

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 1 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Coastal Program Management & Quick Grants

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	3/31/2008	6/30/2008		

Please see attached "Program Administration Progress Report"

Task: 1.01 Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System
Coastal Management Support

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Please see attached "Program Administration Progress Report"

Task: 1.03 Virginia Institute of Marine Science Sea Grant Program
Working Waterways & Waterfronts Symposium Support

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Pending	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	4/1/2007	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

This project did not begin until 4/1/2007.

Task: 2 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Virginia CZM Program Outreach

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

The Outreach Coordinator distributed the Spring/Summer 2006 magazine and began drafting a layout for the Spring/Summer 2007 Virginia Coastal Zone Management magazine. Design and layout of the magazine are being completed entirely in-house with the S/S 07 issue in order to reduce costs.

A Coastal GEMS fact sheet was produced and the OC assisted with edits to the 2007 Virginia Outdoors Report.

Completed a redesign of the Virginia CZM Web site (including the Virginia Seaside Heritage Program and Virginia Seaside Water Trail pages) to incorporate the new VA CZM logo, to improve navigation, and to meet state Web site standards. The redesign included reorganization of content and development of new pages, including Coastal GEMS and 2006 grant project description pages. Web work also included working with staff to complete non-spatial data pages for the Coastal GEMS application.

Established and facilitated planning committee for the 2007 Virginia Coastal Zone Partners Workshop. Coordinated site bidding and procured site for the workshop.

Served on planning committee for the December Virginia/Maryland Living Shoreline Summit and assisted the CBNERRS Training Coordinator in logistical preparations for the conference. Attended Coastal GEMS Beta Testing in December.

Helped to coordinate an Open House and exhibit at the Virginia General Assembly for Coastal GEMS in February 2007; and, facilitated and/or participated in program exhibits at the Virginia State Fair (Oct. 06), Eastern Shore Birding Festival (Oct. 06), Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Nov. 06), Urbanna Oyster Festival (Nov. 06 - which involved coordinating a new community committee to work with area schools and exhibitors to make the school education day a more meaningful watershed education experience), Back Bay Forum (March 07), Environment Virginia 07 (April 07). Arranged Omar's participation in US/Japanese Oyster Symposium. Produced new exhibits highlighting "Living Shoreline", "Oyster Gardening" and "Coastal GEMS." The OC also maintained an inventory of public information and responded to numerous requests for information.

Training during this period included a Virginia Government Communicators Workshop (Oct. 06), In Design Software class (Nov. 06), Coalition/Communications Training (Oct. 06), Community Involvement Training (Dec. 06), Living Shorelines Summit (Dec. 06).

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Task: 3 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Environmental Impact Review
Environmental Impact Review & Federal Consistency

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

During the first half of FY 2007, the Office of Environmental Impact Review/Federal Consistency (OEIR) reviewed 98 development projects and management plans for consistency with the VCP. Major state projects accounted for 24 projects, 45 were federal actions, and 29 were federally funded projects (predominantly local government projects). The 45 federal projects included 38 direct federal actions and 7 indirect federal actions (licenses and approvals). OEIR staff completed the Commonwealth's response for Dominion's federal consistency certification pertaining to an early site permit currently under review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As previously reported, the ESP contemplates the addition of two new nuclear reactors at North Anna Power Plant. The 6-month deadline for review of the consistency certification of the modified cooling system (using a hybrid wet/dry cooling tower) was November 7, 2006. However, DEQ and Dominion mutually agreed to a two-week stay. On November 21, 2006, based on concerns raised by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), DEQ conditionally concurred with Dominion's certification that the proposal is consistent with the VCP. The DGIF required that Dominion conduct a one-year in-stream flow and incremental methodology (IFIM) study to determine the impacts of the proposed withdrawal of additional water from the lake on fishes in the North Anna River before implementing the project. In March 2007, OEIR staff attended the NOAA sponsored GIS/Geotools training to determine how new and evolving technology can improve the review of development projects occurring in Virginia's coastal management area. The OEIR continues to maintain a website for Federal Consistency for the Commonwealth. The site can be accessed through DEQ's main webpage or found at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/eir>. This webpage includes the Commonwealth's Federal Consistency information package, a project list with project descriptions, and links to the DEQ main webpage for public notices of Federal consistency reviews. The webpage is updated weekly.

Task: 4 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Environmental Education
Environmental Education

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Pending	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

Over the past six months, DEQ staff, Ann Regn and Jennifer Underwood in the Virginia Office of Environmental Education have worked on the following projects to build local capacity for delivering high quality education in communities: Places We Live Community Education, Virginia Naturally, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience, Virginia Resource Use Education Council coordination, Classroom and MWEE Partner Grants, Love A Tree, and Environment Virginia 2007.

An "Ecological Footprint" presentation was developed for community educators and will be incorporated into Places We Live, a new community education program being developed for adult audiences, including local planning staff. Three presentations/workshops have been presented. Ann and Jennifer organized and managed the tenth round of the Virginia Classroom Grants program in which 54 grants were awarded totaling \$31,700 for students to have a meaningful watershed experience, a C2K commitment. Seven partner grants were awarded for \$15,000. Three thousand Love-A-Tree kits were distributed to teachers and community educators. The kit contains a teacher activity guide, posters on Captain John Smith's trail as well as a DVD highlighting his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia coast. The annual Virginia Resource Use Education Council business meeting in January focused on coordinating professional development for community educators and developing criteria for becoming highly qualified.

Ann serves as DEQ's liaison for new Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources and chair of the workgroup to develop criteria for funding projects. The Foundation has adopted a business plan and strategic plan for collecting and distributing private donations for watershed education, pollution prevention and citizen science. Information: announcements, workshops and new resources are constantly being added to the Virginia Naturally website on a daily basis. For January - March 2007 Total Hits = 20,534 and Total Downloads = 6,240.

Educational and outreach materials were reprinted for distribution for Earth Day and other spring trainings.

Task: 5 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Chesapeake Bay Program
Water Quality Improvement Fund Match

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

In FY 2005-2007 matching funds for Virginia's CZM awards are being provided in part through DEQ's Water Quality Improvement Fund grants (WQIF Grant: #440-S-07-10) to Arlington County for their multi-million dollar sewage treatment plant upgrades. Some elements from Design Package (CP #2) No.2. will be used as match for the FY 2006 award and different elements will be used for the FY 2007 award; however the specific elements that will be used as match for the FY 2006 award have not yet been determined, so there is no progress to report at this time.

