

# Onancock School Technical Assistance Report

*September 2011*



*Accomack-Northampton  
Planning District Commission*  
NOAA Grant# NA10NOS4190205  
Grant Year 2010, Task 41



# Onancock School Technical Assistance Report

*September, 2011*

*Prepared For:*

**Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program**  
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NOAA Grant No. NA10NOS4190205  
Grant Year 2010  
Task 41



**Virginia Coastal Zone**  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



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## 1.0 Introduction

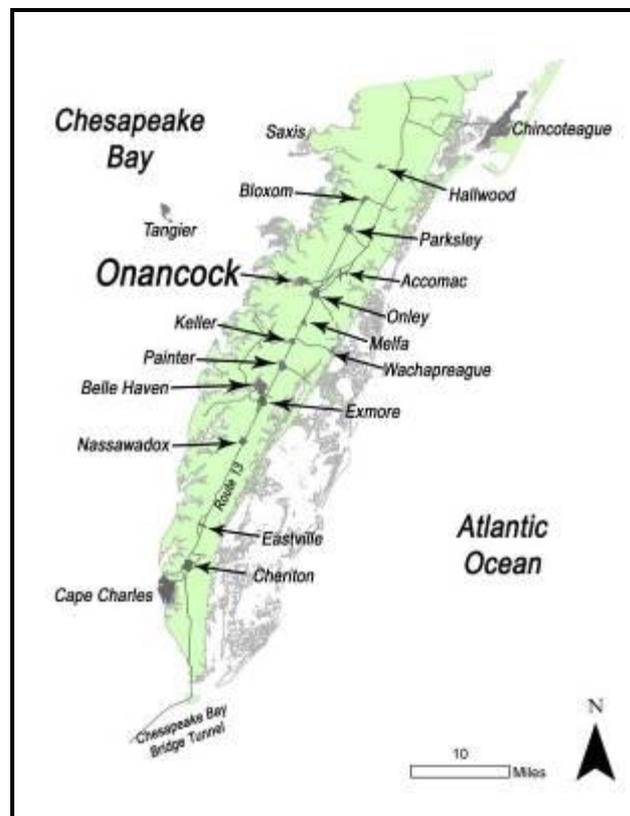
The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) declared the Onancock School property as its Special Project for the Fiscal Year 2010 Virginia Coastal Zone Management (VCZM) Technical Assistance Grant. A-NPDC committed to assisting the Friends of Onancock School (FOS) non-profit group with development of a master plan for the site that would intentionally lead to restoration of the building and development of the property. A-NPDC technical assistance also included completion of grant application to attain funds for addressing structural improvements needed to restore the building and development of the grounds as an “Outdoors Environmental Education Classroom” and recreational hub for the community. The expected outcomes of the project were as follows:

- preservation of a critical coastal property and ecological habitat;
- preservation and improvement of the historic Onancock School building;
- development of a community center to enhance cultural and economic opportunities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia; and
- development of environmental and recreational opportunities in the Town of Onancock, Accomack County, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

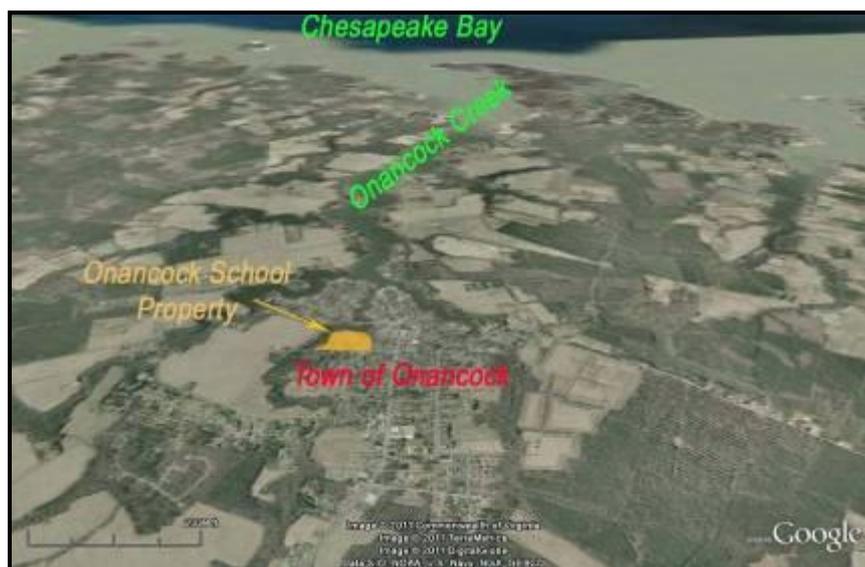
### 1.1 Site Description

The Onancock School property, located at 6 College Avenue in Onancock, is ideally situated in the heart of the town and Accomack County on Onancock Creek in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (**Figure 1**). Approximately one third of the Eastern Shore’s residents (14,344 people) live within 5 miles of the property. The property consists of 13 acres located on the Central Branch of Onancock Creek (**Figure 2**). The property contains the main Onancock School building and two separate structures (**Figure 3**). All buildings are in need of renovation and currently are used as rental space for artisans and technical laborers. The grounds currently consist of recreational fields, paved asphalt parking lot, playground, and partially completed nature trail (**Figure 3**). The grounds require very little renovation and upgrades with the exception of the vegetative buffer

along the creek, which could be expanded to protect the creek from contaminants entering via surface water runoff.



**Figure 1** –Vicinity Map showing the Eastern Shore of Virginia and location of surrounding water bodies, 19 incorporated towns, and major roadways. The Onancock School property is centrally located in the region in the center of the Town of Onancock.



**Figure 2** –Aerial photograph with westward perspective showing the location of the Onancock School property in the Town of Onancock. The property is located on the central branch of Onancock Creek within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



**Figure 3** –Aerial photograph with northwestward perspective showing the Onancock School property in the Town of Onancock. The campus is currently used for recreational use. A-NPDC has partnered with Friends of Onancock School to develop other uses for the grounds including an outdoor environmental education pavilion that will be complemented by nature trails and a kayak launch.

## 1.2 Site History

The Onancock School has been a fixture of the Town of Onancock, Accomack County, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia since its inception in 1859. The property originally hosted the Atlantic Female Institution long before colleges for women were prevalent, which attracted students from nearby as well as from towns around the eastern and western shores of the Chesapeake Bay. After the Institution closed, the property supported two private schools before the main brick building was erected in 1921, with two additional wings established by 1928. The property continued to serve as an educational and community center leading up to September 2006 when the Town of Onancock regained control of the historic Onancock School Building and grounds, which had been used and managed by the Accomack County School Board for more than seven decades.

