



# Our Rivers, Our Bay:

## Virginia's Path to Clean Water

### Terms to Know

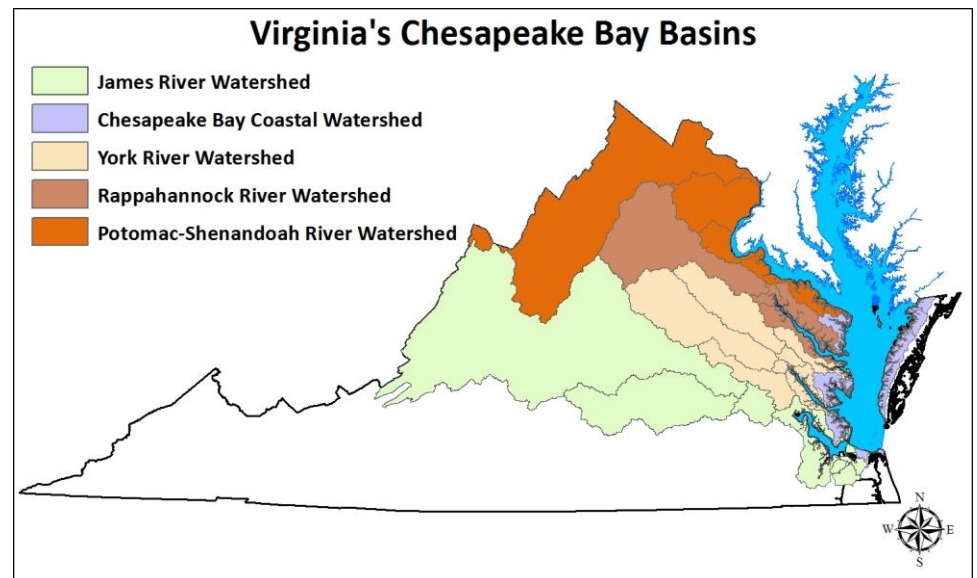
- ✓ **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** a calculation that determines the amount of a pollutant that can occur in a waterway, but still meet water quality standards and ensure clean water.
- ✓ **Local Area Planning Goals (LAPGs):** pollutant reduction goals established for local communities.
- ✓ **Input Deck:** a list of BMP combinations that will address local area planning goals.
- ✓ **Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs):** the holistic combination of BMP actions and programmatic strategies aimed at reducing pollutants in local waterways to achieve the TMDL calculation.

### Chesapeake Bay Clean Up

Communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, along with federal and state government, local government, nonprofit organizations, farmers, and private businesses are making significant progress restoring and protecting the health of local waterways and the bay. On Dec. 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a historic and comprehensive cleanup plan to guide federal, state and local actions as their communities clean up the Chesapeake Bay and the connected streams, creeks and rivers. Specifically in Virginia the TMDL calls for a 20.5% reduction in nitrogen, 25.2% reduction in phosphorus and 20.8% reduction in sediment delivered to the bay. The objective is to have clean up practices, known as best management practices or BMPs, in place by 2025 to reach the goal of a clean Chesapeake Bay and local waterways that meet water quality standards!

### Watershed Implementation Plans

Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) are the roadmap for how Bay states and the District of Columbia, in partnership with federal and local governments, will attain the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Currently, Bay states are working with local stakeholders to develop the third phase of their WIPs. The Phase III WIPs will include an update of state and federal strategies and the identification of new pollutant reduction strategies with a special focus on sustained local engagement and strategies.



5 Major Basins  
32 SWCDs

15 Planning District Commissions  
96 Localities (Counties and Cities)



## Leading the Way

### Virginia Planning District Commissions (PDCs)

Through active engagement with local stakeholders, PDCs will develop Input Decks for urban and developed land uses that meet the LAPGs in a format that best suits the dynamic communities in their regions. It is critical that local government leaders are involved in developing the Input Decks to ensure the suite of BMPs are realistic, reflect local priorities, will benefit local communities and clearly identify the resources (e.g., funding, technical support) that are needed to get the job done.

### Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

Pollutant reductions from agricultural lands are critical to meeting Phase III WIP goals. SWCDs provide critical technical assistance for farmers implementing agricultural BMPs that improve and protect the quality of streams and rivers. SWCDs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will work with local agricultural communities to determine the BMPs that are needed to achieve water cleanup goals while also meeting the needs of farmers.

## CONTACTS TO KNOW

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## Phase III WIP Resources and Tools

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/ChesapeakeBay/ChesapeakeBayTMDL/ResourcesandTools.aspx>