

Natural Resources

Adopted Adjustments (\$ in millions)				
	FY 2015 Adopted		FY 2016 Adopted	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2014-16 Base Budget, Ch. 806	\$97.5	\$271.3	\$97.5	\$271.3
Increases	39.6	17.8	8.4	17.5
Decreases	(3.8)	(19.2)	(3.8)	(23.6)
\$ Net Change	35.8	(1.4)	4.6	(6.1)
Chapter 2 (HB 5002, as adopted)	\$133.3	\$269.9	\$102.1	\$265.2
% Change	36.7%	(0.5)%	4.7%	(2.2)%
FTEs	1,022.50	1,157.50	1,022.50	1,157.50
# Change	3.00	(3.00)	3.00	(3.00)

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- ***Provide Water Quality Improvement Fund Deposit.*** Includes \$23.9 million GF in FY 2015, representing 75 percent of the \$31.5 million GF statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF). Out of this deposit, a series of designations are made, including: (1) the required deposit of 15 percent, or about \$3.0 million GF, to the WQIF reserve fund, (2) the transfer of \$18.2 million GF to the Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund for the implementation of agricultural best management practices, (3) the provision of \$1.6 million GF to soil and water conservation districts for technical assistance, (4) and the use of \$1.2 million GF to provide \$100,000 for nutrient management on golf courses; \$250,000 for the Department of Forestry to provide water quality grants; and \$800,000 to be used as match for the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- ***Recognize Additional Recordation Tax Revenue.*** Increases the recordation tax proceeds dedicated to the implementation of agricultural best management practices by \$900,000 NGF each year. Pursuant to language found in § 3-6.01 of the budget, a fee of \$20 is imposed on every deed recorded in the Commonwealth,

of which \$10 is dedicated to the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund (VNRCF) for implementation of agricultural best management practices.

- Including these additional NGF proceeds, the total amount of recordation fees dedicated to the VNRCF is \$10.0 million.
 - The total funding provided for technical assistance to farmers and other land users by soil and water conservation districts is \$3.7 million (all funds) the first year. This amount includes \$1.6 million from the \$31.5 million deposit to the WQIF and \$1.2 million from those recordation fees deposited into the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund.
- ***Financial Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Includes \$254,000 GF each year for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This amount consists of an additional \$108,000 GF annually, representing a \$1,000 increase in the amount provided for maintenance of the 104 soil and water conservation district-owned dams (from the current \$2,000 per dam to \$3,000 per dam), and \$150,000 GF annually to perform small repairs on known or suspected dam deficiencies.
 - ***Engineering Support for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Provides \$225,000 GF and \$150,000 NGF each year to hire four engineers to support SWCDs and to offset a decrease in engineering services previously provided by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service.
 - ***Resource Management Program.*** Provides \$89,100 GF each year for one additional position to assist farmers in developing and implementing Resource Management Plans. Farmers who fully implement these plans shall be deemed in compliance with the total maximum daily load allocations required to meet state water quality requirements for nutrient and sediment reductions.
 - ***Chesapeake Bay Field Studies.*** Provides \$80,000 GF each year for a grant to provide field studies on the Chesapeake Bay. This program was previously funded in the Department of Environmental Quality.
 - ***Transfer Stormwater Management Program.*** Transfers \$2.1 million GF and \$9.2 million NGF each year and 83.0 FTE positions to the Department of Environmental Quality to implement legislation adopted by the 2013 General Assembly that shifted responsibility for these programs to DEQ.
 - ***Provide Continued Funding for Project-Specific Dam Rehabilitation Project.*** Provides \$400,000 GF each year for the continued rehabilitation of Todd Lake Dam in Augusta County. The continued funding is necessary to match federal funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the county. The Natural

Resources Conservation Service is responsible for the largest share of the rehabilitation costs. Clarifying language is also included directing that state funding be provided solely for publicly-owned dams.