**Table 1** summarizes the rich history of the property.

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>Onancock School Timeline</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1859	Atlantic Female Institution, a college for young women, is established on what is now the Onancock School property by a Baptist minister and operates until 1868. Students from as far away as the western side of the Bay attend.
1893	The Margaret Academy, chartered in 1786 and founded in Bobtown in 1807, move to the College Avenue site. It merges with a private school, Onancock Academy, and operates until 1902.
1918	The citizens of Onancock pay \$12,000 to acquire land from the Margaret Academy trustees as a site for a new public school for Onancock.
1919	The Town of Onancock floats a \$35,000 bond issue for building the new school.
1921	While children study in the old Margaret Academy buildings, the main building of the present Onancock School is erected.
1927-28	When high schools in Cashville and Onley close, their students come to Onancock. To accommodate them, wings are added to the southwest and northwest corners of the building. From the original Margaret Academy building in Bobtown, Dr. J. W. Robertson brings a brick, which is installed in the west wall of the new school.
1984	The last class graduates from Onancock High School and the building and grounds begin to be used by the Accomack County School Board for multiple educational uses.
2006, September	Accomack County returns ownership of the building and property to the Town of Onancock
2006, December	Local citizens create Friends of Onancock School, whose mission is to preserve and revitalize the school property as public open space to benefit all residents of the Eastern Shore, both now and in the future.

### **1.3 Friends of Onancock School Non-Profit Group**

During the 2000s, the Town of Onancock took on excessive debts while upgrading town infrastructure and the valuable waterfront property was in danger of being sold by the Town to developers. In 2006, the Friends of Onancock School (FOS) was formed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization aimed towards protecting and preserving the historic Onancock School property for use as a center for educational, cultural, recreational, and other community-oriented activities. FOS seeks to ensure that the Onancock School property is protected from private development so that future generations may enjoy the property as current and past generations have done, while supporting new community activities in the future.

FOS consists of a Board of Directors and relies on volunteer work to carry forth their mission of renovating and developing the buildings and grounds. To date,

preliminary engineering and architectural conceptual designs, a new school sign, freshly painted columns and trim, and an Onancock School web site ([www.onancockschool.org](http://www.onancockschool.org)) have been completed using donations from numerous supporters. Commitments of future support have also been obtained from both individuals and organizations. The building is currently being rented by 16 local artists and community groups, which serve as the only source of income outside of donations. The grounds include athletic fields, nature trails, and a playground with a public water access kayak and canoe ramp and environmental education center currently in the works. Current upgrades planned for the building include renewable energy implementation including a geothermal HVAC system.

## 2.0 Technical Assistance

In order to help FOS achieve their vision for Onancock School, A-NPDC completed an inspection of the structural integrity of the buildings, facilitated regular meetings with the FOS Board of Directors to develop a master plan that included renovation strategies and funding strategies, and completed grant applications to attain funding. These efforts are described in the following sections.

### 2.1 Building Inspection

To complement the development of a master plan for Onancock School, A-NPDC housing staff performed a walk-through inspection of the Onancock School. The inspection was performed on October 21, 2010 to identify major potential projects and to attempt to prioritize the projects by importance. The Walk-Through Inspection Report is included in **Appendix A**. The Potential Renovation Project List is included in **Appendix B**.

A-NPDC staff determined that the entire building is in a state of major repair and several critical components of the building's structure and infrastructure were in need of replacement. An overall estimate of funding needed for building renovation and rehabilitation was between \$3 and \$5 million.

## 2.2 Meeting Reports

A-NPDC staff met regularly with FOS members during the technical assistance process. These meetings and their outcomes are summarized in **Table 2**.

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>A-NPDC/FOS Meeting Summary</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Focus</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
3/4/2010	A-NPDC approaches FOS to offer technical assistance.	Working relationship between A-NPDC and FOS developed.
3/19 & 23/2010	A-NPDC holds initial meetings with FOS board members to determine potential technical assistance options.	
3/25/2010	A-NPDC proposes providing technical assistance to FOS and suggests FOS discuss and define uses for property. Once accomplished, A-NPDC proposed to pursue financing that matched approved uses. A-NPDC gives summary of financing options including grants, loans, and fundraising.	FOS commits to working with A-NPDC.
7/20/2010	A-NPDC holds initial discussions with FOS regarding multi-year plan.	Multi-year renovation plan developed.
7/21/2010	A-NPDC lays out multi-year plan to FOS board with concrete plans to facilitate the completion of a master plan in FY2010 and tentative plans to complete financing applications and implementing funds received during FY2011 and FY2012. The multi-year plan was contingent on direction FOS chose to take.	Multi-year renovation plan secured for property.
9/18/2010	A-NPDC participates in strategic planning session for stakeholders and FOS members.	Property vision defined and objectives identified.
10/12/2010	A-NPDC conducts meeting with FOS to follow-up on strategic planning session.	Strategic planning process clarified by defining roles for completing objectives.
10/14/2010	A-NPDC works with FOS board members to continue discussions regarding financing options and develop strategic plan and master plan.	Use of historic tax credits for financing considered.
10/21/2010	A-NPDC performs walk-through inspection of the Onancock School	Structural issues identified.
10/26/2010	A-NPDC reviews building inspection outcomes and presents a 3-tiered list of potential renovation projects including maintenance, short term, and long term projects. A-NPDC facilitates discussion of uses and funding options for property. FOS defines uses by scoring with votes from board members. A-NPDC guides financing options based on defined property	List of potential renovation projects defined. FOS defines uses of property.

	uses.	
Winter 2011 – 2012	FOS determines to pursue financing for renovation of building through fundraising efforts.	A-NPDC shifts focus to renovation of campus grounds.
Spring 2011	A-NPDC develops concept for Outdoor Environmental Education Classroom for campus.	Strategic plan for renovation of campus grounds completed.
Summer 2011	A-NPDC submits grant proposals for funding through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund program and VCZM.	Renovation funds applied for.

