

# VACo Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee

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# Key Initiatives/Issues, 2014

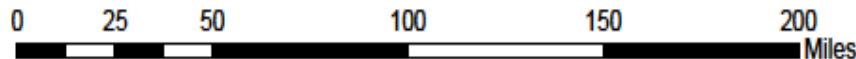
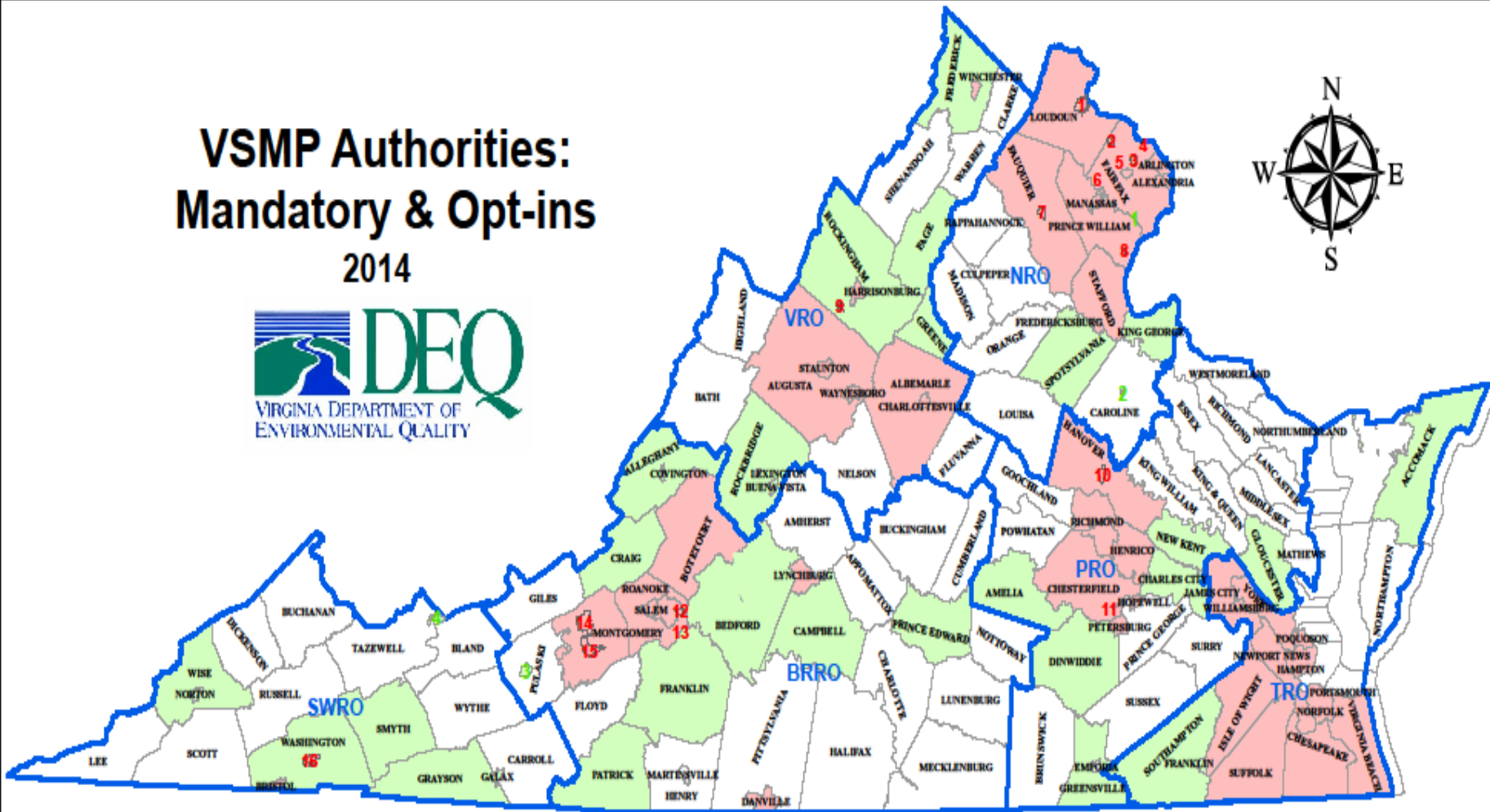
- Stormwater
- On Farm Business Activities
- Energy
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL issues
- “Waters of the U.S.A.” Definition

