



# CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION · FEBRUARY 2018

## FEDERAL AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST

### FISCAL YEAR 2019

#### BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY

Funding at national level unless noted; all dollar amounts in thousands (K).

##### Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- EPA: Chesapeake Bay Program: \$73,000K
- EPA: Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319) Grants: \$179,915K
- EPA: Pollution Control (Sec. 106) Grants: \$230,806K
- EPA: Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund: \$1,394,000K
- DOI–Land and Water Conservation Fund (all agencies): \$400,000K
- DOI–USGS: Regional & Crosscutting Activities — Chesapeake Bay: \$12,600K
- DOI–USFWS: Cooperative Landscape Conservation: \$12,988K
- DOI–USFWS: Habitat Conservation — Coastal Programs: \$13,375K
- DOI–NPS: Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails Program: \$2,000K
- USDA–Forest Service: Forest Stewardship Program: \$20,036K

##### Energy and Water Development

- USACE: Construction — Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery, MD & VA: \$5,000K
- USACE: Construction — Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection (Sec. 510): \$5,000K
- USACE: Construction — Poplar Island: \$36,250K
- USACE: Construction — Continuing Authorities Program — Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Sec. 206) \$9,000K and Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Sec. 14) \$5,000K.

##### Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- NOAA–NMFS: Habitat Conservation and Restoration: \$53,342K
- NOAA–NMFS: Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions: \$35,871K
- NOAA–OAR: National Sea Grant Program: \$65,000K

##### Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration and Related Agencies

- USDA–NRCS: Conservation Technical Assistance: \$768,844K
- USDA–NRCS: Farm Bill Programs: No Changes in Mandatory Programs

#### Federal Investments Are Working

LIKE NEVER BEFORE, REAL PROGRESS IS BEING seen in Chesapeake Bay restoration. Record acres of submerged aquatic vegetation, reduced areas of oxygen-starved water, and a burgeoning aquaculture industry are signposts that the state, federal and legislative partnership to restore the Bay is working. We are gaining momentum.

But continued success depends on maintaining the mutualism of funding among federal, state and local governments, the myriad of non-governmental agencies that support the Bay and private citizens. And the dedication of the Bay's Congressional delegation has been steadfast in providing both the policy and financial wherewithal to achieve improvements in water quality and living resources.

As Congress begins deliberations on the FY 2019 Federal budget, the Chesapeake Bay Commission believes it important to detail in numbers and narrative the federal funding needed to support the Bay.

#### Who We Are and What We Do

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a tri-state legislative Commission with members from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. We work to advance policy, at all levels of government, to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. As an organization composed primarily of state legislators, we have a broad understanding of the creation and implementation of programs to achieve strategic objectives by governmental entities and the evaluation of the success of these programs. In our assessment, and supported by tangible results, the state-federal Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership has proven to be highly effective. The current relationship of state-led on-the-ground restoration decisions and actions supplemented by federal coordination, oversight, information and funding is producing real results in cleaner water, healthier fisheries and greater economic and environmental resilience.

## Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

### Environmental Protection Agency

#### ✓ Chesapeake Bay Program: \$73,000K

These monies maintain the pulse of the state-federal partnership to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Program funds are used to coordinate the complex science, research, modeling and monitoring efforts that drive restoration. Of the \$73 million allocated for the Bay, \$31 million is pass-through money provided to support restoration efforts of the jurisdictions.

The Committee Report should continue to specify \$6 million for nutrient and sediment removal grants and \$6 million for small watershed grants to control polluted runoff from urban, suburban and agricultural lands. These grants provide critical support for local restoration efforts and leverage, on average, three times more non-federal money for each project.