## 2.3 Master Plan Development

A-NPDC staff worked closely during FY2010 with FOS to develop a master plan for the site. Master plan development was based on the A-NPDC’s walk-through inspection of the building (**Appendix A**) and the Potential Renovation Project List (**Appendix B**). Once these items were accomplished, A-NPDC facilitated a meeting with the FOS Board of Directors to define the uses of the building. The uses identified by FOS included educational uses, special events, outdoor events, commercial/civic uses, business uses, and cultural uses. A-NPDC provided board members with a defined number of votes and board members used their votes to prioritize the property uses. The results of the prioritization planning session were as follows:

- 1) Business Uses (5.5 votes)
- 2) Commercial/Civic Uses (4.5 votes)
- 3) Outdoor Events (4 votes)
- 4) Special Events (2.5 votes)
- 5) Cultural Uses (1.5 votes)
- 6) Educational Uses (0 votes)

A-NPDC made suggestions for funding options based on the prioritized list of defined uses developed by the FOS Board of Directors.

### 2.3.1 Funding Options

In March of 2010 A-NPDC provided FOS with a list of funding options which included grants, loans, and fundraising (**Appendix C**). Grant funding options included funding for planning purposes and renovation/rehabilitation purposes. A-NPDC submitted proposals to the VA Department of Housing and Community

Development to attain funding to assist with planning efforts (**Appendix D**). Furthermore, A-NPDC contacted Riverside to pursue a partnership with the healthcare company to develop an adult day care center at Onancock School (**Appendix D**). A-NPDC indicated to FOS that the most logical and realistic options for attaining the needed \$3-\$5 million were Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, which require that at least 51% of property uses and benefits are provided to persons with low to moderate incomes. Based on the prioritized list of defined uses developed by FOS in October 2010, A-NPDC determined that FOS did not desire to serve the needed population of persons with low to moderate incomes to support a CDBG funded project. With this being the case, A-NPDC encouraged FOS to pursue fundraising and loan options.

A-NPDC assisted FOS in the development of business plans that would provide sufficient income to sustain regular payments towards a loan. Additionally, A-NPDC assisted FOS in several meetings to develop fundraising strategies directed towards alumni of Onancock School, citizens of the Eastern Shore, and other potential interested persons.

### ***2.3.2 Grant Applications***

After determining that the funding needed for renovations to the building would be most efficiently attained through fundraising efforts and/or loans, the A-NPDC shifted focus to attaining grant funding to renovate the campus grounds. A-NPDC developed a concept with FOS and other local groups and individuals to develop an Outdoors Environmental Education Classroom for the campus grounds. The classroom concept includes an Environmental Education Pavilion that is to be situated near the water's edge by a kayak launch. The pavilion will consist of a covered area to support lectures and presentations. In addition, the partially completed nature walk at the campus will be extended around the entire perimeter of the property. Along the shoreline of the creek, the vegetative buffer will be expanded to improve water quality in the creek and serve as a demonstration of different types of buffers residents could implement at their properties.

A-NPDC worked with other stakeholders to develop a multi-faceted plan for attaining funding for individual components of the Outdoors Classroom. A project proposal for funding from VCZM was submitted for construction of the Environmental Education Pavilion and is included in **Appendix D**. A project proposal for funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funding program was submitted for construction of the nature trail, vegetative buffer demonstration, and pavilion and is included in **Appendix D**.

### 3.0 Outcomes

Outcomes of A-NPDC's technical assistance included:

- Determination of structural integrity of building
- Estimate of renovation and rehabilitation costs
- Development of list of potential renovation projects
- Definition of property uses
- Development of strategic plan for attaining necessary funding
- Submission of two grant applications to support funding of property redevelopment as Outdoors Environmental Education Classroom

A-NPDC will continue to pursue funding options for the Outdoors Classroom. Once completed, the property can be used by coastal managers to enhance environmental awareness and stewardship on the Eastern Shore. The ultimate outcomes will be enhanced public education on environmental concepts, preservation and protection of critical coastal resources, and improved environmental quality in the coastal zone on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

### 4.0 Summary

In response to growing pressure for the Town of Onancock to privatize the 13-acre Onancock School property in the center of town on the creek, the FOS non-profit group was formed by a group of local volunteers to preserve the rich history, environment, and culture associated with the property. A-NPDC provided technical assistance to develop strategic plans to attain the funding necessary to rehabilitate and renovate the building and campus grounds. The A-NPDC assisted FOS in defining uses for the property, determining appropriate

funding options based on uses, and completing grant applications to attain funding. FOS is utilizing the strategic plans by implementing developed fundraising efforts to attain funding for building rehabilitation and renovation. ANPDC has submitted grant applications to attain funding for the development of an Outdoors Environmental Education Classroom. The technical assistance provided should ensure the successful mission of FOS to ensure the historical and cultural values and preserve the environmental resources of the Onancock School property.

# Appendix A

## Walk-Through Inspection Report

## **Walk-Through Inspection of the Onancock School October 21, 2010**

A visual walk-through inspection was done at the Onancock School on Thursday, October 21 to identify major potential projects and to try and prioritize the projects as to importance. The entire building has seen a lack of maintenance for the past few years and is in need of major repair and replacement of all systems contained therein.

### **ROOF**

Starting with the roof, there is an immediate need to at least temporarily repair the damaged, leaking areas of the roof and to work towards a complete re-roof of the structure when funds allow. There appears to be extensive moisture and termite damage in these areas that remain damp for long periods of time. It is hard to estimate the exact cost of an entire re-roof, because there are many different options to consider.

The roof can be replaced with a built-up hot tar roof similar to the existing, a metal roofing product could be considered, or a rubber membrane type roofing product could be utilized. The decision as to which type of roofing to go with could be based on cost, or there may be some historic considerations dictated, depending on the source of the funding that would be used. Private funding would more than likely not have any constraints.

Re-roofing costs would probably range from \$300 to \$600 per square (100 sq. ft.). The roof is massive and contains approximately 180 squares. If re-roofing with a built-up roof, the existing roofing will probably have to be removed first. If re-roofing with metal, it may be possible to leave the existing roofing in place (\$54,000-\$108,000).

Along with the roofing, a complete gutter system should be installed to direct storm water run-off away from the building and foundation. This will help prevent further deterioration of the foundation walls in the basement. Several commercial roofing contractors should be consulted for an estimate.

### **WINDOWS**

The second major consideration would be to replace the windows. This is another project that will be very expensive to undertake. This portion could be done in phases, as funding allowed, as long as the windows that are chosen are from a major manufacturer that would not change the style or quality of the windows over a period of time. There are 68 large 4' x 9' windows on the first floor of the building. There are 23 medium sized 4' x 5' windows in the basement level of the building. There are 30 dormer or clerestory windows around the upper level of the roof. The cost for replacement for each of the large windows would be in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 range. The style and options of the windows will be contributing factors to the cost (low-E glass, argon gas filled, etc.). The smaller basement windows and dormer windows would be in the \$400 to \$600 range. Several commercial window companies should be consulted to provide estimates on this (\$93,000-\$163,000).