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Task: 6 Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Permit Review and Compliance

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

During the reporting period, VMRC received a total of 1413 joint permit applications. Actions were completed on 1012 of the projects that were received. During the reporting period 95 compliance inspections were conducted for previously issued permits. A random sample of 130 projects permitted by local wetlands boards has been selected for compliance inspections, which are ongoing.

Near the end of December, during the grant reporting period, VMRC's program support technician responsible for compiling data for the compliance assessments and completion of wetland compliance checks resigned. A new program support technician was hired at the beginning of March.

Task: 7 Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Natural Heritage
Habitat Conservation/ Locality Liaison

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
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The Locality Liaison has given nine presentations to localities and other conservation partners, including Westmoreland County, the City of Chesapeake, Accomack County, Richmond PDC GIS Users Group, Hanover County, Northumberland County, King George County and Williamsburg Land Conservancy. Presentations included an overview of DCR's Natural Heritage Program, the Locality Assistance Program, the VA NH Data Explorer website, the VCLNA and the Conservation Lands Database.

The Locality Liaison attended a conference titled "Conservation Thresholds for Land Use Planners" in Milwaukee, WI. The purpose of the conference was to advance the field of conservation planning by identifying robust and measurable implementation strategies that support the development and application of science-based conservation thresholds. Conference participants included a small group of accomplished land use planners, conservation biologists and public policy practitioners. Results of this working meeting will be compiled and published by the Environmental Law Institute. The session dealing with communicating conservation planning was a highlight of the conference, and the Locality Liaison will strive to incorporate the techniques learned into her communication with localities and other conservation partners.

DNH staff conducted monthly, hands-on training sessions for the Data Explorer website. These training sessions are open to any organization. Additionally training sessions were conducted for VA Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services staff and DCR- Div. of Recreational Planning staff.

Phase 2 of the Data Explorer Website is in development and is expected to go live by Fall '07. From September 2006 to January 2007, DNH detailed Scope of Work Specifications, and secured a sole source vehicle for our work with the Timmons Group. The latter involved detailing DNH's requirements and need for sole sourcing, and passing it through our procurement office (3 month process) and VITA for approval. The scope of work was finalized and signed into effect 2/2/07. From January through March of this year, DNH detailed and discussed the geodatabase schema design (signed off on April 16, 2007). The geodatabase design is part of the back end development necessary for the website functionality. DNH has also detailed the Mock User Interface design for the public portal and the consultant will begin development of the User Interface in late April.

515 projects were reviewed for impacts to NH resources in the coastal zone (39% of the projects reviewed state-wide). The Wetland Catalog is being promoted during project review for mitigation opportunities as they arise.

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Task: 8 Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Center for Coastal Resource Management
Tidal Wetlands Management Technical Support

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

CCRM Advisory Activity for the reporting period included the following:

	Information Requests	Add'l Field Visits	Meetings	Advisory Reports	Website Hits
October	189	25	18	28	321
November	181	13	23	78	510
December	96	7	22	66	358
January	168	13	22	46	297
February	168	11	19	60	508
March	170	13	22	46	746

Wetlands Reports:

Five years ago the Center for Coastal Resources Management began posting Joint Permit Applications with VRMC assigned numbers in a searchable database on our website. To view the original shoreline permit applications, as well as the associated VIMS report, additional information, and photos for every application reviewed by the Wetlands Program staff please see:
<http://www.vims.edu/ccrm/wetlands/newpermits.html>

Publications:

Rivers and Coast, Winter 2006, Vol. 1, No. 2, "Living Shorelines"
<http://ccrm.vims.edu/rivers&coast/rivers&coastfullcolor112906.pdf>
Virginia Wetlands Report, Spring 2007, Volume 22, Issue 1, "Living on the Edge"
<http://ccrm.vims.edu/vwr/vwr-spring07.pdf>

Workshops:

The CCRM staff put on a "Tools of the Tidal Management Shoreline Trade" workshop for 75 people on October 13th, 2006 at VIMS. The workshop presentations and handouts can be viewed online at:
<http://ccrm.vims.edu/workshops/fall2006/fall2006lwetlandswkshp.htm>

Task: 9 Virginia Institute of Marine Science
2006 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Distribution and Abundance Survey of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries and the Seaside

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
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The 2006 SAV monitoring program is proceeding on schedule. VIMS completed the acquisition of aerial photography (Step 1); ortho-rectification of the flightlines (Step 2); and quadrangles have been mosaiced, photointerpreted and digitized (Steps 3-4). VIMS released the 2006 SAV data to the US EPA (Step 5) and is now incorporating ground data (Step 6) in order to complete the 2006 Draft Report. Field surveys should be completed by May 31, 2007 and the 2006 Draft Report will be available for distribution by June 30, 2007.

Task: 10.01 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Seaside Heritage Program – Year 5. Coordination and Management Plan

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
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	10/1/2006 3/31/2008 6/30/2008		

A Seaside Heritage Program Boat Trip was planned for October 7 as part of the E. Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival to highlight restoration successes, however it was cancelled due to heavy rains and wind. Work began on development of a Seaside Management Plan which is now underway through FY 2005 Task 9.01. About \$19,000 remains unspent in this task. About \$4,000 is expected to go toward interpretive signage to supplement FY 2006 Task 10.2. It was hoped that about \$15,000 could be used toward development of local ordinances to better protect restored seaside resources, but the two localities currently do not feel they are ready. One possibility is to use these funds to create a Phase 2 of the Management Plan and or use the funds in part toward printing of a Seaside Management Plan document suitable for general public use and fundraising use. A decision will be made over the summer.

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Task: 10.02 College of William & Mary

Potential Impact of Common Reed Expansion on Threatened High-marsh Bird Communities on the Seaside Phase III - Red Knot Stopover E

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>		<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
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Product #1

Impact Assessment of Common Reed expansion on threatened high-marsh wintering bird communities along the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore – All field surveys were completed in December 2006 and January and February 2007. All data has been entered and proofed. Summary statistics and comparison of bird densities and species richness values with level of phragmites coverage will begin in June 2007.

Product #2

GIS Data Layers for threatened high-marsh wintering bird communities – GIS layers of transects and spot surveys have been generated. Bird survey data will be associated with the transect layer in June 2007. Data layers relating to the vegetation mapping of surveyed patches is beginning.

Product #3

Database of Red Knot observations - Actual observations of Red Knots began in late April 2007. Observations will continue until late June. Data is being entered as it is collected.

Task: 10.03 Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Restoration of Seagrasses in Virginia's Seaside Bays - Year 5

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>		<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
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MONITOR SUCCESS OF TEST AND ESTABLISHED SEAGRASS AREAS – Eelgrasses in large acre plots were examined in January 2007 and appeared healthy and robust. Further analysis of all sites is planned for the spring of 2007.

