

Natural Resources

The approved budget for the 2008-10 biennium for the Natural Resources secretariat includes \$8.1 million GF and \$25.7 million NGF. Total general fund spending for the biennium for the Natural Resources agencies is \$231.8 million or 3.6 percent more than the adjusted base budget for these agencies. Total nongeneral fund spending for the biennium is \$602.4 million or 4.5 percent more than the adjusted base budget.

The additional general fund spending items for the biennium include \$5.0 million for the preservation of Civil War historic sites, \$3.0 million to assist the cities of Lynchburg and Richmond with their combined sewer overflow projects, \$1.5 million in additional operating support for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, \$750,000 in additional support for the state parks system, and \$500,000 in additional support for dam safety.

Significant nongeneral fund spending items include \$20.0 million to support the implementation of agricultural best management practices and \$1.4 million for stormwater management.

- **Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation**
 - *Restore Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation as Separate Agency.* Includes \$162,167 GF and \$67,103 NGF each year and 2.0 FTE positions to eliminate the proposed consolidation of this agency into the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**
 - *Nonpoint Source Pollution Funding.* Provides \$20.0 million the first year from nongeneral fund sources to support the implementation of agricultural best management practices. These nongeneral fund dollars will be deposited into the newly created Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund established by Chapters 643 and 701 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly (HB1335 and SB511). The sources of this funding include \$15.0 million in interest collected on appropriations to the Water Quality Improvement Fund for use by the Department of Environmental Quality and \$5.0 million from the Water Quality Improvement Reserve Fund.

 - *Additional Operating Support for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.* Provides \$750,000 GF each year to support the operations of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF). The additional funding will permit the VOF to continue upgrading its technology resources and improve the monitoring and enforcement of easement requirements. One-time funding in the same amount was provided to the VOF in FY 2007 for similar purposes.

- ***Additional State Park Operating Support.*** Provides an additional \$250,000 and five positions the first year and \$500,000 and 10.0 FTE positions the second year from the general fund to support the operations of Virginia’s 34 state parks.
- ***Additional Support for Dam Safety.*** Includes \$250,000 each year from the general fund for grants or loans to localities and loans to private dam owners for use in renovating or repairing dams necessary for the protection of public safety, improving the dams’ useful lifespan, or meeting state requirements. Currently, \$350,000 each year from the general fund is provided for this purpose.
- ***Additional Positions for Dam Safety Program.*** Includes two positions to oversee the condition of the state’s dams. Funding already exists to support the costs of the two positions.
- ***Funding for the Dredging of Aquia Creek.*** Provides \$250,000 the first year from the general fund to support the restoration of a navigable channel within Aquia Creek, which is a component of the federally-designated Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.
- ***Stormwater Management Program.*** Provides \$697,230 NGF each year and 10.0 FTE positions for the stormwater management program. These positions will be located in the agency’s regional offices, and will be responsible for responding to complaints, providing technical assistance to locally-administered stormwater management programs, or for those localities that have not established local stormwater management programs, conducting site inspections. The source of the nongeneral funds for this amendment is current program fees.
- ***Provide Funding for Chesapeake Bay Restoration Committee Projects.*** Includes \$362,562 in nongeneral funds the first year to support grants to 46 organizations involved in improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay, promoting citizens’ understanding of the Chesapeake Bay’s ecology, or conducting research on issues of importance to improving the Bay’s health. The source of the nongeneral funds is the proceeds from the sale of “Friend of the Chesapeake” license plates.
- ***Status Report on Grand Caverns Park Activities.*** Requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to inform the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees about whether the department has secured title to Grand Caverns Park and, if so, any activities the agency may have taken to demolish substandard structures or enhance the number of visitors to the caverns.
- ***Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation Merger.*** Provides \$162,167 GF and \$67,103 NGF each year and 2.0 FTE positions in order to restore the Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation as a separate agency.
- ***Eliminate Funding for Maintenance of State Parks-owned Dams.*** Eliminates \$650,000 GF for maintenance and repair of dams in Virginia’s state parks. The

agency will use other nongeneral fund resources to complete dam repairs in FY 2009.

