAMWA on annual funding needs
- Governor Northam's budget proposal includes \$120 M for the Water Quality Improvement Fund
- Designate VDH as a state certifying authority to provide tax exemptions

# Virginia's Phase III WIP – Developed Lands

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## Priority BMPs –

Urban Nutrient  
Management  
Planning

Green Infrastructure

Tree Canopy

Forest Retention

## Adequate Funding:

- Consult with local governments on annual funding needs
- Governor Northam's budget proposal includes \$182 M for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, \$65 M for City of Alexandria combined sewer overflow, and \$1,000,000 for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

## Technical Assistance:

- Establish long-term partnership with local Planning District Commissions; Rebuild local engagement capacity at Department of Environmental Quality
- Enhance existing Virginia Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program
- Enhance Department of Forestry (DOF) presence in urban centers
- Implement DOF/Rappahannock River Basin Commission Healthy Watershed Initiative

# Improving the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Rivers: Our Path Forward

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*QUESTIONS?*

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