Due to the expense of this project, there could be some interim measures initiated to reduce energy loss from the mass expanses of glass. There are some window

treatment films available that would reduce the amount of radiant heat during the summer months. Thermal window shades or curtains could be made by volunteers. These could help to reduce heat loss in the winter months. A thorough inspection of the windows should be done to make sure that they all are closed tightly and that any broken panes are replaced. Caulking around the outside perimeter of all the windows could be a helpful item that does not cost very much, and could be done with volunteer labor.

### **HEATING SYSTEM**

After the roof has been stabilized and the windows have been replaced, the next major project would be to address the heating system. There are many ways to go about this project also, depending on funding availability and the sources of funding. A new, more efficient burner could be installed in the existing furnace as the lowest cost alternative. The higher efficiency burner should save on the oil consumption. All of the existing steam pipes should be insulated to avoid losing heat from them.

A second alternative would be to replace the existing furnace with a new high efficiency boiler connected to the existing system. This would be the next lowest cost alternative.

A third option would be to put individual heating/cooling package units in each of the spaces that require heat and a/c. This would eliminate heating and cooling the entire building. Depending on the number of units that would be required, this could be fairly expensive.

A fourth option would be to look at a high efficiency heat pump system that could have many zones in order to control the heat and cooling throughout the massive building. If a heat pump system was used, there would have to be consideration for the installation of the heating ductwork and also the removal of the radiators and piping from the old steam system.

A fifth option would be to look into the possibility of installing a geo-thermal type heat pump system. This would be more efficient than a regular heat pump, but would be the most costly alternative. It could however, pay for itself in operating costs due to higher efficiency over a period of time.

Early this year there were some energy efficiency grants available through the stimulus package that could have been used for a geo-thermal heating and cooling system. The Town of Onancock applied earlier this year for one of these Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, through the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, and was not funded. That application was for a geo-thermal heating system for the school building in the amount of \$1,000,000. It is doubtful that any of more of this funding will be available in the future. It is hoped that a suitable system could be found for less than that amount.

### **STRUCTURAL**

Along the front wall of the basement, there is an area that is caving in from erosion and water migrating through the foundation walls. This area needs to be assessed by a structural engineer and a solution should be recommended by him. This had happened on the North side of the building a number of years ago and has been repaired. The ideal solution to the moisture problem would be to excavate around the perimeter of the building, repair any deteriorated portions of

the foundation and seal the walls with a water-proofing system that consists of mastic and a water-proofing membrane. The foundation would then be back-filled and this would prevent further deterioration of the foundation and water intrusion into the basement areas. There is no cost estimate on this phase of the project. A similar repair was done to the north wall a few years ago.

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

The other projects, which consist of opening up certain portions of the building interior to reveal the original ceiling and the other architectural features of the original building could be undertaken at any time. It is not recommended that any of these other projects be taken beyond the demolition stage until the roof is at least stabilized to prevent the existing leaks from continuing to damage new work. There is some asbestos that has already been identified and there are more than likely some areas of lead paint throughout the building. There is a large amount of peeling paint throughout the structure that could be lead paint. These hazards should be identified and dealt with sooner than later and maybe should be considered to be one of the top priorities before any other work is undertaken that would disturb the hazards. A lead risk assessor should be hired to perform a risk assessment and test all surfaces for lead paint. An asbestos abatement company will have to be hired to abate the asbestos that has already been identified.

### **BASEMENT**

The floors in two of the basement classrooms in the front appear to have wooden floors that were constructed over the original concrete floors. The wooden floor structures are deteriorating and should be removed. Moisture barrier could be installed and then a new concrete floor could be poured over the existing in these two rooms. Plaster is also falling from the front walls of these rooms from moisture intrusion. There is a lot of floor tile that needs to be removed from the basement floors. These floors could be sealed with an epoxy to deter moisture and provide a cleanable surface.

The kitchen area and most of the rest of the basement is in good condition. A thorough cleaning and some epoxy paint would do wonders for these areas.

### **SHOP BUILDING & HOME ECONOMICS BUILDING**

There are two smaller structures on the property that were used for the shop classes and the home economics classes. Both of these were only observed from the exterior. There was no access available to the interior. They are both frame construction and are also in need of maintenance and repairs. The old shop class has a deteriorated section on the back where the roof has caved in and is causing extensive water damage to the walls and floor below. If this building is to be saved, an immediate roof repair is necessary. It may be possible to use the back portion of this building for a concession stand.

The home economics class seems to be in good condition. The metal roof on this structure is starting to get a little surface rust and should be painted immediately to prevent further rusting that could lead to leaks. This building is actually set up as a house. There is some question as to whether or not these two buildings are connected to the sewage system.

### **ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

This inspection did not include an electrical inspection. It is recommended that a licensed Master Electrician or the local electrical inspector be hired to perform an extensive electrical inspection of the entire building to determine if there are any electrical hazards and make recommendations to correct them.

### **CONCLUSION**

This inspection was visual only and is not intended to be a complete comprehensive inspection of the buildings. There are likely to be many other problems that could not be seen or anticipated. It is recommended that before any major projects are undertaken, that a licensed structural engineer and architect be procured to do a comprehensive assessment and total rehabilitation plan.

## Appendix B

### Potential Renovation Project List

## **FRIENDS OF ONANCOCK SCHOOL POTENTIAL PROJECTS**

### MAINTENANCE (can be done immediately)

Repair roof leaks (temporary).

Repair structural damage from roof leaks.

Caulk windows.

Window treatments (reflective film, thermal shades or curtains).

Weather-strip doorways.

Paint home economics building roof.

### SHORT TERM

Structural Engineer/Architect (possibly alumni).

Lead Inspection/Risk Assessment.

Abate, encapsulate or stabilize any lead paint hazards

Check status of asbestos inspection and abate asbestos hazards.

Remove/repair addition on back of shop building.

Possibly build or repair room on back of shop for concessions.

Consult a heating contractor about the possibility of a new, more efficient burner for the furnace.

### LONG TERM

Replace entire roof.

Replace or upgrade heating system.

Replace windows.

Stabilize basement walls/remove loose plaster, clean and paint basement.

Remove deteriorated wooden floors in basement.