COLLECT SEEDS FOR 2007 RESTORATION EFFORTS – Planned for May 2007.

COLLECT WATER QUALITY WITH DATAFLOW IN AREAS WITH EXISTING EELGRASS AND ADJACENT UNVEGETATED AREAS – Water quality collection for year 5 is planned to start in April 2007, and continue through November 2007. This includes the deployment of a continuously recording sensor at South Bay.

LARGE SCALE SEAGRASS RESTORATION – Planned for the fall of 2007.

MAPPING OF SEAGRASS FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS – Planned for the fall of 2007.

Task: 10.04 Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper

Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>		<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
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The grantee failed to submit a progress report to the VA CZM program.

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Task: 10.05 Dept. of Conservation & Recreation - Natural Heritage

Management and Education to Control Phragmites on the Seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

During the first six months of Year Five, the VDCR-Natural Heritage project team has conducted planning meetings and developed strategies for completing its Seaside Heritage Program deliverables. As a result, actions and timetables have been scheduled during the upcoming field season and specific responsibilities have been assigned. Initial field monitoring work has been completed for Phragmites patches on Parramore Island treated during Year 4, with 25 permanent marked plots installed to evaluate re-colonization by native species. Progress has been made in the following areas:

- a) developing schedules and locations for summer 2007 landowner workshops;
- b) layout and content of a new full-color brochure with information about the reasons and methods for controlling Phragmites;
- c) monitoring Phragmites treated in 2006 to evaluate treatment efficacy and assess vegetative colonization of treated areas by native species;
- d) determining the 2007 Phragmites control strategy and choosing treatment locations;
- e) developing a draft Phragmites management plan for the Eastern Shore Seaside.

For component (d), DCR staff have been in contact with VA CZM staff regarding NEPA documentation for Year 5 (FY06) Phragmites control actions. A Categorical Exclusion was granted to cover DCR's Year 4 herbicide treatments to control Phragmites on the Eastern Shore Seaside and has been granted for Year 5, as well.

Task: 10.06 Virginia Museum of Natural History

Avian Habitat Restoration on the Virginia Barrier Islands: Test of a Non-Lethal Approach to Predation Management

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	1/1/2007	12/31/2007	3/31/2008		

VMNH personnel have continued to analyze and interpret data from 2005 and 2006. However, health problems (of VMNH personnel and their immediate family) have prevented the planning necessary to implement the field trial as described in the original proposal. The logistics and coordination required for the 2007 effort are orders of magnitude more complicated than the pilot studies that have been completed on Skidmore. Additionally, the M.S. student, who had intended to continue with this project as part of his graduate studies, recently informed VMNH of his decision not to pursue a Ph.D. So, he will not be available for fieldwork this summer.

The net result of all these circumstances is that VMNH has not completed the tasks for the January-March 2007 period that are outlined in the current contract. It is also highly unlikely that the full-scale field trial can be implemented properly this summer.

Given the difficulty of completing this study in 2007, VMNH is requesting a one year, no-cost extension of this contract. Thus no funds have been allocated to this task in FY 2007.

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Task: 10.07 Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Population Assessment of Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in the Seaside Coastal Bays.

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	1/1/2007 12/31/2007 3/31/2008		

This task was initiated by VIMS staff in January 2007 and very significant progress was made during the first three months. The seaside tidal creeks and coastal bays of the Eastern Shore of Virginia were divided into six geographic regions modified from the National Watershed Boundary Dataset. Regions were delineated based on potential differences in oyster habitat along a latitudinal gradient and a potential mainland to ocean difference for the more southerly regions. Polygons from the National Wetlands Inventory were extracted for use as base maps for potential oyster habitats within the six regions.

Using existing 2002 1-m aerial imagery from the Virginia Base Mapping Project (VBMP) as a starting point for mapping oyster reef locations, VIMS staff began more detailed aerial surveys and mapping of oyster reefs by flying at an altitude of 300 feet at low tide. Thus far the southern region of seaside (representing approximately 50% of the study area) has been surveyed for isolated patch reefs. Fringing reefs along the margins of tidal creeks will next be mapped in the southern region using aerial surveys. Then patch reefs and fringing reefs will be mapped in the northern region of the seaside.

Locations of approximately 50% of patch reefs mapped to date have been incorporated into an ArcGIS format.

Task: 10.08 University of Virginia
Monthly Seminar Series

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

No expenses or deliverables at this time. Seminar series is scheduled to begin the last week of May, 2007. VCR/LTER staff anticipates using matching funds to purchase the following equipment in May, 2007: LCD projector, laptop computer, and podium to be used in the seminar room at the Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center where the public seminars will be held. A mailing list will be generated from seminar participants, and program funds will be used to generate and mail future seminar announcements. Program funds will also be used to cover travel expenses incurred by visiting speakers.

Task: 10.2 Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
Interpretive Signage for Seaside Heritage Access Sites

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

The A-NPDC staff met with DGIF, and CZM staff on November 9 to determine content and location of the signs. It was determined that Wachapreague, Willis Wharf and Oyster (the major harbors from north to south on the seaside of the peninsula) should house the most extensive signage and smaller versions could be developed for other sites as funds allow.

Section 306A documentation for one site (Willis Wharf) has been collected. A-NPDC staff is working to obtain designs from DGIF to proceed with requesting use of the other two locations.

Task: 10.21 Virginia Marine Resource Commission
Seaside Heritage Program - Oyster Reef Restoration

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	4/1/2007 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

This project did not begin until 4/1/2007. However 306A documentation is currently being collected for submittal to NOAA.

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Task: 11 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Eastern Shore Land Acquisition

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

Complete 306A documentation was submitted through Grants Online on 5/1/2007. Award action request #2077765. DCR is hoping to close on the land no later than June 30, 2007.

Task: 41 Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
A-NPDC Technical Assistance Program

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

The A-NPDC has held five Ground Water Committee meetings. The Committee has worked on several issues. The Groundwater Consultant is reviewing the beta version of the USGS Groundwater Model. The second Annual Ground Water Awards have been presented to the awardees. This year two local agricultural operations were rewarded; one for maintaining buffer vegetation around farm ditches and improving irrigation equipment reducing water use, and the other for designing a pond collection system to reuse irrigation water at a nursery.

Two coastal management committee meetings have been held. The most recent one in March discussed Wind Energy options presented to the Virginia legislature in December.

Two coastal training/education programs have been held. A Heritage Day focused on native American culture was held in Chincoteague at the new Downtown Park. Many attended the events, exhibits, and dances. Another training program was held regarding new TMDL development on the Eastern Shore. One follow-up activity includes a further presentation to the Ground Water Committee in April.

