

June 2009
Intergovernmental Reviews
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

STATE

FY09 – 34 Department of Environmental Quality application to the U.S. EPA for Development of Wetland Permit Compliance and Community Outreach Tools

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has applied to the US Environmental Protection Agency for \$290,604 in funding (with \$96,949 state match) for development of a spatial dataset to locate individual wetland permits using high resolution imagery in some areas of Virginia. This will give DEQ a measure of the quality and accuracy of the information in its Comprehensive Environmental Database System and also identify areas of noncompliance with permit conditions. The project will also cover expansion of a remote sensing analysis that identifies areas of unpermitted wetland losses in other areas of Virginia. Finally, the proposal includes funding for better tools for community outreach regarding wetland permitting and compliance.

FY09 – 35 Department of Environmental Quality application to the U.S. EPA for ARRA Stimulus State Revolving Fund Capitalization Program

The Department of Environmental Quality has applied for \$80,203,300 in stimulus funding (no match required) from the US EPA for additional projects to be covered under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (above and beyond those already applied for in the base CWSRF program). This is the amount allocated to Virginia from the supplemental appropriation enacted under the ARRA. Unlike the base program projects, recipients of these funds will not be required to pay them back. ARRA requires that no less than 20% of the funds be used for environmentally innovative activities. Thirteen examples of these that are being funded include five alternative energy projects, six water reuse projects, one downspout disconnection project, and one algal wastewater treatment plant project. The other 19 projects being funded are more conventional and include combined sewer overflow disconnection projects in Richmond and Lynchburg, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, and various sewer line repair and replacement projects. None of the funded projects are within the PDC.

FY09 – 36 Department of Environmental Quality application for Virginia Coastal Zone Management – 24th Year Implementation Grant

DEQ has applied to the US EPA for \$2,652,200 in funding (\$2,116,200 state and local match) for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The program has many aspects, including wetlands, fishery and coastal lands management, permit review and compliance, federal consistency review (for example, of the North Anna Nuclear Power Station), environmental education, submerged aquatic vegetation mapping, restoration of coastal resources, coastal zone PDC technical assistance, aquaculture policy development, and a marine mammal/sea turtle stranding response team in Virginia Beach. The FY09 application continues the focal area introduced in FY08, sustainable community planning, which provides funding for local planning for climate change adaptation and protection of “blue-green infrastructure” or conservation corridors. Funding this year will also allow the program to participate in the newly-formed Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean and begin to create a regional portal for viewing Mid-Atlantic maps and data that show the connection between local land use and offshore resources – “deep blue infrastructure.”