Appendix C  
Meeting Correspondence



# A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Friends of Onancock School Board of Directors

FROM: Elaine McIl  
Executive Director  
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Curtis Smith  
Regional Planner  
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

DATE: March 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Financial Assistance Opportunities

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) has offered to provide technical assistance to the Friends of Onancock School (FOS) geared towards pursuing and securing financial assistance (grants and loans) to facilitate the restoration, preservation, and redevelopment of the Onancock School building and grounds. Initial technical assistance would be focused on completing a master plan and identifying funding sources to rehabilitate the school structure. The A-NPDC thanks the FOS Board for consideration of these matters and is excited about developing a working relationship towards preserving and redeveloping the Onancock School.

**A-NPDC requests FOS consider whether to accept A-NPDC technical assistance.**

Assuming that FOS accepts A-NPDC technical assistance, the following information needs to be considered before further work can commence. The FOS does not have to commit to any of the listed funding options provided by the A-NPDC. The FOS Board will need to decide potential uses based on the long term vision for the site.

Since a master plan for the site has not been completed, the A-NPDC requests the FOS Board to discuss and define uses for the building and grounds. Once a commitment to site-uses has been made, the A-NPDC will be able to pursue financing that match approved uses.

The A-NPDC has held preliminary discussions identifying potential future funding options for the FOS Board to consider. A summary of these options is below.

## I. GRANT OPTIONS

All grants and some loans from the government are going to require a Department of Historic Resources (DHR) review. It is important that discussions be held with DHR about the conditions they may require as those conditions may cause a reduction in potential income or an increase in project expenditures.

- 1.) Funding for Completion of Master Plan
  - a. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant (Town of Onancock consent to be applicant)
    - i. Potentially \$15,000-\$25,000 available
    - ii. Funds to be used to complete planning activities: needs assessment, feasibility study, conceptual layout, necessary agreements with service providers
  - b. VA Coastal Zone Management (VCZM) Matching Planning Grant
    - i. 50% Match
    - ii. Explore availability of federal funds to leverage the CDBG funds

Grant funds for planning purposes would not include detailed, engineered drawings. These types of drawings would be eligible for funding from a funded CDBG project. Accepting a CDBG planning grant requires that a CDBG Community Improvement Grant be submitted. Fundraising will be necessary if total amount needed to complete master plans is not attained through CDBG and VCZM Planning Grants

- 2.) Funding for Building and Grounds Restoration and Redevelopment
  - a. CDBG Funds (the Town of Onancock consent to be applicant)
    - i. Must be Low and Moderate Income uses (at least 51% of the benefits are provided to LMI persons)
    - ii. Funds available
      1. \$700,000 for 1 eligible use
      2. Explore whether FOS could obtain \$1.4 million with two distinct uses
    - iii. Potential site uses could include:
      1. Business Incubator (Onancock may not wish to pursue this option due to the requirements associated with this use.)
      2. USDA Feeding Program for low to moderate income children
        - a. soccer camp

- b. dance camp
- c. art camp
- d. environmental camp
- 3. Senior citizen activities (potential collaboration with Riverside)
  - a. available to seniors of all incomes
  - b. activities include outings, guest speakers, singing, current events discussion, crafts and exercise.
  - c. could serve roughly 40 seniors daily
- 4. Community Activities (Flexible Space)
  - a. Does not rank highly alone

## **II. LOAN OPTIONS**

- 1.) Bank
  - a. Market Rate Loans
  - b. will require greater monthly income to sustain
- 2.) State and Federal Loans
  - a. Subsidized Interest loans
  - b. will require lesser monthly income to sustain but more requirements

## **III. FUNDRAISING OPTIONS**

- 1) Could reduce or eliminate the need for loans
- 2) Could fund special improvements

The A-NPDC's very rough estimate for rehabilitation of the school is similar to the FOS's estimate (\$3-\$5 million). Better estimates would be a product of the planning process. Loans and/or fundraising will be necessary depending on the site-use decisions made by the FOS Board of Directors.

## **IV. PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**

- 1. CBBG Planning Grant Application (Spring 2010)
- 2. Uses defined (early summer)
- 3. Town of Onancock Approval to Apply for CDBG Community Improvement Grant (summer)
- 4. Potential Planning Grant Work (summer & fall)
- 5. Application written March 2011
- 6. Other Sources Identified and Secured (winter 2010 – ongoing)
- 7. CDBG Award potential July 2011
- 8. Construction ~2012

## **V. OPERATIONS**

- 1) Pro Forma Development
  - a. Sources of Income
    - i. Rents from Tenants
    - ii. Temporary Facility Rental
    - iii. Concessions
    - iv. Special Events
    - v. Fundraising
  - b. Expenditures
    - i. Daily Operations
    - ii. Reserve for Replacement
    - iii. Site Manager

## MEETING SUMMARY

Date: July 20, 2010

Place: A-NPDC Conference Room

Persons Present: Cynthia Downing, Friends of Onancock School;  
Elaine Meil, A-NPDC; Curt Smith, A-NPDC

- Cynthia indicated that the FOS Board had already defined four priority goals, but strategic actions were not defined yet
- It was discussed that the first meeting between FOS and A-NPDC be focused on reviewing the previously created list of four priority goals for the property and begin listing and prioritizing small and large scale future projects and potential funding opportunities
- An idea to have the ES Tourism Comm. help with the Marketing Plan was presented.
  - The A-NPDC will follow-up with Donna Bozza regarding this
- The A-NPDC will contact their auditor to discuss any potential problems that FOS could have maintaining their 501(c)3 status regarding potential future income sources
  - Elaine will contact the auditor regarding this
- It was discussed that John Aigner attend the initial meetings between FOS and A-NPDC to provide input on potential capital projects on the buildings on the property
- The A-NPDC will contact the VA Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZM) about acquiring potential funding for completion of the design plan or possibly other projects determined as high priority during the initial meetings



# A-NPDC

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## ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 417 • 23372 FRONT STREET • ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301  
(757) 787-2936 • TOLL FREE (866) 787-3001 • FAX: (757) 787-4221  
EMAIL: anpdc@a-npdc.org • WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

July 21, 2010

Friends of Onancock School  
6 College Avenue  
Onancock, Virginia 23417

Dear Board of Directors,

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) met with the Friends of Onancock School (FOS) in March 2010 to offer technical assistance through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZM) geared towards pursuing and securing financial assistance (grants and loans) to facilitate the restoration, preservation, and redevelopment of the Onancock School building and grounds. Funding for A-NPDC technical assistance will likely be provided for multiple years (conditional upon VCZM approval) for the following:

**Year 1** – FY2010 (Oct. 1, 2010 – Sep. 30, 2011)

1. Facilitation of meetings with FOS members to:
  - a. Revisit previously defined four priority goals
  - b. Define and prioritize uses for the property
  - c. Identify and prioritize small and large scale projects needed to improve grounds and buildings
  - d. Identify and prioritize small and large scale fundraising opportunities to fund projects
2. Facilitate the completion of:
  - a. An operating budget
  - b. An out-year Business Plan
  - c. A Strategic Plan
3. Facilitation of meetings with FOS members to discuss and choose funding opportunities to be pursued

**Years 2 and 3** – FY2011 and FY2012 (tentative goals)

1. A-NPDC will continue meeting facilitation



2. A-NPDC will complete grant and loan applications per FOS requests
3. A-NPDC will help implement funds received

In addition, the A-NPDC will pursue additional funding from VCZM that could potentially be used towards the completion of the Master Plan (including the architectural and design plans).