- ***Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funding.*** Includes \$253,750 NGF the first year to implement the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee. The source of the nongeneral funds is from the sale of “Friend of the Chesapeake Bay” license plates.
- ***Distribution of Funding for VNRCF.*** Includes language directing that any funding deposited into the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund shall be distributed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, rather than solely by the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s staff. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is to distribute such deposits according to its adopted policies and the provisions of the Code of Virginia. This language mirrors existing language directing that the Board allocate all operational funding for soil and water conservation districts.
- ***Reduction in VNRCF Balances.*** Provides for a technical reduction of \$6.4 million NGF the first year and \$10.8 million NGF the second year in the appropriations for the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund to accurately reflect the amount of future expenditures that can be supported from the fund. The amounts originally included in the budget overstated the level of funding by not taking into account the previous year’s actual expenditures on the implementation of agricultural best management practices.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***Water Quality Improvement Fund.*** Provides \$7.6 million GF in the first year, representing 25 percent of the statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund, of which \$6.6 million GF is provided for stormwater and nonpoint source water quality projects, including municipal separate stormwater sewer systems and grants to local governments. The remaining \$988,538 GF represents the required deposit to the WQIF reserve fund.
- ***Transfer Stormwater Management Program.*** Provides \$2.1 million GF and \$9.2 million NGF each year and 83.0 FTE positions to the Department of Environmental Quality to implement legislation adopted by the 2013 General Assembly that shifted responsibility for these programs from DCR.
- ***Waste Tire Program.*** Includes a technical amendment providing \$2.3 million NGF each year in funding for cleaning up waste tire piles. The nongeneral fund revenue is from the existing waste tire fee charged on new tire purchases.

- ***Coastal Aquifer System.*** Includes \$401,036 GF the first year and \$462,494 GF the second year to address the expansion of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area to include the coastal plain north of the Mattaponi River. Additional funding will be used to hire 5 new permit writers and add saltwater and land subsidence components to the Coastal Plain Groundwater Model.
- ***Funding for Dues.*** Provides \$151,500 GF each year for the annual membership dues to the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin which had been eliminated in Chapter 890 of the 2011 Acts of Assembly. A separate action provides \$11,200 GF each year for the payment of expenses associated with Virginia’s membership in the Roanoke River Bi-State Commission and Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee.
- ***Digital Orthography.*** Directs the department to provide funding to the Virginia Geographic Information Network to provide for the statewide digital mapping of Virginia necessary to improve the land coverage data needed to assist localities in planning and implementing stormwater management programs and other actions necessary for improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. As a component of this effort, data will also be included to update prior LIDAR surveys of elevations along coastal areas subject to recurrent flooding.
- ***Local Stormwater Fees.*** Includes language requiring each locality levying stormwater fees to report to DEQ on each program supported by these fees and the anticipated level of nutrient and sediment reductions. Additionally, the Auditor of Public Accounts is directed to update local audit requirements to ensure that all fees collected for local stormwater programs are used for the purposes established in the *Code of Virginia*.
- ***Stormwater Management Bonds.*** Included in Capital Outlay is \$20.0 million in VPBA funding for grants to local governments for projects to address stormwater management.

- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- ***Increase Federal Funds Appropriation.*** Provides an increase of \$3.1 million NGF each year based on projected federal revenues due to the Commonwealth from federal fund formulas.
- ***Increase Appropriation for Personnel Costs.*** Increases the agency’s appropriation by \$1.3 million NGF each year to implement salary adjustments authorized by the 2013 General Assembly.

- *Smith Mountain Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program.* Includes language directing the agency to provide \$20,000 per year to support the Smith Mountain Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program.
- **Department of Historic Resources**
 - *Increase Federal Funds Appropriation.* Provides \$500,000 GF each year to appropriate projected increases in federal pass-through grant funds.
 - *Historical Highway Marker Program.* Provides \$113,734 GF each year to replace an expiring federal grant that supported the highway marker program.
- **Marine Resources Commission**
 - *Marine Law Enforcement Positions.* Includes \$255,200 GF each year to fill four vacant law enforcement officer positions that will primarily focus on addressing increased poaching activities in state-owned oyster sanctuaries.
 - *Tangier Island Seawall Project.* Provides \$23,000 GF the first year and \$6,000 GF the second year for the state share of the federally funded Tangier Island Seawall Project.
 - *Increase Funding for Commercial Licensing.* Provides an increase of \$30,000 NGF each year to support the consolidation of all commercial licensing into one cost center.
 - *Reduce Federal Funding for Oyster Replenishment.* Reduces the agency's appropriation by \$1.1 million NGF each year to reflect the elimination of federal NOAA grants for oyster replenishment.
 - *Reduce Coast Lands Program.* Reduces the agency's appropriation by \$300,000 NGF each year to reflect reduced revenues to the Marine Habitat and Waterways Improvement Fund.
- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**
 - *Museum Operation Funding.* Provides an increase of \$144,483 GF the first year and \$150,801 GF the second year to support museum operation as donations have declined. Also includes a reduction of \$111,905 NGF each year, representing the loss of private donations.