- ***Reduce Funding for Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.*** Includes a general fund reduction of \$1.0 million each year for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. The foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations and state agencies for the purpose of securing open space, parks, and historic properties. Chapter 879 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly (HB30) approved \$30 million in bonds for this same purpose.
- ***Governor's October 2007 Budget Reductions.*** Included in the agency's base budget is the continuation of general fund savings strategies, originally approved by the Governor in October 2007, totaling \$1.5 million each year. These strategies include supplanting general fund dollars with state park user fees and concession funds, and reducing support for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***James River Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Projects.*** Provides \$3.0 million GF the first year for deposit into the Combined Sewer Overflow Matching Fund to support Lynchburg and Richmond's efforts to separate their sanitary sewage and stormwater systems. The funding will be evenly divided between the two cities.
- ***Restore Funding for Citizen Water Quality Monitoring.*** Includes \$108,000 each year from the general fund to restore funding for the supplies, equipment, and technical resources used by volunteer water quality monitors. This funding was originally eliminated in the Governor's October 2007 budget reductions.
- ***Support for Chesapeake Bay Foundation Educational Activities.*** Provides \$50,000 in additional general fund support for FY 2010 for the education field studies provided by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to teachers and students.
- ***Implement Oil Awareness Recycling Program.*** Includes language directing the agency to use its existing nongeneral fund revenues to provide a toll-free number for Virginians who change their own motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze.
- ***Governor's October 2007 Budget Reductions.*** Included in the agency's base budget is the continuation of general fund savings strategies, originally approved by the Governor in October 2007, totaling \$2.2 million each year. The strategies include reductions in Chesapeake Bay water quality monitoring and water quality inspection and permitting, and the elimination of vacant positions and wage positions.

- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- ***Provide Navigational Aids for Smith Mountain Lake.*** Includes language directing the use of \$25,000 each year from existing nongeneral fund revenues

collected by the agency for the installation of navigational aids on Smith Mountain Lake that conform to U.S. Coast Guard standards.

- *Navigational Aids for Leesville Lake.* Includes language directing the use of \$25,000 each year from existing nongeneral fund revenues collected by the agency for the installation of navigational aids on Leesville Lake that conform to U.S. Coast Guard standards. Currently, the only navigational aids on this lake were installed by a local boating association.
- *Reduction in General Fund Transfer.* Language is included reducing the total general fund support provided to the agency by \$74,820 each year from the amounts contained in the Caboose Bill. The savings are based on reductions in the estimated sales taxes collected on hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related equipment and reductions in the revenues derived from watercraft sales and use taxes. An accompanying entry in Part 3 effects the change.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- *Add Funding for Civil War Historic Site Preservation.* Includes \$5.0 million the first year from the general fund for the provision of grants to non-profit organizations for use in preserving endangered Civil War historic sites such as battlefields. Any non-profit organization receiving a grant from the Civil War Historic Site Preservation Fund must provide at least \$2 in matching funds for each \$1 received from the fund.
- *Montpelier Matching Grant Program.* Provides an additional \$250,639 each year from the general fund as the Commonwealth's required match for the restoration of Montpelier, the home of President James Madison. Section 10.1-2213.1 of the Code of Virginia requires that the Commonwealth provide \$0.20 for each \$1 raised by the Montpelier Foundation and spent on restoration of Madison's home.
- *Monitor Presidential Libraries Legislation.* Includes language directing the agency to monitor and provide input on pending federal legislation that would establish a new system for the recognition and funding of presidential libraries that were not included in the 1955 federal Presidential Library Act.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- *Increase Funding for Rent of Headquarters.* Provides \$28,775 GF each year to cover the costs of increased rent for the agency's headquarters in Newport News. The new lease for the agency's headquarters, now negotiated by the central Real Estate Services program, contains an escalation clause that did not previously exist.
- *Supplant General Fund Spending with Nongeneral Fund License Revenue.* Supplants \$146,278 in annual general fund support for the agency's marine law

enforcement functions with \$146,278 in nongeneral fund revenue. The nongeneral fund revenue is derived from saltwater fishing license revenue collected by the agency.

- *Implementation of Emergency Permit Procedure.* Includes language directing the agency to establish a general permit to facilitate emergency repairs to public utility infrastructure located in or near subaqueous land or wetlands. This general permit is to include appropriate conditions to ensure the protection of subaqueous beds and wetlands.

- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- *Reduction in Operating Support.* Includes a general fund reduction of \$150,000 each year, representing a 4 percent of the agency's general fund operating support. The agency was one of three Natural Resource agencies that had received no budget reductions. Most state agencies received at least 5 percent reductions.