The A-NPDC is excited about developing a working relationship with FOS geared towards preserving and redeveloping the Onancock School.

Sincerely,



Curtis Smith

Regional Planner

Cc: Elaine Meil, A-NPDC  
John Aigner, A-NPDC

Appendix D  
Onancock School Grant Proposals

February 24, 2011

Ms. Denise H. Ambrose, Associate Director  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
Main Street Centre  
600 East Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Regional Planning Grant Request for Historic Onancock School Community and Cultural Center

Dear Ms. Ambrose:

On behalf of the Town of Onancock and Friends of Onancock School (FOS), the A-NPDC is requesting regional planning grant funds to complete design plans for the rehabilitation of the Historic Onancock School building and grounds.

The A-NPDC has historically had success utilizing DHCD funds and now has an opportunity to repeat past successes at this former school property located in Onancock in the central portion of the Eastern Shore. The A-NPDC, Town of Onancock and FOS are partnering to renovate the Historic Onancock School into a community and cultural center aimed at serving the population of Onancock and the entire Eastern Shore region.

The project scope includes renovations to accommodate both the stabilization of the existing facility, and ultimately, modifications which provide space for a diversity of users representing a wide array of artistic, athletic, cultural, educational, and vocational interests. An architectural engineering group has completed conceptual designs for the redevelopment of the facility (see attached items) and has provided a quote for further planning services including building assessment, design development for stabilization efforts, and future development planning.

It is requested that DHCD provide \$34,300 in technical assistance and pre-development funds in the form of a CDBG regional planning grant that would guide the planning process and help pay for the required designs and studies.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for funding. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this project in more detail. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, we very much appreciate DHCD's support for our community.

Best regards,



Curtis W. Smith  
Regional Planner

cc: Elaine Meil, Executive Director, A-NPDC  
The Honorable Bruce Paone, Mayor, Town of Onancock

Enclosures



# A-NPDC

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## ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 417 • 23372 FRONT STREET • ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA 23301  
(757) 787-2936 • TOLL FREE (866) 787-3001 • FAX: (757) 787-4221  
EMAIL: anpdc@a-npdc.org • WEBSITE: www.a-npdc.org

March 23, 2010

Patty Heath  
Riverside Adult Day Services  
1000 Old Denbigh Blvd.  
Newport News, Virginia 23602

Dear Ms. Heath,

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission is partnering with Riverside on the development of the Tangier Medical Center. This Center is being built with Virginia funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development. One of our former high schools, located in Onancock, is currently being redeveloped for community uses. One use of primary interest is an adult day care facility. We have established a partnership with the 501(c)3 non-profit that governs the grounds and building. It is a beautiful campus located on and overlooking Onancock Creek. Approximately a third (14,344) of the Eastern Shore's population is located within 5 miles of this area.

We would like to gauge your interest in an adult day center at this facility or any other plans to locate one on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. N. Meil  
Executive Director

Attachments (2)

Cc: Curtis Smith, A-NPDC  
Cynthia S. Downing, Board President, Friends of Onancock School



## 2010 VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT

Project Title: *Historic Onancock School Community & Cultural Center Environmental & Coastal Education Pavilion Construction Project*

### I. LEGAL APPLICANT

Name: Town of Onancock  
Organization: Friends of Onancock School  
Street Address: 6 College Avenue  
City, State, Zip: Onancock, VA 23417

Project Manager: Curt Smith, A-NPDC      Title: Regional Planner  
Phone: 757-787-2936 x114  
E-mail: csmith@a-npdc.org

### II. PROJECT DETAILS

Geographic Area of Impact: Historic Onancock School Community & Cultural Center  
Congressional District(s): 2  
Start Date: MM/DD/YYYY      End Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Project continuing from previous year? (yes or no) No

### III. PROJECT SUMMARY (4000 Character Limit)

The Historic Onancock School in the center of the Town of Onancock and the Eastern Shore region serves as a community and cultural center for local residents and visiting tourists alike. The Onancock Town Council authorized the Friends of Onancock School (FOS), a non-profit group, to extend the 150 year educational legacy of the 13-acre coastal property situated on Onancock Creek. The site is an ideal location for environmental education and for public access to Onancock Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. The site was recently selected to be included in the National Park Service's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Town of Onancock was awarded a grant to construct a floating dock and kayak ramp to improve public access to Onancock Creek. The landing will be included in the Onancock Creek Water Trail which will tie into the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The dock and kayak ramp will likely be completed in late 2011.

The Town and FOS as a primary partner in the original National Park Service grant pursuit are interested in constructing a covered pavilion near the dock and kayak ramp to provide an area for holding educational activities focusing on coastal and environmental topics. The pavilion would serve as a major site for environmental education on the Eastern Shore, improve public access to coastal waters, enhance ecotourism, and support the rehabilitation and revitalization of the Historic Onancock School as a community and cultural center.

The Environmental & Coastal Education Pavilion would be approximately a 15' x 20' covered structure situated on pilings either adjacent or attached to the floating dock pilings. Since FOS is promoting the use of green technology in the rehabilitation of the site, the structure would need to be rugged enough to potentially hold a solar panel on the roof. It is envisioned that the structure would have a rear storage wall on the side of the pavilion opposite the creek to house a battery/bank capacitor to provide lighting or power a laptop/projector for educational purposes under the covered area, portable chairs, and other supplies. The wall would, in turn, serve as a space to hang VCZM educational signage and potentially a white board for classes. Several (5 or 6) picnic tables could be placed under the structure to complete the outdoor classroom. The structure would be easily accessible by land and water and readily available for public use.

An estimate for construction of the Education Pavilion is \$35,000.