#### ✓ Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319) Grants: \$179,915K

An overwhelming majority of Americans—215 million (more than 70 percent)—live within 2 miles of a polluted lake, river, stream or coastal area. States have identified more than 600,000 miles of rivers and streams, more than 13 million acres of lakes and more than 500,000 acres of wetlands that do not meet state water quality goals. Many of these waters are considered unsafe for swimming or are unable to support healthy fish or other aquatic life. The Section 319 grants are a key resource in the effort to improve and protect our nation's waters. In FY 2017, this program provided \$8.4 million for Bay restoration.

#### ✓ Pollution Control (Sec. 106) Grants: \$230,806K

This national program helps states in the Bay watershed manage the federal water pollution permit program, or NPDES. Under the Clean Water Act, it is unlawful to discharge any pollutant into U.S. waters without an NPDES permit. Without sufficient funding, this permit process gets bogged down, resulting in business losses and reduced permit monitoring and enforcement. In FY 2017, this program provided \$20.3 million for Bay restoration.

#### ✓ Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund: \$1,394,000K

This program provides low-cost financing to local communities to improve water-related infrastructure

and local water quality. States have the flexibility to fund a range of projects that address their highest priority water quality needs. Using a combination of federal and state funds, state programs provide loans to eligible recipients to: construct municipal wastewater facilities; control nonpoint sources of pollution; build decentralized wastewater treatment systems; create green infrastructure projects; protect estuaries; and fund other water quality projects. In FY 2017, this program provided \$204.4 million for Bay restoration.

### Department of Interior

#### ✓ Land and Water Conservation Fund (all agencies): \$400,000K

The LWCF is the nation's premier land conservation program. Through locally-driven projects, it provides for the permanent protection of landscapes to safeguard the rivers and streams feeding into the Bay, while supporting local economies through recreation and tourism. Each year, a handful of top-ranked projects within the Bay watershed are selected for funding.

In FY 2019, we support three specific federal agency proposals: \$2 million to protect 250 acres for the Rappahannock River Valley NWR, \$5 million to protect 4,700 acres for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests and \$3 million to protect 430 acres for the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

The Department of the Interior failed to continue the Land and Water Conservation Fund Collaborative Landscape Conservation initiative for the FY 2019 budget process. We regret this decision as the initiative spurred a considerable boost in collaboration among federal agencies and other partners working to conserve land. Hence, it is recommended that the Committee Report include the following language:

“Rivers of the Chesapeake — The Committee recommends the National Park Service, in cooperation with Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and land conservation organizations, reinvigorate the ‘Rivers of the Chesapeake’ landscape conservation cooperative, to coordinate LWCF requests within the watershed to help achieve the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.”

## U.S. Geological Survey

### ✓ Regional and Crosscutting Activities — Chesapeake Bay: \$12,600K

Decision makers at all levels rely on USGS science to formulate effective plans for reducing the impacts of nutrient, sediment and toxic contaminants, and improve habitat for freshwater fisheries and waterfowl, in the Bay watershed. Without the monitoring and analysis provided by USGS, we will not know if what we are doing is working. This funding is distributed across multiple USGS line-items.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### ✓ Cooperative Landscape Conservation: \$12,988K

These 22 public-private Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) are a recognition that successful conservation requires voluntary, non-regulatory partnerships that span jurisdictional boundaries. The North Atlantic LCC works to protect the environmental benefits of the Chesapeake Bay.

### ✓ Habitat Conservation — Coastal Programs: \$13,375K

This is a voluntary habitat conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance, in collaboration with partners, for the benefit of protected species and resources. The Chesapeake Bay is one of 24 priority coastal ecosystems.

Additionally, the Committee Report should continue to recommend funding for nutria eradication at not less than the FY 2018 level, to remove this invasive species from the marshes of the Chesapeake.

## National Park Service

### ✓ Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Trails Program: \$2,000K

This program provides technical and financial assistance to state, community and nongovernmental organizations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. NPS collaborates with partners to increase access to the Chesapeake Bay and rivers, to conserve important landscapes and resources, to promote tourism and local economies, to engage youth in meaningful work and place-based education, to improve and connect people with recreational opportunities, and to interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Chesapeake region. It is budgeted as part of the Natural Recreation and Preservation-Natural Programs line-item.

