



2014 Legislative Session Analysis: *Virginia's Land & Water*

The mission of VIRGINIA*forever* is to advocate for increased government funding for water quality improvements and land conservation across the Commonwealth. The 2014 General Assembly Session was like no other. Obstacles stemmed from a new governor and a General Assembly getting used to each other, as well as the governor carrying specific legislative goals that were high-profile and somewhat controversial. These factors all contributed to the historic budget standoff; never before has the debate over the budget in the General Assembly gone on for so long. To add to the delay, legislators recognized a last minute budget shortfall of \$1.0-\$1.5 billion.

Throughout the hectic session, VIRGINIA*forever* fought for specific goals:

- Water Quality – to boost stormwater funding to \$50 million
- Land Conservation – to seek an additional \$13.9 million, which is in keeping with the law

Here's how we fared:

Water Quality: Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF)

Gov. McDonnell's proposal (introduced budget)	VF's request	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain \$12 M SLAF balance • Put \$20 M in YR 2 of the budget (FY16) • Total of \$32 M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain \$12 M in SLAF balance • Move \$20 M from YR 2 to YR1 (i.e., from FY16 to FY15) • Add \$18 M in bonds • TOTAL VF ASK – \$50 M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The House honored VF's \$50 M request but the Senate gave only \$32 M • The House/Senate budget conferees yielded to the Senate's position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintained the \$12 M SLAF balance ○ Got the \$20 M moved from YR2 to YR1 • RESULT – \$32 M into the SLAF – a net of \$20 M for FY15

Land Conservation

Gov. McDonnell's proposal (introduced budget)	VF's Request	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Land Conservation Fund: \$2 M FY15 / \$2 M FY16 • Civil War Battlefields: \$1 M FY15 / \$1 M FY16 • Farmland Preservation: \$1 M FY15 / \$1M FY16 	<p>Per HB-1398 (2013) – add \$13.9 million in FY15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Land Conservation Fund: \$11.1 M FY15 / \$0 FY16 • Civil War Battlefields: \$1.4 M FY15 / \$0 FY16 • Farmland Preservation: \$1.4 M FY15 / \$0 FY16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia Land Conservation Fund: \$1 M FY15 / \$1 M FY16 • Civil War Battlefields: \$1 M FY15 / \$1.4 M FY16 • Farmland Preservation: \$1 M FY15 / \$1M FY16