A-NPDC staff have continued work on the Accomack County buffer project.

Task: 42 Crater Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Program

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
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(1) Crater PDC staff processed thirty-one environmental impact reviews in regard to local, state and federal projects. (2) Crater PDC staff commenced the updating process, along with the Town of Surry's Planning Commission, in regard to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Revisions will include natural hazard mitigation recommendations which are part of the regional Crater Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as data updates per the 2000 Census. (3) Two Coastal training meetings were held during the reporting period dealing with green infrastructure development (2/27/07-co-sponsored with RRPDC) and the evaluation of local government's land use controls as they impact coastal issues (12/17/06). This session was based upon the James River Association's study. (4) Crater PDC staff continues to support the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) activities- successful fall river clean-up (10/28/06). (5) Crater PDC sponsored citizens meetings on 11/15/06 to review and take comment on the draft 2007 Virginia Outdoor Plan that is under development by the VADCR. (6) Two Crater PDC coastal meetings were held during the reporting period (12/6/06 and 3/9/07). (7) Crater PDC staff participated in the Middle James River Roundtable in Farmville on 3/8/07. (8) Crater PDC staff participated in two Virginia Coastal Zone Workshops- shoreline erosion and protection (12/17/06) and land conservation (3/15/07). (9) On February 20, 2007, a Crater PDC staff member, Mr. Victor Liu, was awarded the Urban Conservationist Award for 2006 by the Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District for his work over the past twenty years supporting a variety of initiatives along the Appomattox River culminating in the formation of the very successful FOLAR citizens group. (10) The FOLAR group has been nominated for a "Leadership Award" for its citizen's participation by the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. (11) Crater PDC staff continued to participate with the Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront, South Centre Corridors Resource and Conservation and Development Council, Chowan River Basin Roundtable and Coastal PDCs activities. (12) The Crater PDC staff assisted FOLAR in successfully raising over \$53,000 during the reporting period in grants and contributions.

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Task: 43 Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Program

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: 10/1/2006	End: 9/30/2007	Closeout: 12/31/2007

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) Joint Environmental Committee (Chesapeake Bay and Stormwater) met six times. Approximately 100 local, state and federal staff participated as members of these Committees. In addition, the Environmental Strategic Planning Subcommittee met two times. The Joint Environmental Committees received presentations on the Virginia Outdoors Plan 2007, USGS Continuous Water Quality Monitoring, Center for Watershed Protection stormwater project, Norfolk Green Building Program, VDH Alternative Wastewater Treatment, various regulatory issues and several HRPDC technical studies.

The HR Chesapeake Bay Committee is meeting monthly to address a variety of Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act implementation issues, including development of a regional procedures manual and review of perennality issues.

Twenty-nine EIR and Federal Consistency reviews were undertaken.

HRPDC staff participated in meetings of the Coastal PDC Committee in November 2006 and January 2007. Local government staff were briefed on new state initiatives and activities being pursued by other PDCs.

Through the Committee process, recommendations were made to state agencies on regulations dealing with stormwater management and wetlands. The groundwork has been laid for continuing local government participation in the wetlands permitting process and development of stormwater management and dam safety regulations.

HRPDC staff is working with DEQ and several of the region's localities on TMDL studies. In addition, the HRPDC staff is working with DEQ on a long-term project to facilitate the outreach and Implementation Plan development process for all TMDLs in the Hampton Roads region over the next several years.

Presentations were made to the DCR-DOD Land Conservation Forum, American Society of Public Administration, HR Chapter, ODU Engineers Council, Back Bay Restoration Foundation Symposium, university classes, and were prepared for the Environment Virginia 2007 Conference.

HRPDC staff continue to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program Committees dealing with land use and with stormwater management. The localities are briefed on the CBP activities and local views are provided to the CBP Committees.

Newsletters were published in October 2006 and January 2007 and prepared for publication in April 2007.

HRPDC staff have participated in state CELCP advisory meetings and coordinated development of a regional proposal with the Cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach for the SWAMP area.

HRPDC staff is representing the region on Technical Advisory Committees, established by DEQ to address wetlands issues and PCB sampling to support TMDL development, and established by DCR to revise state stormwater management regulations and to develop an urban BMP cost sharing program.

HRPDC staff is pursuing several initiatives that will further enhance the region's efforts to develop a regional conservation corridor/green infrastructure system.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 44 Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Program

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Coastal Management Support:

MPPDC staff continues to provide coastal management support to local governments, local wetlands boards and local planning staff. MPPDC staff has provided GIS analysis of development proposals, land conversion, land use plans, and local land use ordinance implementation over the first six months of the project. A highlight of this support was a GIS analysis of land use/land cover and anthropogenic footprint in Gloucester County, Virginia.

Local Planning Coordination:

MPPDC staff convened meetings with local government level planners and administrators on 10/18/06, 12/20/06, 1/17/07 and 3/21/07 on topics related to coastal zone management issues. One meeting was devoted to the tracking and discussion of Virginia General Assembly Bills and Resolutions under consideration during the 2007 Session, and the relations to coastal zone management and local land use and policy implications. MPPDC staff also convened meetings of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) on 10/13/06, 12/8/06, 2/9/07, and 4/13/07. Two training sessions were held for local government administrators on nutrient trading in the Middle Peninsula (10/13/06) and on the Middle Peninsula Nutrient Compliance Plan (12/8/06).

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (PAA) - Wetlands Mitigation Special Project:

MPPDC staff continues to work with member localities and the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority to explore the possible nexus between VMRC's new wetlands compensation/mitigation policy and the use of the MPCBPAA to assist local governments with developing innovative management solutions. A meeting was held with Local Government administrators who expressed the need and support for having the PAA create a wetlands bank within watersheds not currently served by a bank.

Browne Tract and additional new CELCP Maintenance and Management:

MPPDC staff continues to oversee NOAA Fellow work activities and associated land management activities for the MPCBPAA. Dedication of the Browne Tract is planned for May 4, 2007. Progress on CELCP acquisitions continues.

Task: 45 Northern Neck Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Program

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

NNPDC staff have completed all of the Montross Comprehensive Plan maps save the Erosion Index Map and the Future Land Use Map. The maps completed are Location, Community Facilities, Existing Land Use, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas, Streams and Water Bodies, Slope Map, Soil Classification, Shrink-Swell Potential of Soils, Soil Depth to Water Table, Septic Suitability of Soil, Soil Permeability, Non-Tidal Wetlands, Flood Prone Areas, Town of Warsaw Planning Areas, and Aerial Photography of the Town. In addition, the Montross Sewer System maps have been digitized from the engineered construction plans, and a sewer line map will be created or the community facilities map will be revised with that data.