# Stormwater

HB 1173 (Hodges)/SB 423 (Hanger)

- Allow localities not subject to MS4 permitting requirements to “opt out” of responsibility of managing stormwater programs (to be turned over to DEQ.)
- Newly designated “MS4” localities will have until Jan. 1, 2015 to adopt VSMP program. (Not July 1, 2014.)

# VSMP Authorities: Mandatory & Opt-ins 2014



Note: Opt-out totals include counties and cities that did not adopt a local VSMP.

- Mandatory Towns & Cities:**
- 1 - Leesburg
  - 2 - Herndon
  - 3 - Vienna
  - 4 - Falls Church
  - 5 - Fairfax
  - 6 - Manassas Park
  - 7 - Warrenton
  - 8 - Dumfries
  - 9 - Bridgewater
  - 10 - Ashland
  - 11 - Colonial Heights
  - 12 - Vinton
  - 13 - Roanoke
  - 14 - Blacksburg
  - 15 - Christiansburg
  - 16 - Abingdon

- Opt-in Towns:**
- 1 - Occoquan
  - 2 - Bowling Green
  - 3 - Pulaski
  - 4 - Bluefield

**VSMP**

- DEQ Regional Offices
- 54 Opt-out
- 36 Opt-in
- 58 Mandatory

# Passed “Agritourism” Legislation

HB 268 (Orrock)/SB 51 (Stuart)

- Limit local government authority to regulate certain on-farm business activities.
- Bans approval of certain on-farm business activities unless there is “substantial impact” on public health, safety and welfare.
- Continues On Farm Activities Work Group (OFAWG.)

# Passed “Agritourism” Legislation

## “Farm Breweries,” (SB 430 Watkins)

- Creates new ABC classification of license for breweries (no more than 15,000 gallons per year) located on a farm that grows barley, malt, hops or fruit used to brew beer.
- Limits local authority to regulate, somewhat similar to “wine” bill from several years ago.
- Opposed by VACo, but favorably amended to allow localities to regulate minimum parking, road access and other factors.

# Energy

- Uranium mining: No legislation introduced in 2014 to allow uranium, or authorize development of uranium mining or milling operations.
- Hydraulic fracking: SB 48 (Stuart) defeated. As amended, would have allowed fracking in EVGMA only after development of new regulations by DMME with review by DEQ.



# ENERGY

- DMME formed a 9 member Regulatory Advisory Panel consisting of diverse stakeholders to assist with oil and gas drilling regulations (fracking.)
- Remaining scheduled meetings to be July 2 and July 23.
- Local government representatives serving on RAP (visiting with us today.)



# Other Bills

- Dam Safety, HB 1006 (Byron)/SB 582 (Garrett): Directs DCR to utilize “storm-based” approach to calculate Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP), which is meant to reduce repair costs by dam owners (which may be local governments)
- State Water Control Board\, HB 1193 (Webert): Requires Governor to consider geographic balance in making appointments to SWCB.

# Budget Highlights

- Language authorizing DEQ to work with VGIN to provide better data for local stormwater programs and recurrent coastal flooding.
- Authorizes \$20 million in VPBA bonds to support Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF), used for grants to help upgrade local stormwater systems.

# Budget Highlights (Cont.)

- From WQIF: \$6.5 million provided in FY 15 for grants to local governments to assist with development and management of local stormwater programs.
- From WQIF: \$31.3 million provided in FY 15 and \$19.8 million in FY 16 to fund agricultural BMP cost share program.

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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