1995 – Wetland Restoration Trust Fund – wetlands only
2003 – Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund – streams added
Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund

### Program Stats through 2015

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Approved Projects</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Staff</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Accrued</td>
<td>$64M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Allocated</td>
<td>$49M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 10 projects initiated since 2011
- 1 SDP approved – 2015
- 4 additional SDPs submitted
- More SDPs in development
Program Operation – Project Development

- Initial Site Assessment
- Pre-App
- Proposal
- Public Notice
- Initial Evaluation Letter
- Land Protection
- Design plans
- Site Development Plan
- Construction
- Monitoring & Credit Releases

Initial Assessment
Project Development – Finding Sites

- Partners – conservation focus
- GIS Analysis – direct outreach
- RFP – solicit projects from consultants
- TNC staff – aquatic focus
- Landowner, consultant initiated
Project Development – Site Assessment

Mitigation potential

- GIS Analysis
- Compensation Planning Framework
- Program Status
- Site Visit

Landowner negotiations

- Protection mechanism
- Construction and buffer options
- Financial

Submit Pre-App
Project Development – Initial Evaluation

Concept Plan Development
- Scope
- Acreage
- Credits
- Delineation

Landowner negotiations
- Easement development
- Appraisal
- Title
- Survey
- Purchase agreement

Budget Development
- Bids from contractors
- Endowment estimates

Proposal Development
- Historic screening
- Species screening
- Corps/DEQ comments

Submit Proposal
Program Operation – Project Development

- Initial Site Assessment
- Pre-App
- Proposal
- Public Notice
- Initial Evaluation Letter
- Land Protection
- Design plans
- Site Development Plan
- Construction
- Monitoring & Credit Releases

Project Development
Project Development

- Initial Evaluation Letter
  - Funds allocated within basin

- Land Protection
  - Easement terms
  - Title review

- Design

- Final bids

- Site Development Plan
  - IRT coordination
  - Corps counsel approval
Program Operation – Project Development

- Initial Site Assessment
- Pre-App Proposal
- Public Notice
- Initial Evaluation Letter
- Land protection
- Design plans
- Site Development Plan
- Construction
- Monitoring & Credit Releases

Implementation
Project Implementation

Construction
- Endowments transferred
- Permits issued

Monitoring
- Annual mitigation monitoring
- Vegetation, hydrology
- Stability, invasives

Credit Releases
- Success criteria
- Successful acreage
Program Constraints

Lengthy Process

Agency Capacity Limits

IMPROVEMENT
Possible Solutions

• Audit
  • Required of our Program Instrument
  • At least every five years
  • Identified program weaknesses

• DEQ Reauthorization
  • State requirement – every five years
  • Leverage to address specific deficiencies
  • Instrument modifications

• Streamlined process
  • Identify areas where templates can be used
  • Identify areas where full IRT review is not required
Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund

www.nature.org/vartf