NNPDC staff consulted with Richmond County on the watershed to be chosen for the Land Cover pilot digitization project. After discussion, Totuskey Creek watershed was chosen, as it makes up a majority of the county's land area. NNPDC staff requested the watershed boundary layer for the watershed and has digitized a small portion of the watershed to date. NNPDC staff will be concentrating on this subtask in the upcoming months.

NNPDC staff revised two Northumberland County tax maps (13 & 14) that are located around the village of Callao, and created hard copy 11 x 17" maps.

NNPDC staff presented the NNPDC's Low Impact Development Demonstration Project at the Northern Neck Master Gardener's Winter Meeting in Warsaw. Discussion ensued on the practicality of LID techniques in more dense residential development areas (Reedville). Local planning coordination was provided in the form of the NNPDC's Fall Land Use Administrator's Meeting on December 12th, 2006, where Skip Stiles of the nonprofit organization, Wetland Watch, introduced his organization and offered support for any county initiatives relating to wetland protection or restoration. At the Winter Land Use Administrator's Meeting held on March 1, NNPDC staff educated the Land Use Administrator's on Virginia's Water Cleanup Plan, and the implications of the upcoming locality nutrient cap. Four training programs will be presented for local land use administrators during the second half of this grant period.

Coastal Management Support was given to Lancaster County in the form of drafting a new Future Land Use Map for Lancaster County's comprehensive plan (currently under revision). NNPDC Staff met with Lancaster County Staff on two occasions to create and revise the draft Lancaster County Future Land Use Plan map.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 46 Northern Virginia Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Program

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

Technical Assistance: Representatives from the various Northern Virginia local governments and organizations were polled in December 2006 to determine potential technical workshops to be held throughout this fiscal year.

NVRC will host four technical workshops before September 30, 2007 on the following subjects:

1. Designing, Building, and Maintaining a Small-scale Rain Garden
2. Mitigating for Stream and Wetland Losses in Northern Virginia
3. Stream Restoration Efforts throughout Northern Virginia
4. Maintaining Traditional Stormwater Systems and Innovative Practices

The Rain Garden Seminar is being held on Sunday, April 15th. Registration and preparations are underway.

Other possible workshop topics that were suggested will be researched and included as possible articles in the Fall 2007 NVironment Newsletter. A draft list of topics for the newsletter will be shared with local government representatives for their review and input.

Special Project: For the third year in a row, nine local governments and two independent water and sewer authorities formed the Northern Virginia Clean Water Partners and contributed over \$170,000 to the Regional Stormwater Education Campaign. In addition to funding the purchase of airtime for the radio ad "The Call," supplemental print ads, a postcard, television public service announcements, and a campaign webpage (www.onlyrain.org), which will serve as a repository for the campaign's products, have been developed. By formalizing the group's structure, the partners are effectively collaborating on stormwater education efforts throughout the Northern Virginia region and promoting common messages for pet waste disposal, motor oil recycling, and proper lawn care techniques – the top three pollutants most commonly associated with stormwater runoff.

Chesapeake Bay Implementation: NVRC continues to serve on the Potomac Watershed Roundtable and participate as requested in tributary strategies, watershed planning strategies, and related programs to protect water quality.

EA and Permit Review: NVRC continues to participate in the EA/EIS and permit intergovernmental review process.

Task: 47 George Washington Planning District Commission
Rappahannock River Basin Commission Staff Support

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

Staff supported the work of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission by planning and conducting two Commission meetings and one Executive Committee meeting. The Commission meetings were held on December 6, 2006 and March 28, 2007. The Executive Committee meeting was held on November 15, 2006. The agendas and minutes of the Commission meetings, as well as copies of the presentations, are posted at: http://www.rappriverbasin.org/meeting_events.htm

Staff also supported the work of the Non Point Work Group (NPWG). The Work Group held meetings on October 25, November 21, January 3, February 27 and March 26. The agendas and minutes of the NPWG meetings are posted at: http://www.rappriverbasin.org/meeting_events.htm. As listed above, the work on the RRBC Website was concentrated on updates relative to Commission and NPWG meetings.

Upon the recommendation of the NPWG, the Commission voted at the March 28, 2007 meeting to plan and conduct a River Basin Summit in October 2007. The Summit is in response to the HB1150 Water Clean Up Plan. The NPWG will be finalizing comprehensive comments on the plan by May 2007. The NPWG will lead efforts to plan the River Basin Summit '07 in order to provide information on several critical topics that face localities, SWCDs, state agencies and other stakeholders in the basin. The Summit format will provide for dialogue on the issues and a means of identifying next steps and action items. The four topic areas of the Summit will be: 1) the CAP, 2) TMDLs, 3) Ongoing Planning in support of the required semi-annual updates to the Water Clean Up Plan, and 4) Aligning the Model and the Real World. The Summit will be held October 30, 2007. Planning for the River Summit 07 will take the place of activities by the Water Allocation Group over the next 6 months. The scope of work is being revised to reflect this change.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

**Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007**

Task: 48 Richmond Regional Planning District Commission			
Technical Assistance Program			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>		<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007

Environmental Technical Advisory Committee – This committee is organized by RRPDC staff and generally meets once every two months to bring together local and state environmental staff for training opportunities and discussion of environmental issues. In the last six months, RRPDC has provided three training opportunities. In October, RRPDC staff hosted a half-day Groundwater Resources Forum with several presentations by DEQ staff to teach local staff about groundwater resources, including how groundwater is permitted and what the capacity is of the aquifers in the coastal province. Also in October, a representative from the James River Association gave a presentation on its study of local codes and ordinances in the James River watershed, especially those in the Richmond region, and how these codes work to protect water quality. In February, HRPDC staff gave a presentation to a joint meeting of Crater and RRPDC Environmental TAC on how to create a network of conservation corridors through green infrastructure planning.

Local Government Technical Assistance – RRPDC staff completed 20 environmental reviews of federal, state and local projects during this period. RRPDC staff participated on a committee for LID demonstration grants in Chesterfield County for the development of grant RFP and selection criteria. RRPDC staff is developing a proposal to study the feasibility of eco-tourism in the Chickahominy River watershed including the availability of public water access for the special project under this grant.

Public and Private Agencies/Commissions Liaison – RRPDC staff participated in the following meetings, strategy sessions or work groups: James River Advisory Council (JRAC) meetings, Middle James Roundtable meeting, and Virginia Regional Environmental Management Systems (VREMS) meetings and conference calls, James River Association’s steering committee meeting for the proposed Chickahominy Water Trail, and Local Government Advisory Committee of Chesapeake Bay Executive Council meeting.

