



### **Three Environmental Grants**

Staff recommends that we pledge \$9,500 from our reserves to apply for three environmental related grants:

- 1. Regional Stormwater Program and Practices Review grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Community Flood Preparedness Program**

We would apply for a \$35,000 grant to be matched with \$3,500 from our reserves to have a consultant compile and compare local stormwater ordinances and develop options for consistent, best practices that could be considered by our localities.

Consistent stormwater language and ordinances may help both our code enforcement department and local developers. Implementation of these recommendations would be at the locality's option.

- 2. Regional Resiliency Plan grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Community Flood Preparedness Program**

We would apply for a \$60,000 grant to be matched with \$6,000 from our reserves to have a consultant identify, compile and evaluate flood impacted areas of the region. The plan would provide a high level engineering estimate of the costs for projects to mitigate the flood impacted areas.

Localities who wish pursue grant funded construction funds for flood mitigation projects could adopt the regional plan to meet certain grant qualifications and have the engineering estimates to use as part of their grant application.

- 3. A James River Evaluation/Preservation Plan from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation's Small Watershed Grants Planning and Technical Assistance Program**

We would apply for up to \$75,000 with no match requirement for a consultant to evaluate the portion of the James River around downtown Lynchburg to identify sediment, nutrient, and habitat protection practices that will expand river recreational use opportunities.

This plan would particularly be beneficial to Lynchburg and Amherst County as they examine how the river could be increased in recreational and tourist use. It will be an important first step in planning for the river's growth and development.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approve the submittal of the three grants using up to \$9,500 from reserves as match.

### **Background:**

The proposed applications are focused on developing capacity, coordination, and project(s) development such that our localities are better positioned to apply for project implementation funding through a range of funding programs/agencies.

**The following provides information on and summary recommendation for CVPDC application submittal, including locality and regional value, two pending grant programs.**

### **DCR Community Flood Preparedness Program (CFPF)**

#### **A. General Information**

- \$40 million available in this 3<sup>rd</sup> grant round. Applications due 4/8/2022
- CFPF is associated with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funding, which VA may or may not leave the program. However, application is existing program funds and resiliency planning and stormwater/flood preparedness studies identified within the CVPDC Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted by all 10 localities in 2021).
- Resiliency plan is required for any locality in Virginia to apply/receive CFPF implementation/construction funding.
- CFPF planning applications do not require completed or approved Resiliency Plan
- Planning, capacity, and flood prevention studies 90/10 (LMI areas); 80/20 (non-LMI areas)
- <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dsfpm-cfpf>

#### **B. CVPDC CFPF Planning Applications Proposals**

##### **1) CVPDC Regional Resiliency Plan Development Application**

##### **Application Details**

- The CVPDC submit a planning application to CFPF for the purpose of completing the CVPDC Regional Resiliency Plan.
- Project Cost \$60,000  
DCR CFPF Application request \$54,000  
CVPDC match = \$6,000

#### Application Locality Benefit

- Provides locality eligibility for future CFPF construction grant(s).
- Resiliency plans are also application program rating and evaluation factor noted with FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Dam Safety and Safeguarding Tomorrow Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act (\$100 million per year for five years) programs.
- CVPDC Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted by FEMA 2/9/2021, provides the data and timing foundation for Regional Resiliency Plan development. Regional Resiliency plan will incorporate pending FEMA Flood Map updates.
- Regional Resiliency Plan will include professional engineer project costs estimates – providing foundation for localities to capitalize on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and other federal program dollars.

#### Application Development and Project Implementation

- CVPDC will utilize Berkley Group to prepare application at \$3,600
- CVPDC staff will provide project administration via the CVPDC DEQ WIP program.

## **2) Regional Stormwater Program Evaluation and Coordination Study Application**

#### Application Details

- The CVPDC submit a planning application to CFPF for the purpose of executing a study that will review stormwater programs, ordinances, and Comprehensive Planning language, and identify issues and opportunities for establishment of common practices, language, program execution. Study will include identification of model stormwater programs, practices, and language.
- Project Costs = \$35,000  
DCR CFPF Application = \$31,500  
CVPDC Match = \$3,500

#### Application Locality Benefit

- Provide process for evaluation of existing regional practices and opportunity for stormwater program, development coordination.
- Provide opportunity for integration of low-impact, green-infrastructure program integration.
- Foundation for communication, coordination, and input from development community.
- Foundation for locality future implementation or evaluation applications.

#### Application Development and Project Implementation

- CVPDC will utilize Berkley Group to prepare application at \$3,600
- CVPDC staff will provide project administration via the CVPDC DEQ WIP program.

## **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Grant Planning & Technical Assistance Grant (SWG-PTA)**

### **A. General Information**

- Up to \$75,000 to advance programs that “enhance capacity to more efficiently and effectively implement on-the-ground conservation efforts through assessment, planning and design and other technical assistance-oriented activities”.
- No match is required
- Applications due 4/21/2022
- <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-bay-stewardship-fund/small-watershed-grants-2022-request-proposals>

### **B. CVPDC NFWF SWG-PTA Application Proposal**

#### **1) James River Preservation Evaluation Plan Application**

##### **Application Details**

- The CVPDC submit a planning application, with Amherst County and Lynchburg City applicant partners, for the purpose of executing a James River Preservation Evaluation Plan. Project would be planning coordination and project evaluation (to include project development, preliminary cost estimates) for expanding protection and expanded access opportunities within the James River in the Amherst County and Lynchburg City area (roughly that area from Scotts Mill to Mount Athos takeout).
- CVPDC would be the applicant; administer the grant (funding via CVPDC WIP program).
- Project would include firm procurement with Amherst, Lynchburg serving on hiring team.
- Application Request = \$75,000

##### **Application Value**

- Recognized desire/value in expanding River access and economic impact.
- James River within EPA TMDL Implementation Plan – need for sediment, nutrient reduction actions.
- Opportunity for coordinated evaluation of potential reduction practices and development of engineering evaluations and project costs development
- Development of project foundation submittal, eligibility for FEMA BRIC, STORM Act and NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant program (typical year has about \$7 to \$10 million to execute implementation projects with awards \$500,000 to \$1 million, with three years to execute).

- Development of short and long-term program preservation programs and projects that support protection of both locality resources (infrastructure, park investments, etc.).

#### Application Development and Project Implementation

- CVPDC staff will prepare application, funding via DEQ WIP program