



October 5, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and Rivanna River Basin Commission Receive Funding for Assistance to Local Governments for Chesapeake Bay TMDL Planning

Contacts:

Steve Williams (TJPDC)
swilliams@tjpd.org
(434) 979-7310 x110

Leslie Middleton (RRBC)
middleton@rivannariverbasin.org
(434) 971-7722

Charlottesville, VA – The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) and Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) have been awarded a Small Watershed Grants from EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program's to provide assistance to area local governments in developing plans to meet Chesapeake Bay cleanup requirements.

The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program provides assistance to organizations and local governments working on a local level to implement projects that improve small watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin, while building citizen-based resource stewardship. United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program Office funds this program.

As a part of the comprehensive Bay cleanup and protection program, Virginia is developing Phase II of the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the Virginia waters that drain to the Chesapeake Bay, including the Rivanna, Tye, Hardware, Rockfish, Rapidan, and South Anna rivers. The Bay cleanup program is referred to as the Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load, or "pollution diet").

The Phase II plan will provide details about how the Commonwealth will reduce pollution from various sources, such as wastewater, farm fields, and urban stormwater, in order to help bring the Bay into compliance with the Clean Water Act. The Phase II plan will be implemented fully by 2025 in accordance with federal requirements.

Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation (VA DCR) is responsible for developing the final Phase II WIP for submittal to US EPA by March 1, 2012. David Johnson, Director of VA DCR, has requested assistance from local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed of Virginia in developing the Phase II WIP.

DCR is asking local governments to provide information about potential strategies for improving water quality at the local level, such as retrofitting existing stormwater management facilities, improving sediment controls at construction sites, and developing nutrient management plans for public properties. In addition, localities are also being asked to tell VA DCR the amount of money they will require to implement these strategies.

(more)



page 2

TJPDC and RRBC will work together to provide technical assistance, including data compilation and analyses of alternative scenarios, to assist local governments in determining the most cost-effective solutions to achieving Chesapeake Bay clean-up goals while ensuring local water quality protection. Technical assistance will be available to the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson, and the City of Charlottesville.

TJPDC and RRBC worked together during 2010 on a pilot project supported by EPA and DCR to identify methods for implementing the Bay cleanup efforts with local government involvement. The pilot project identified the need for good local data and diverse stakeholder involvement. Local soil and water conservation districts (Thomas Jefferson SWCD and Culpeper SWCD) will continue to be key partners with local governments in achieving these goals.

XXX

For further information contact:

Steve Williams, TJPDC Executive Director, (434) 979-7310 x110, swilliams@tjpd.org
Leslie Middleton, RRBC Executive Director (434) 971-7722, middleton@rivannariverbasin.org

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) mission is to serve the local governments in Planning District 10 by providing regional vision, collaborative leadership and professional service to develop effective solutions. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is directed by a twelve-member board, consisting of two representatives appointed by each local governing board, more than half of who are local elected officials. The Commissioners have varied backgrounds and currently serve on various boards and committees in the region. Meeting monthly, they provide direction and oversight for TJPDC activities. PD-10 consists of the counties of Albemarle, Greene, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson and the City of Charlottesville.

The Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC) is a public entity of local government, which provides guidance for the stewardship and enhancement of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River Basin and serves as a forum in which local governments and citizens can discuss issues affecting the Basin's water quality and quantity and other natural resources. The RRBC was formed through enabling state legislation in 2004 and consists of elected officials from the governing bodies of Greene, Fluvanna, and Albemarle counties and the City of Charlottesville, as well as board members from the Thomas Jefferson and Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and citizen members appointed from each watershed locality. For further information, visit www.rivannariverbasin.org.

The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program provides assistance to organizations and local governments working on a local level to implement projects that improve small watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin, while building citizen-based resource stewardship. This program is funded by EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office and administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and funded by the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program. For more information about the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants, visit www.nfwf.org/chesapeake.

The Chesapeake Bay Program is a regional partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983. Partners include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, representing the federal government; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the states of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; and advisory groups of citizens, scientists and local government officials.