GIS Data Support and Maps – RRPDC staff has continued to refine a series of environmental features’ maps to be incorporated into the Charles City County Comprehensive Land Use Plan including analysis of various soil types, wetlands, floodplains, sand and gravel deposits, agricultural and forestry resources, and species habitats, among others. GIS Data Support has also created draft maps of the Chickahominy River watershed for this year’s special project.

Task: 49 Virginia Beach/Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center			
Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Stranding Response			
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>		<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:
	1/1/2007	12/31/2007	3/31/2008

This grant officially started on January 1, 2007. During the period from January through March 2007, the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program (VAQS) recorded 15 strandings in Virginia. There were 14 strandings during the same period in 2006. The VAQS Stranding Team responded to 13 marine mammal strandings in Virginia during this reporting period, 10 cetaceans and three pinnipeds. Nine (69%) of the strandings were located in Virginia Beach, and three (23%) on Virginia’s eastern shore. The cetacean species included two common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), one Risso’s dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), three harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), two pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*), one fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and one humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). Pinniped species included three harp seal (*Pagophilus groenlandica*). One pygmy sperm whale, one humpback whale and two harp seals stranded alive. The live humpback (VAQS20071008) was discovered entangled in a gill net in shallow ocean waters off Virginia Beach. A team from the VAQS, using specialized large whale disentanglement gear and working from the Aquarium’s 18 ft boat, was able to successfully disentangle the animal. The VAQS team had received disentanglement training and gear from the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies. The humpback disentanglement was the first successful large whale response for the VAQS team. In addition, one of the harp seals (VAQS20071003) was successfully rehabilitated, tagged with a satellite transmitter and released in Virginia Beach. This operation was conducted with the assistance of the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation from New York. The VAQS Stranding Team and our cooperators responded to two sea turtle strandings during this reporting period, including one loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and one green (*Chelonia mydas*). The loggerhead (VAQS20072002) stranded alive during February. This is very rare due to the cold water temperatures common to Virginia during winter. Since the turtle was recovered from the Elizabeth River, it may have been utilizing a warm water outfall to survive into the winter. The Stranding Team continues to provide medical and rehabilitation care for this and several other sea turtles recovering from injuries. The turtles will complete rehabilitation and should be released off Virginia this summer when water temperatures warm.

VAQS Staff attended six professional meetings and made six formal presentations during this reporting period. There were five educational and/or training presentations by Stranding Team members to groups in the Hampton Roads area. Grant funded VAQS staff worked more than 450 hours and Stranding Team volunteers contributed more than 4,300 hours to the stranding response program during this reporting period. A detailed list of all trainings, presentations and publications will be included in the final report.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

**Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007**

Task: 50 Northern Neck Planning District Commission NNPDC Green Roof Innovative Stormwater Treatment Demonstration				
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:	
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007	

NNPDC staff have done extensive research on green roof technology and compiled a list of resources to implement the project. The NNPDC has entered into a preliminary arrangement with Gale Associates, Inc. from Baltimore, Maryland to investigate the structural integrity of the building roof system. Chris Coleman is the Project Manager and point of contact with Gale Associates. It has been determined that the roof deck construction is steel over open-web steel joists. Joists span approximately 30' on either side of a centerline beam with outer ends bearing on the masonry wall. To obtain the capacity of the deck, the engineer will measure the thickness with a micrometer. One or two cores will be taken from the roof to be examined. This testing will determine whether the roof system can take a green roof system. Emory Knoll Farms has been identified as the supplier of plants and plant expertise for the green roof system. Emory Knoll Farms is the only plant supplier that focuses exclusively on plants for extensive green roofs. They are experienced in working with different roofing systems, soil mixes, manufacturers, designers and climates.

NNPDC staff produced project location and site maps to send to the State's Historic Preservation Officer to get clearance from his office that no historical buildings or sites will be impacted by the project. When that approval is granted, the remainder of the 306A checklist will be sent to the Virginia Coastal Program so they can forward to NOAA for approval.

As of March 30th, no funds have been expended, therefore, no reimbursement is being requested.

Task: 81 Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Coastal NPS Program Management				
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Pending
Proposed	Start:	End:	Closeout:	
	10/1/2007	3/31/2008	6/30/2008	

This project is not scheduled to begin until 10/1/2007.

Task: 82 Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Pilot Virginia Coastal NEMO				
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:	
	10/1/2006	3/31/2008	6/30/2008	

Mathews County was selected as the pilot site for the VA/Chesapeake NEMO Program due to their willingness to participate and request for assistance. The County contacted the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and requested assistance based upon an understanding that the Bay Office was offering localities technical planning assistance. Mathews County is preparing to undertake a revision of their Comprehensive Plan, is evaluating their Main Street for new development and a stormwater plan, and has new staff seeking additional resources. The intent is to provide Mathews County with water quality based education targeted towards their Board and Commissions, staff and general public. In addition, the County has requested assistance establishing their GIS system.

Task: 83 TBD Coastal Non-point Source Pollution Competitive Planning District Commission (PDC) grant				
<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u> Project Pending
Proposed	Start:	End:	Closeout:	
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007	

Not enough proposals were received to contract these funds as competitively awarded PDC grants. A new project still needs to be identified for these funds (\$34,738).

Year: 2006

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 84 Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Virginia Clean Marina Program Development and Outreach- 2007-2008

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2007	3/31/2008	6/30/2008		

This project is not scheduled to begin until 10/1/2007.

Task: 91 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Section 309 Enhancement Grants

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Please see the progress reports for Tasks 91.01 and 91.02.

Task: 91.01 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Public Access Data for NPMS

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Due to the recent completion of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Public Access database, it was decided that this project as proposed would be duplicating that effort. VA CZM will request that these funds (\$43,000) be reprogrammed to a Task 93.03 for upgrades to Coastal GEMS. A proposal will be submitted through Grantsonline shortly.

Task: 91.02 Environmental Law Institute
Program Changes

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start:	End:	Closeout:		

At the February 1, 2007 Coastal Policy Team meeting the group discussed possible program updates. The following list of program update priorities was developed:

- 1) Fisheries Statutes
- 2) VPDES Statutes and Regulations
- 3) Erosion and Sediment Control Statutes and Regulations
- 4) Air Pollution Control Statutes and Regulations

The Environmental Law Institute is currently finalizing proposals for FY06 (\$20,000) and FY07 (\$20,082) to address the top four program change priorities.

Year: 2006

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 92 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Aquaculture Zones and Best Management Practices

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Please see the progress reports for Tasks 92.01, 92.02, and 92.03.

