

**Caroline County  
Board of Supervisors Agenda  
Executive Summary**

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**Meeting Date:** March 9, 2021

**Title:** Consent Agenda – Confirmation of Letter of Support for Friends of the Rappahannock Grant Application

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*(Check Mark)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed Meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/> No Action (Information Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint Presentation

**Summary:** This item has been placed on the agenda for formal Board approval to submit a letter of support from the County for a Friends of the Rappahannock grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction program. The grant would provide funding in the amount of \$918,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction program.

A full description of the proposed use of grant funds, project goals and partners is attached. The deadline to provide the letter of support was Friday, February 26. Because the deadline fell between Board meetings, staff previously sought and received support from the majority of the Board to provide the letter of support.

**Budget Impact:** No County match is required

**Requested Action from Board of Supervisors:** Formal approval of letter of support



January 12, 2021

Ms. Stephanie Heidbreder  
Program Manager, Chesapeake Bay Program  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)  
1133 Fifteenth St. N.W., Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Stephanie,

Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) and the Rappahannock River Roundtable are pleased to provide this letter of intent for grant funding through the 2021 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Program (INSR).

**Background:**

Since 2016, FOR has been the designated coordinator for the Rappahannock River Roundtable Partnership (Roundtable), originally chartered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The goal of the Roundtable is to accelerate the pace of land and water conservation in the Rappahannock River Basin through collaboration, capacity building, resource sharing, and innovation.

This project will build on past models of success and focus on a unique region of the Rappahannock River Basin listed as a *PRIORITY REGION* by NFWF in this RFP. This includes portions of King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, Caroline, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and the City of Fredericksburg. This region has several local TMDLs in various stages of development and this proposal seeks to address these impairments as well as install priority best management practices (bmps) outlined by local partners and in the Virginia Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). Additionally, this project will provide training and build capacity for local organizations to enable eligibility and access to long term, sustainable funding resources through multiple 319 nonpoint source grant opportunities.

**Project Partners:**

- Rappahannock Tribe
- 3 Planning District Commissions
- 4 Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- University of Mary Washington
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Essex County Conservation Alliance (ECCA)
- Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC)

**Program Goals:**

This project will provide a variety of deliverables including on the ground bmps, community outreach/education, partnership development and capacity building, and completion of several planning documents/reports.

Through several years of partnership development and coalition building, Roundtable partners have identified regionally specific priorities to work towards WIP Implementation, Local Area Planning Goals, and local TMDL impairments. A recent priority has emerged to build coastal resiliency into our work on water quality, habitats, and public health. Despite having strong partnerships, this region has yet to build the requisite capacity and collaboration to meet the ambitious goals of the WIP or to address the numerous local TMDLs. This project provides the opportunity for increased

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collaboration, engages new stakeholders like indigenous tribes recently recognized with federal status, and provides resources to organizations who serve low income and disadvantaged communities in rural coastal communities. We see this as a successful strategy informed by science, modeling, and stakeholder input that will result in a sustainable collaborative and increased implementation of priority bmp projects.

**Specific Project Outcomes and partner roles:**

- 1) Cost-share and incentives for septic repair, maintenance, and pumpouts targeting low income communities in impaired watersheds. (VDH, PDCs, SWCDs, DEQ, FOR, and Rappahannock Tribe)
- 2) Cost-share and incentives for agricultural bmps that address nutrient, sediment, and bacteria pollution in impaired subwatersheds. (DCR, SWCDs, FOR, ECCA, NNLC)
- 3) Cost-share and incentives for reforestation bmps in urban, suburban, and rural areas focused on impaired subwatersheds. (DOF, FOR, SWCD, PDCs, local governments, USFWS, ECCA, NNLC, VCE, UMW)
- 4) Cost-share, incentives, and a regional staff person for stormwater bmps in partnership with the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). (SWCD, PDCs, VCE, FOR, local governments, UMW).
- 5) Approved Implementation Plan (IP) for the "Rappahannock River and Tributaries Bacteria TMDL" (VT, VCE, DEQ, UMW, FOR, PDCs, SWCD)
- 6) Technical Assistance with two 319 NPS grant applications, project development, design, and implementation, and other tasks consistent with the WIP. (FOR, VCE, PDCs, SWCD, UMW)
- 7) Technical Assistance for outreach, education, and engagement including pet waste stations, free tree giveaways, river cleanups, coastal resilience planning, and other community efforts. (FOR, VCE, VT, UMW, SWCD, PDCs)

FOR and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) will be the leading organizations coordinating with Roundtable partners. FOR will contract the Virginia Tech biological systems engineering department to lead the TMDL IP development. SWCDs will administer the VACS and VCAP program. DOF will partner with FOR for reforestation projects. PDCs will work with VDH and localities on septic programs. PDCs will coordinate with their respective local governments to promote project offerings. FOR will engage local land trusts, UMW student interns, NGOs, local, state, and federal agencies and the Rappahannock Tribe to maximize outreach and education opportunities. SWCD and DOF will be responsible for inspecting and approving all bmps installed and providing monitoring recommendations. FOR will work with multiple Roundtable partners to provide training opportunities, conference scholarships, and a biannual Rappahannock Roundtable symposium with presenters and partners from across the watershed.

**Budget Summary:**

Personnel: \$262,500	Cost-share/Incentives: \$400,000
Travel: \$15,000	Other Direct Costs: \$25,500
Materials/Supplies: \$53,500	Indirect Costs (de minimis): \$32,500
Contractual Services: \$129,000	

**Total NFWF Grant Request: \$918,000.00    Total Proposed Match: \$937,000.00**

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of intent and we look forward to the opportunity to submit a full proposal.

With appreciation,



Bryan Hofmann  
Deputy Director