## U.S. Department of Agriculture

### U.S. Forest Service

### ✓ Forest Stewardship: \$23,036K

This is the primary Forest Service program focused on private forestland management and conservation. Priority uses are: restoring riparian forest buffers, adding urban tree canopy and protecting high value forest.

## Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

### ✓ Construction — Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery, MD & VA: \$5,000K

Oysters are a cornerstone species of the Bay ecosystem, serving as a water filter. Their reefs provide habitat for many fish and other aquatic species. With current populations at less than 1 percent of historic levels, the Bay agreement targets oyster restoration as a key objective within 10 rivers. Restoration projects in Maryland's Harris Creek and the Tred Avon and Little Choptank Rivers are succeeding. In Virginia, promising results have been reported in the Lafayette, Piankatank and Lynnhaven Rivers. Work remains to be completed and four new areas have been identified for restoration by State partners and funding is needed.

We recommend the same Committee Report narrative as in FY 2018 if specific funding is not identified:

“Oyster Restoration. — The Committee supports the Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Project and encourages the Corps to provide sufficient funding in future budget submission or the fiscal year 2019 work plan.”

### ✓ Construction — Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection (Sec. 510): \$5,000K

With the completion of the USACE's Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan in FY 2018, specific opportunities for funding will be identified for water-related environmental projects to benefit living resources.

### ✓ Construction — Poplar Island: \$36,250K

This project will add valuable wetland habitat to the Chesapeake Bay, and at the same time ensure the economic viability of the Port of Baltimore.

- ✓ **Construction — Continuing Authorities Program — Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Sec. 206) \$9,000K and Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Sec. 14) \$5,000K**

Both these national programs provide funding for habitat restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

## Commerce and Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### National Marine Fisheries Service

- ✓ **Habitat Conservation and Restoration: \$53,342K**

NOAA's Chesapeake Bay office is budgeted within the Habitat Conservation and Restoration program. This effort supports many Bay Program goals related to critical fisheries, such as population assessment, restoration and habitat improvement. Critical species, such as oysters, blue crabs, striped bass and menhaden, have huge social and economic importance. The states rely on NOAA data and assessments to gauge their management actions.

- ✓ **Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions: \$35,871K**

Regional fishery councils and commissions are critical to the stewardship and use, both for commercial and recreational purposes, of our migratory fisheries. Working with State representatives from both the executive and legislative branches, policy and management plans are crafted based on the best science and stakeholder engagement.

#### Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

- ✓ **National Sea Grant Program: \$65,000K**

The Sea Grant program serves to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment. Within the Bay watershed, priorities include research to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. In FY 2017, this program provided \$4 million towards Bay restoration.

## Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee

### U.S. Department of Agriculture

- ✓ **Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA): \$768,844K**

CTA is the foundation of NRCS's ability to deliver effective conservation. By working with agricultural producers to prepare and implement conservation plans, sediment and nutrient loads to the Bay are reduced. The Chesapeake Bay Commission just released a policy report, "Boots on the Ground: Improving Technical Assistance for Farmers," that details the needs for CTA in the watershed.

- ✓ **Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Programs: No Changes in Mandatory Programs**

In FY 2017, Farm Bill programs provided \$83 million in cost-share assistance to the Bay's farmers, critical to achieving the pollution reductions necessary to meet water quality standards, both locally and in the mainstem of the Chesapeake Bay. Core programs included the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

## In Conclusion

Chesapeake Bay restoration can be achieved through the collaborative will, strength and determination of Federal, state and local governments, their legislatures, and the public. The economic value of a clean Bay justifies these requests for level funding in FY 2019. For each federal dollar spent, three dollars in non-federal expenditures are made.



**Chesapeake Bay Commission**  
*Policy for the Bay*

### Headquarters

60 West Street, Suite 406 · Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: 410-263-3420 · www.chesbay.us