

House Appropriations

Commerce, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Technology Subcommittee

January 20, 2016



Auditor of Public Accounts Findings and Corrective Actions

Jan. 2014: General Assembly requests APA conduct Special Review due to report of problems with oversight of federal grants and concerns of overall fiscal management.

April 2014: DCR placed under new management.

June 6, 2014: APA audit report issued with 93 findings; mostly due to lack of agency specific policies, failure to follow state polices/accounting procedures, but no evidence of widespread fraud, waste or abuse.

June 24, 2014: DCR submits 1st Corrective Action Plan to DOA & APA; first 5 corrective actions already completed.

December 31, 2015: DCR submits most recent 90 day update; 89 corrective actions (96%) complete, all others in progress.

January 2016: DCR Internal Audit will begin testing compliance with corrective action policies and procedures.

March 31, 2016: DCR will have all corrective polices and procedures in place.

Spring 2016: APA will conduct full audit.

Agency Overview

HB30/SB30, as introduced

FY 2017	\$123.5 million GF	\$50.6 million NGF	\$174.1 million total
FY 2018	\$61.5 million GF	\$50.3 million NGF	\$111.8 million total
Authorized MEL	452 FTE	Currently filled- Vacant-	408 FTE 44 FTE
Current Wage Positions	704 Filled	Expected Wage Positions In-season	1,630 +/- (Includes life guards, snack bars, YCC staff)
Active Federal Grants	\$20.9 million NGF	Major Grant Sources	NPS, FHWA(DOT), EPA via DEQ, FEMA, FWS, USDA, CNCS via VDSS

Water Quality Improvement Fund

- \$61.7 million proposed in FY2017
 - \$51.8 million for implementation of agricultural best management practices
 - \$19.6 for implementation of previously approved livestock exclusion practices
 - \$6.2 million for technical assistance for SWCD technical assistance
 - \$8.2 million for the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve
 - \$800,000 for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - \$100,000 for nutrient plans for golf courses



Recordation Fee Revenue

- Provides the recordation fee proceeds dedicated to the implementation of agricultural best management practices
 - \$10 million in non-general funds projected in FY2017 and FY2018
- Reversal of action in Chapter 665
 - Retained \$1 million each year from this fee that had been used to balance general fund budget

Livestock Exclusion

- Approximately \$61 million needed to meet previous commitment for FY2015
 - 100% of exclusion practice's cost covered
 - Farmers must sign contract within 90 days of funds being offered
 - 1,192 practices on waiting list
- As of July 1, 2016, SWCB set state cost share rate at 80% of practice cost with a \$70,000 project cap
- Statewide –
 - 1,291 practices have been installed
 - 4,540,457 linear feet have been protected
 - 57,910 animal units excluded



Resource Management Plans

- Encourages farmers to increase their use of agricultural conservation practices to protect water quality
 - Credits the farmer for practices already in place
 - Participation in the program is voluntary
- Since the program began in July, 2014, 278 RMPs have been developed
 - Initial goal for the 1st year was to develop 40 plans
 - Program has been strongly supported by both the agricultural and conservation communities

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

- \$16 million proposed each year for FY2017 and FY2018
 - \$4 million for the Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund at the Virginia Outdoors Foundation
 - \$12 million for VLCF
 - at least 50% of the funds are to be used for grants to acquire land or easements with public access
 - Meets the requirements set out in §2.2-1509.4





Dam Safety

- \$546,080 proposed in introduced budget to rebuild the dam safety and floodplain management programs
- Probable Maximum Precipitation study completed
 - Of the 24,000 new PMP 2.5 square mile grid points across the Commonwealth, when compared to historic values, ~95% of the new PMPs were lower, many by as much as 20 to 30%.
 - Cost Savings Estimate - ~\$72 M (very conservative); only high and significant hazard
 - 45 District High Hazard Dams identified for rehabilitation previously – Total estimated savings of ~\$19 M; ~25% savings; 5 dams potentially will not require upgrades.
 - Pre-run the PMPs for 900 high and significant hazard impoundments.

Connectivity in State Parks

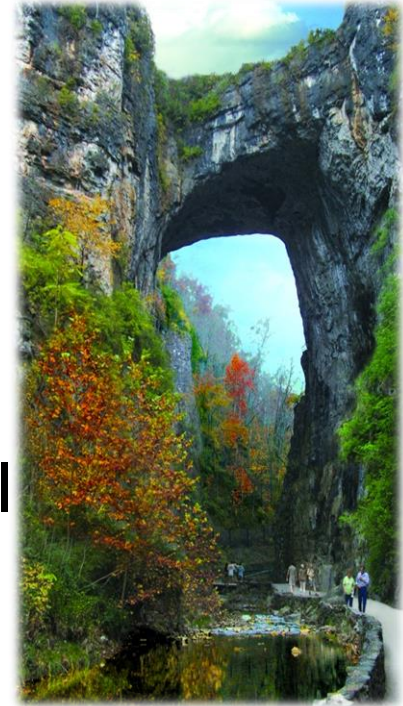
- Currently, many state parks have limited or no access to cell phone or internet service
- \$703,800 proposed for developing WiFi interconnectivity in state parks
 - \$655,800 in FY2017
 - \$48,000 in FY2018
- Funding would allow for the installation of fiber optic cables and implementation of WiFi capability
 - Expanded coverage would increase customer satisfaction, improve public safety efforts and enhance DCR's ability to efficiently conduct business and collect revenues
- \$250,000 proposed from State Park Conservation and Resources Fund authorized for feasibility study to enhance communication options statewide

Natural Bridge State Park

- Originally bought by Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund (VCLF) in Spring 2014
 - \$9.1 million loan from Virginia Resources Authority
 - Current balance of loan is \$7.7 million
 - VCLF currently behind on payment but working to address delinquency



- \$120,000 proposed in FY2017 and FY2018 for opening Natural Bridge State Park
 - This is in addition to \$60,000 provided in FY2016
 - Will fund 2 positions on-site
 - Chief Ranger and Park Manager
- Working with Office of the Attorney General to develop operating agreement
 - All gate receipts entered into a restricted account to pay outstanding debt service
 - Any additional revenue will be used for maintenance and operation costs



Seven Bends Recreation Area

- 1,066 acres in Shenandoah County near the Town of Woodstock
 - Purchased with 2002 bond proceeds
- 2015 General Assembly provided \$2.24 million
 - Abatement and demolition of dilapidated structures
 - Limited parking and trails
- \$292,000 proposed in FY2018 for limited opening



Natural Heritage



- \$500,000 increase provided by 2015 General Assembly continued in base budget
 - Essential staff
 - Natural Area Stewards
 - (Lee County and Chesapeake Bay Region)
 - Karst Protection Coordinator
 - Partial funding for Geographic Information System Manager
 - Maintenance to access roads, parking areas, trails and boardwalks
 - New interpretive signs
 - Necessary equipment (trucks, prescribed fire equipment)



Department of Conservation and Recreation

Clyde E. Cristman, Director

600 East Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Clyde.Cristman@DCR.virginia.gov

804-786-6124