COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218
TDD (804) 698-4021
www.deq.virginia.gov

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director
(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

MEMORANDUM

TO: **David K. Paylor, DEQ Director**

FROM: **Valerie Thomson, Director of Administration** Valerie Thomson

DATE: **February 26, 2016**

SUBJECT: **Authorization of FY 2016 SLAF Project Funding List**

Purpose

In order to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff, the Virginia General Assembly created and set forth specific parameters for the administration of the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) in 2013. The purpose of the Fund is to provide matching grants to local governments for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices that address cost efficiency and commitments related to reducing water quality pollutant loads. In accordance with that legislation, the State Water Control Board approved Guidelines for the implementation of the SLAF program in 2013. The Guidelines call for an annual solicitation of applications, an application review and ranking process, and the authorization of a Project Funding List (PFL) by the DEQ Director. In FY 2014 and FY 2015 DEQ conducted solicitations of applications for SLAF and you authorized funding for 71 projects in 31 localities totaling $22,937,158 in 2014 and 64 projects in 25 localities totaling $21,488,776 in 2015. A third solicitation for SLAF applications was recently conducted for FY 2016 and the applications received have been evaluated in accordance with the approved Guidelines. This memorandum is to inform you of the results of the evaluation process and the staff recommendations for the authorization of projects to be included in the FY 2016 PFL.

Applications Received

On October 8, 2015 the staff solicited SLAF applications from all the local governments in the Commonwealth. December 18, 2015 was established as the deadline for submitting applications. Based on this solicitation, DEQ received applications from 25 localities for 77 stormwater projects totaling $36,034,351.

Funding Availability for FY 2016

From the appropriation provided in the Commonwealth's 2016 Budget, up to $5 million of new appropriation was provided to the SLAF in FY 2016. With the addition of approximately $3.5 million carried over from previous SLAF funding, a total of approximately $8.5 million is currently available for new SLAF projects.

Application Evaluation

All 77 projects were evaluated in accordance with the program's eligibility requirements and priority ranking criteria. As stated, the funding amount requested for the projects totaled $36,034,351, significantly more than the $8,500,000 currently available. Relative to a highest possible priority ranking score of 550 points, the project scores ranged from a high of 508.2 to a low of 174.1. Given the limited availability of funds, staff believes it is appropriate to select projects based on the ranking process while also ensuring the greatest financial and environmental benefit to as many communities as possible. This concept was included in the SLAF Guidelines to address grant distribution concerns expressed by VAMSA and others during the Guidelines development process. As such, the projects recommended for authorization this year represent the highest ranked project from each locality moving down through the ranking list until all available funds were exhausted.

The recommended project funding list shown below provides funding for 17 projects identified in applications received from 17 localities, totaling $8,486,209, exhausting all available funds. This provides funding for 22% of the projects submitted, to 65% of the localities requesting funding, addressing 23.6% of the total amount requested. DEQ will issue Letters of Commitment to all recipients on the list so that they may proceed with their projects with the certainty of a funding commitment. DEQ staff will work with the authorized grant recipients as they complete the program requirements and advertise for construction bids. Upon the receipt of construction bids and the development and approval of a final project budget based on as-bid or contractual costs, the grants will be awarded individually to each recipient

Conclusion

DEQ solicited applications for FY 2016 SLAF grant assistance and evaluated the 77 projects received from 25 localities totaling $36,034,351. After an evaluation of funding availability, project eligibility, priority ranking, and in the interest of providing the greatest financial and environmental benefit to as many communities as possible, the recommended PPL for this third round of SLAF funding includes 17 projects in 17 localities totaling $8,486,209.

Staff Recommendations

The staff recommends that the DEQ Director authorize the following localities/projects for SLAF matching grant assistance, subject to compliance with the program requirements and the receipt of construction bids.

LOCALITY	PROJECT	AMOUNT AUTHORIZED
Hopewell, City of	Projects include: 2,300 l.f. urban stream restoration; regenerative stormwater conveyance system for 45.2 ac, enhance approximately 3 ac of existing impacted wetlands & creation of 0.5 ac new wetlands	$1,141,774.00
Virginia Beach, City of	Retrofit existing 40 ac Kemps Lake to Level 2 Wet Pond, with multiple cells incl pretreatment forebay, constructed wetlands (1 ac) & adding pond aeration	$1,275,000.00

Fairfax County	Flatlick Branch Phase III Stream Restoration for 4,325 l.f.	$1,494,000.00
Newport News, City of	Salters Creek Stream Restoration for 2,820 l.f.	$1,100,880.00
Prince William County	Powells Creek Stream Restoration, Phase I for 2,987 l.f.	$665,000.00
Roanoke, City of	Urban Stream Restoration for 681.5 l.f.	$150,000.00
Hampton, City of	Lynnhaven Lake retrofit to Level 2 Wet Pond with sediment forebay, aeration and upto 1 ac of wetland benches	$389,400.00
Christiansburg, Town of	Blue Leaf Drive Stream Restoration, Phase 2 for 288 l.f.	$44,550.00
Prince George County	Cedar Creek Stream Restoration for 1,200 l.f.	$178,750.00
James City County	Woodland Farms Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance & Stream Restoration, Phase II for 1,700 l.f.	$528,250.00
Kilmarnock, Town of	Stream Restoration of 3 different sites, approximately 1,000 linear feet.	$147,475.00
Norfolk, City of	Anne Outten Pond Retrofit of existing Level 1 Retention Basin to Level 2 Wet Pond for 103 ac	$348,950.00
Albemarle County	Urban Stream Restoration for 1,140 l.f.	$260,078.00
Henrico County	Sheetflow to a Vegetated Filter Strip - Woodman Park Energy Dissipator Project	$55,665.00
Hanover County	400 ft-stream restoration in Courthouse Ridge	$199,582.00
Isle of Wight County	Construction of Level 2 Constructed Wetlands and Level 2 Wet Pond for 29.83 ac at Heritage Park	$206,855.00
Purcellville, Town of	Retrofit existing non-functioning sediment basin into a Level 1 Wet Pond in Hirst Farm Subdivision	$300,000.00

17 Projects funded $8,486,209.00

✓ Action approved as recommended

Authorized by:

David K. Paylor 3/1/2016

David K. Paylor
Director, DEQ