Task: 92.01 Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Center for Coastal Resource Management
Shellfish Aquaculture Suitability Model

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

The first months of this project have been dedicated to three primary tasks. The first task has been to form a steering committee or coordinate with professional aqua culturists on physical and biological conditions that are preferred on site when selecting suitable sites for aquaculture. At this stage project PI and staff met with industry professionals and reviewed the initial efforts to model aquaculture site suitability using a spatially based GIS technique. The industry professionals on the eastern shore of Virginia were receptive to the project tasks and expressed a willingness to be involved in the process as the project moved into the second or current phase being funded under this grant. Through numerous discussion and meeting, a set of refined landscape and biological parameters and their relative importance to successful aquaculture were identified.

Next, the original suitability model was revisited and where possible, existing data that could be updated was. Since land use was a major consideration and concern for aqua culturists, current land use was acquired and a protocol was generated for integrating land use into the model. This protocol is now in the testing phase.

Local zoning was also identified as important criteria for aquaculture siting. Therefore, local zoning data from three localities being used in this pilot project were acquired. The counties are Gloucester, Northampton and Accomack Counties. The industry professionals have ranked the various zoning designations received for potential impacts to aquaculture operations based on their best professional judgment. In the next few months a protocol will be developed to integrate zoning patterns into the spatial model.

Task: 92.02 TBD
Legal Review

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start:	End:	Closeout:		

These funds have yet to be contracted. We intend to use the \$40,013 to fund two tasks:

Task 92.02: \$25,000 will be contracted to VIMS for the "Development of Policy Options for Increasing Submerged Lands Available for Shellfish Aquaculture." This project will start in July 2007 and end in December 2007.

Task 92.04: \$15,013 will be contracted to VA Tech for "Documenting Economic Costs of Rappahannock Oyster Management Plan." Task 92.04 will start June 2007 and end September 2007.

A special award condition remains on the \$40,013, so scopes of work and budgets will be submitted through Grants Online when they are complete.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 92.03 Virginia Institute of Marine Science/College of William and Mary
Management Initiatives for Shellfish Aquaculture -Development of an Environmental Code of Practice and Best Management Practices for Vi

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Work on Product #1 (examples of existing ECP/BMP's) is 100% complete. VIMS principal investigators have collected over 450-pages of best management practices, most directly related to shellfish, all of which have been developed since 2000. These examples have been collated into "notebooks" for use by the VIMS principal investigators and industry advisors. Additionally, one notebook will be available for Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program staff at the completion of the project.

Four shellfish culture industry participants have been enlisted to assist the VIMS principal investigators in the development of environmental code of practices and best management practices to ensure they are consistent and compatible with the practices currently in place within the industry. The industry participants represent the wide range of shellfish culture businesses and locations within Virginia. These industry advisors have been provided with the notebooks of BMP examples mentioned previously, and have been given instructions regarding their roles in this process.

The VIMS principal investigators have begun to develop the "strawman" document to present to the industry advisors for their critique and input. This item represents the major portion of the work to be accomplished under this project and is identified as Product #2 in the Deliverables section of the proposal.

At this point, the VIMS principal investigators and industry advisors are in adherence with the Project Timeline as presented in the original proposal.

Task: 93 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Intergovernmental Decision Making

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

CZM staff conducted an "alpha test" of the Coastal Geospatial and Educational Mapping System (Coastal GEMS) at Virginia Commonwealth University's Center for Environmental Studies on December 14, 2006. Fifteen people representing various federal, state and local governments as well as NGO's and private individuals attended. About 35 map layers were available for the test and the testers were given the chance to navigate through and use all features/tools of the application and provide feedback on its usefulness and usability. CZM staff worked with VCU contractors to prepare a "beta" version of GEMS for public release in February 2007.

CZM staff participated at the General Assembly GIS Day on February 6, 2007 to showcase the upcoming release of Coastal GEMS. Legislators, agency representatives, and the Secretary of Technology took a strong interest in the Internet mapping application. GEMS was publically launched the following week on February 12, 2007. A fact sheet, disclaimers, and a quick help guide were created for the GEMS website located on the CZM webpage, in addition to a link to the application (www.deq.virginia.gov/coastal/coastalgems.html). Along with the launch, all CZM staff worked from February 12-16 in the General Assembly Building lobby demonstrating Coastal GEMS at an interactive exhibit. Legislators, lobbyists, and visitors were able to use Coastal GEMS live, and learn about the coastal resource data and information included. CZM staff held an open house at the General Assembly on February 14, 2007 to officially announce and welcome Coastal GEMS into the Commonwealth. Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, Nikki Rovner; DEQ Director, David Paylor; VGIN Coordinator, Dan Widner; Greg Garman and Will Shuart of VCU's Center for Environmental Studies, and CZM Program Manager, Laura McKay addressed the gathering and noted the enormous potential for Coastal GEMS to improve decision-making, to promote proactive planning, to help meet the Governor's 400,000-acre goal and to increase community involvement in coastal zone management. Rex Springsten of the Richmond Times Dispatch attended and wrote a brief article on Coastal GEMS. WAMU, an NPR affiliate in the Washington DC area, also aired a brief radio interview with the CZM manager on February 14 and 15.

Since the launch, CZM staff have been speaking at workshops and conferences about Coastal GEMS and providing training as requested. The CZM Program Manager gave a presentation at the annual CZM Managers meeting in Washington (March 7-9) and at a DCR-Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance workshop on "Land Conservation and the Chesapeake Bay" on March 15. CZM staff have also been responding to questions received from users via email, and have been preparing another contract with VCU-CES (see FY 2006 Task 91.01) to add additional tools and features to GEMS that would improve its usability and usefulness based on user feedback, as well as nearly 20 new data layers and information.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 93.01 Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Middle Peninsula Public Policy Project for Waterside-Landside Use Conflicts

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

The Waterfront Use Conflict project is currently transitioning from Phase 1 (funded by VA Sea Grant) to Phase 2 (funded by this project). Phase 2 began in earnest 4/1/07 so there is no progress to report for this period. The MPPDC will hold stakeholder meetings to discuss the outcome of Phase 1 in the coming months.

Task: 93.02 Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Center for Coastal Resource Management
Tidal Flushing Characteristics in Virginia's tidal embayments

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

The objective of this project is to perform a combination of water quality modeling analyses that will evaluate individual systems for general flushing characteristics. The tidal embayments will be ranked as well flushed, moderately flushed, or poorly flushed.

Meetings have been held with project staff from CCRM and the Department of Physical Sciences at VIMS. Methods and data requirements were discussed and tasks were assigned to various individuals on the project staff. Work was accomplished on data acquisition, classification of embayments and development of a GIS coverage. Calculation of flushing times is ongoing. The project will be completed by Sept. 30, 2007.