#### IV. BUDGET

*(This table automatically calculates totals. However, be sure to double check all figures before submitting to the Coastal Program. Double click inside the table to enter figures or other information. Please save entire file as a Word document, .doc, not a .docx, .xls, or .xlsx.)*

	Federal	Match	Total	Budget Narrative
Personnel			\$0	
Fringe				
Equipment			\$0	
Travel			\$0	
Supplies			\$0	
Contractual			\$0	
Construction	35,000		\$35,000	Construction of 20'x15' covered pavilion and concrete pad.
Other			\$0	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	
<b>INDIRECT</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	

**CHESAPEAKE BAY  
RESTORATION FUND  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

RETURN COMPLETED PROPOSAL TO:  
Chesapeake Bay Restoration Advisory Committee  
c/o Division of Legislative Services  
900 Capitol Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



**Onancock Creek Nature Trail  
Project Application Form**



**REQUESTING ORGANIZATION:**

Name: Friends of the Onancock School

Address: P.O. Box 467, Onancock, VA 23417

Federal Identification Number (FIN): 20-8342920 (ENCLOSE FIN FORM IF NEVER RECEIVED RESTORATION GRANT)

*Cynthia Seari Downing*  
FOS Board Member, President

**PROJECT LEADER OR COORDINATOR:**

Name: Donna Ware Title: Project Leader, Eastern Shore Master Naturalist

Signature: *Donna Ware*

Address: 1 Joyes St. Onancock, VA 23417  
(Street)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

Telephone: 757-787-7345

**DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION (Type of organization, purpose, past related projects, if any):**

The Historic Orancock School: Community & Cultural Center, centrally located in the Town of Orancock and the Virginia Eastern Shore region, serves as a community and cultural center for local residents and visiting tourists alike. The Orancock Town Council authorized the Friends of Orancock School (FOS), a non-profit group, to extend the 150 year educational legacy of the 1.3-acre coastal property situated on Orancock Creek. Approximately one third (14,344) of the Eastern Shore's population lives within 5 miles of the facility, which is ideally located to serve as a center for diverse community activities and programs throughout the Eastern Shore. Currently, the building is a hub of artistic activity including studios, galleries, exhibits, concerts, and performances. Further development of its campus will include meeting and reception space, athletic grounds, office rental, expansion of the Orancock Creek Nature Trail, and installation of a kayak launch facility and environmental education pavilion.

Founded in 2006, the FOS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the economic and cultural vitality of its diverse community through the renewal of the Historic School and campus. An environmentally conscious organization, FOS achieves its goals with the support of an engaged population involving the arts, recreation, business and educational programs.

The FOS are applying for grants from more than a dozen Virginia foundations to fund renovation of the buildings and grounds of the Historic Orancock School: Community & Cultural Center, as well as initiating local fund-raising efforts. Classrooms have been rented for artists' studios, galleries, and office space to provide interim restoration funding and to allow the building to be open for use. FOS is also partnering with the Eastern Shore Community College to develop proposals for the school to serve as a green building renovation demonstration site as well as to provide space for local work force training on green building design and renovation.

In 2010, the FOS received a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund grant to begin construction of a nature trail over 0.5 miles in length along the shore of the Orancock Creek. A grant of \$4,000 was awarded and used to install a native plant garden and to begin construction of a handicap accessible trail. In addition, FOS is partnering with the Town of Orancock on a Chesapeake Gateways grant to develop the site as a component of the Orancock Creek Water Trail, a designated connector trail to the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail. This funding request builds on these previous grants and in combination with potential funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, proposes to complete the entire project in a one year time frame.



*Figure 1. Historic Orancock School: Community & Cultural Center.*

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Background, needs, goals and objectives, location, activities and participants)**

The Onancock Creek Nature Trail Project proposes to complete installation of a riparian buffer (approximately 100 feet in width) and nature trail on over a half mile of shoreline of the Onancock Creek watershed. The project is designed to educate citizens about the value of riparian buffers for water quality protection and will demonstrate three different buffer ecosystem designs, all of which meet Chesapeake Bay Local Advisory Directory guidelines. Educational signs will be installed along the trail to explain the importance of riparian buffers to water quality, describe the different types of buffers available, and describe the wildlife associated with various buffer ecosystems. Buffers demonstrated will include forested buffers, native grass buffers, and more traditional landscaping using low-maintenance native plants and manicured beds that may be more appealing to homeowners.

Restoring buffers along the shoreline of Onancock Creek is not only critical for improving local water quality, but will also help the town meet Chesapeake Bay TMDL nutrient and sediment reduction goals. The Onancock Creek watershed (figure 2) has been identified as being at high risk for development and among the top 25 percent of areas for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from both urban and agricultural sources. Currently, most of Onancock Creek and its tributaries are designated by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as impaired for recreational use, shellfish, submerged aquatic vegetation, and aquatic life. Low dissolved oxygen caused by nutrient and sediment pollution is a significant contributing factor to these water quality impairments.



*Figure 2. Aerial photo of Onancock Creek with yellow arrow pointing to the Historic Onancock School: Community & Cultural Center.*

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) recently completed a stormwater assessment of developed portions of the Onancock Creek watershed and ranked the Onancock Creek Nature Trail Project as the highest restoration priority from more than thirty stormwater best management practice retrofits opportunities evaluated. The CWP report states that this project ranks highest based in part on the relatively inexpensive nature of expanding the buffer, the large drainage area treated, and the very high public visibility and education and outreach opportunities related to Onancock Creek and Chesapeake Bay water quality restoration. CWP further recommends that the project include interpretive signs that educate visitors about the water quality benefits of riparian buffer areas.

The Historic Onancock School: Community & Cultural Center is ideally suited for citizen education about the value of riparian buffers for water quality. Due in part to its central location and public access, the Historic Onancock School: Community & Cultural Center was included in the Onancock Creek Water Trail project and the Town of

**CONVULSIVE BREEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Background, needs, goals and objectives, location, activities and participants):**

Oranock was awarded a grant to construct a floating dock and kayak ramp to improve public access to Oranock Creek. The landing is part of the Oranock Creek Water Trail and will connect into the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail. The dock and kayak ramp will likely be completed in the spring of 2012. Visitors will access the dock and kayak ramp along a handicap accessible walking path that meanders through the restored riparian buffer area. Future plans include an environmental education pavilion (figure 3) that would provide an ideal space for adult and youth environmental education and awareness programs and workshops.



*Figure 3. Conceptual design for an environmental education pavilion and kayak launch developed for the Historic Oranock School: Community & Cultural Center.*

Signs installed along the completed trail will also provide educational opportunities as well as a list of funders, including the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, to illustrate the link between purchase of Chesapeake Bay license plates and on-the-ground water quality restoration. The Virginia Master Naturalists Eastern Shore Chapter will also host education events at an outdoor "classroom" constructed along the trail by local Eagle Scouts.