Task: 93.03 TBD
Additional Gems Layers

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		

Additional GEMS layers have not yet been identified. This task has not been contracted.

Task: 93.04 TBD
Coastal GEMS advisory Group, Model MOAs and Training Workshops

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Pending
Proposed	Start: End: Closeout:		

The scope of work for this project has not been completed. This task has not been contracted.

Task: 94 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Shoreline Management

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

Please see progress reports for Tasks 94.01, 94.02, 94.03, 94.04, 94.05.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 94.01 Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve System
Support for the Joint VA/MD Living Shoreline Summit

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	In Mailed Attachments
Closed	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 12/31/2006 3/31/2007		

Final products in mailed attachments:

1) Copies of materials from workshop: summit agenda, list of sponsors and partners, list of steering committee members, list of summit participants, abstracts of papers from scientific sessions, summit evaluation form, photographs from summit, and overall summit budget.

Task: 94.02 Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Center for Coastal Resource Management
Recommendations for Revisions to the Wetlands Guidelines

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

The VIMS Project Manager met with the Deputy Chief of Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Habitat Division to discuss content for the Guidelines revisions. VIMS and VMRC discussed a mutual interest in an integrated approach to guidance on Virginia's tidal wetlands.

In addition, VIMS Wetlands Program staff is reviewing relevant literature. VIMS Wetlands Program staff has begun preparation and internal review of text and is meeting on development of illustrative graphics.

Task: 94.03 Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Management-support synopsis of Virginia dune and beach assessments

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: End: Closeout:		
	10/1/2006 9/30/2007 12/31/2007		

Product #1: Summary Report: This effort has become a challenge in that the extensive research efforts over the past eight years must be reduced to a concise understandable format for public consumption. The goal is to use the research as justification of management proposals that must be directed toward legislators and their staff. The support must also be solicited from the local level as well. A draft is being prepared and formatted to what VIMS's anticipates will be an eight page 8.5"x11" glossy document with directed text, photos, and figures. A draft for review is anticipated by the end of May 2007.

Product #2: Beach and Dune Management Options: Work continues to outline the best possible management practices. A literature search is putting the management recommendations in a historical context.

Product #3: Power point Presentation: This task will utilize the results of Tasks 1 and 2.

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Year: 2006

Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 94.04 Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Site Survey and Water Quality Assessment for Better Sill Design

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

Site Assessment and Survey- The site was visited to plan the shore survey. Global Positioning System (GPS) control was established, and a survey plan determined. The actual site survey is scheduled for April 10-11, 2007, weather-permitting. Due to outside factors, including weather, tides, and plane problems, aerial photography has not been obtained yet. It is scheduled for the week of April 23, 2007.

Water Quality Assessment and Modeling - On March 31, 2007, a St. Mary's River site visit was conducted by Co-investigators in order to (1) gain insight to support development of physical water exchange and habitat studies and residence-time model development, and (2) to gain an overall appreciation of sill and other shoreline protection structures along the St. Mary's River. Field studies to support habitat assessment and water exchange modeling efforts are scheduled to begin in the early part of May 2007. Field studies are currently being designed and include: (1) near continuous measurement of temperature and dissolved oxygen over various tidal cycles at locations in front of the sill, within the sill opening (where appropriate) and behind the sill structure at various distances from the structure's gap; (2) a dye study to investigate water transport through the porous rock sill structure; and (3) nekton utilization study to investigate fish/crab use areas in front of the sill, within the sill opening (where appropriate) and behind the sill structure at various distances from the structure's gap.

Based on visual observations (see photo, next page), ground water is significant at the study site and estimates as to volume and impact on surface water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels behind the sill structure will have to be evaluated. Efforts to assess ground water impacts will be conducted in concert with near-continuous field collected temperature and dissolved oxygen tidal studies. Field studies will again be conducted in July-August of 2007 in order to capture periods of elevated surface water temperatures.

Development of the model is ongoing and will utilize field collected data for the various stages of model calibration and verification. The main focuses has been on model modification in order to handle water seepage through the rock sill system since the current model does not allow water passes through the rock before overtopping. A large domain model has been created and tested for the study area. The large domain model will generate open boundary conditions for the fine grid model that simulates the sill and marsh fringe system at St. Mary's site.

Task: 94.05 Dept. of Environmental Quality - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Living Shoreline Landowner Guide

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

A Living Shoreline Landowner Guide Review Committee has been established. Virginia CZM staff have developed an outline for the guide that will be shared with the review committee. Staff have researched and begun to gather material, which includes input from the Living Shoreline Summit last December 2006. The review committee will meet over the next couple of months to finalize the outline and DEQ staff will begin drafting the guide.

Task: 95 Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Special Area Management Plan for Dragon Run

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>			<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start:	End:	Closeout:		
	10/1/2006	9/30/2007	12/31/2007		

As per the February 2007 scope of work revisions that were necessary due to alterations and an extension of the 2005 grant (FY05 Task 91), most of the work for this grant is to be completed April 2007 through September 2007.

Progress thus far:

Task 2 - MPPDC staff initiated the development of a draft code of conduct (guidance to facilitate the general public and private land owners understanding of the proper ways to use the waterway and public/private rights).

Task 4 - MPPDC staff provided staff support for Dragon Run Day Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee decided to change the venue and date for this year's event to the Thousand Trails Campground in Gloucester on October 13, 2007. The campground is located at the confluence of the Dragon and the Piankatank River, and the event will coincide with the Seafood Festival which draws over 1,000 visitors.

Year: 2006

VIRGINIA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Performance Report, Section A, for Cooperative Agreement No. NA06NOS4190241
for the period from October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Task: 95.01 Dept. of Environmental Quality
Mercury Monitoring in Dragon Run/Piankatank River Airshed

<u>Project status:</u>	<u>Current approved</u>	<u>Final deliverable(s) status:</u>	Project Period Open
Open	Start: 1/1/2007	End: 12/31/2007	Closeout: 3/31/2008

Dr. Willy Reay of VIMS collected weekly atmospheric mercury samples and monthly methyl mercury samples and shipped them to the Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) lab in Illinois for the period of January 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program coordinated activities between the MDN lab, Illinois State Water Survey and Virginia DEQ as required during the contract period. The MDN lab analyzed 3 methyl mercury monthly samples and 13 weekly atmospheric mercury samples for the first 3 months of the contract period. A report (Product 1) will not be started until after the final June 2007 samples have been analyzed and reported on the MDN website in the fourth quarter of 2007.