A variety of stakeholders are engaged in supporting the Oranock Creek Nature Trail project. Leadership will be provided by The Virginia Master Naturalists, Eastern Shore Chapter who have been engaging stakeholders and community groups in this effort for the past four years. Additional partners include: the Accomack Northampton Planning District Commission, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Zone Management Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Project partners will enlist the support of local citizens and nonprofits to plant trees and native plants along the trail, including groups such as residents of the Town of Oranock, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Youth Conservation Corps, local Boy Scout troops, local garden groups, and local nurseries who have provided both free technical assistance and native plant donations in the past.

This project is part of a larger watershed-wide restoration effort designed to engage the whole community in efforts to improve water quality in Oranock Creek. The Oranock Watershed Restoration Project proposes to accelerate adoption of riparian buffers on agricultural and residential lands along Oranock Creek, demonstrate innovative precision agriculture technologies that help farmers better manage fertilizer, demonstrate stormwater best management practices installed on existing impervious areas of the watershed, and host workshops for citizens on how they can minimize runoff from their lawns including installation of riparian buffers. A restored buffer at the Historic Oranock School: Community & Cultural Center that demonstrates various options for homeowners to see that riparian buffers can be designed to meet their needs will greatly assist in accelerating buffer adoption throughout the Oranock Creek watershed.

**PROJECT BUDGET:**

Amount Requested from Restoration Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_

Total Project Budget                                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please provide an itemized budget describing all estimated expenditures, all sources and amounts of funding; designate what budget items are proposed to receive restoration funding.)*

This proposal builds on a successful 2010 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund project that resulted in completion of 600 feet of the nature trail and 300 feet of riparian buffer with an additional 300 feet scheduled for installation in October of 2011. The following budget will allow for completion of the total 3,240 foot buffer restoration project. Project partners propose to combine additional Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funding with funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to fully complete the project within a one year timeframe. An itemized budget including sources of matching funds is as follows:

Line Item	Description	Estimated Total Cost	Project Funds	Matching Funds	Matching Fund Source
1/3 mile handicapped accessible crushed gravel walkway - materials and installation		\$8,000	\$8,000		
600 ft. length, 100 ft. width native plant residential buffer installation (4.6 acres)	900 container plants @ approx. \$15 each, \$1000 for mulch and bed formation	\$15,500	\$15,500		
1000 ft. length, 100 ft. width bare root seedling forest buffer planting and maintenance to ensure establishment	Forest buffer 2.5 acres, 150 trees and tree tubes @ \$800/tree plus 2 herbicide applications at \$100/tree each = \$1150/tree total.	\$2,550		\$2,550	NRCS-WHEP
1000 ft. length, 100 ft. width warm season grass buffer plus maintenance to ensure establishment	\$350/acre planting costs plus site prep at \$200/acre and two herbicide applications post planting at \$200/acre.	\$1,725		\$1,725	NRCS-WHEP
Labor for installation of forest riparian buffer and container plants	12 volunteers at 8, four hour events @ \$21.36/hour	\$8,200		\$8,200	Volunteers
Labor and equipment for bobcat used for digging and bed construction	\$500 per event for 8 events	\$4,000		\$4,000	
Topsoil needed to augment poor soils on site.	\$500 per truckload @ 2 truckloads	\$1,000	\$1,000		
Educational Signage - 5 signs describing buffer type, plants and associated wildlife habitat and water quality benefits	2 signs @ \$1300 each, 3 signs @ \$800 each.	\$4,800	\$4,800		
Individual native plant ID markers	30 individual signs @ approx. \$5.00 each	\$150		\$150	DEQ Coastal Zone Mgmt.
Educational signage design	5 signs @ \$250 each	\$1,250	\$1,250		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$47,180</b>	<b>\$30,550</b>	<b>\$16,630</b>	
			65%	35%	

**PROJECT SCHEDULE** (Indicate when project activities will occur or specific tasks will be completed, not to exceed one year)

Project partners will complete the project in a one year timeframe assuming a start date of July, 2012.

July – August 2012: Installation of handicap accessible (to ADA standards) crushed concrete permeable walkway and planting event planning.

September – October 2012: Two public planting events to install the forested and residential native plant buffer. Initial site preparation for warm season grass buffer installation.

November 2012 through March 2013: design and installation of educational signs. First herbicide application around bare root seedlings to ensure establishment and second site preparation visit for warm season grass planting in March.

April – June 2013: April – warm season grass planting. Additional public planting events as needed to complete buffer installation. Follow-up site visit to ensure grass establishment as needed. Second herbicide application around bare root tree seedlings in May.

June 2013: Official “ribbon cutting” ceremony and nature trail opening with invited local, state, and federal officials and elected officers, project partners.

Throughout the duration of the project, partners will engage the local press as much as possible to encourage citizens to participate in buffer planting events, highlight community participation and Chesapeake Bay license plate funding, and further the educational objectives of the project by emphasizing the value of riparian buffers for watershed restoration and habitat.

**DESCRIBE HOW THE PROJECT'S SUCCESS OR EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE EVALUATED:**

Effectiveness of the project will be evaluated by the following metrics:

- Completed 3,240 feet of buffer installation with three distinct types of buffers demonstrated (forest, grass, and native plant beds).
- Completed handicap accessible nature trail.
- Number of educational signs designed and installed along trail.
- Number of volunteers engaged in the effort.
- Number of media stories generated.

In the future, project effectiveness will be measured by:

- Estimated number of visitors using the nature trail.
- Number of environmental education events hosted at the site.
- Estimated number of visitors and participants that were inspired to install riparian buffers on their property or other water quality improvement measures such as rain barrels, rain gardens, and reforestation.
- Orancock Creek water quality improvement.

The ultimate goal of this project and associated watershed restoration efforts is to remove the Orancock Creek watershed from the list of impaired waters and to support the town of Orancock's efforts to meet Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals.

**DESCRIBE PLANS FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT BEYOND PERIOD OF GRANT (if applicable):**

Virginia Master Naturalists, Eastern Shore Chapter will lead efforts to maintain the buffers and nature trail as needed, hosting planting and invasive species removal events. These events will be entirely organized and staffed by volunteers and are not anticipated to require any additional funding. Should funds be needed in the future, the Virginia Master Naturalists, Eastern Shore Chapter, Friends of Ourscock School, and project partners will work to secure resources.

Support for future educational programs will be provided by project partners as part of on-going efforts.