

From: [Bill Blatter](#)
To: Nesha.McRae@dcr.virginia.gov; [Davis-Martin, James \(DCR\)](#); [Erin Yancey](#)
Subject: Phase II WIP, Lexington, Virginia
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:37:29 AM

February 1, 2012

Mr. David Johnson
Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation
203 Governor Street, Suite 402
Richmond, VA 232219

RE: Phase II WIP, Lexington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter and the data the City has recently input into your VAST data base, constitute the City of Lexington's response to your request of July 18th, 2011.

The City has input more accurate land use cover data and an inventory of the BMP's we have installed within the City limits to address local quality into your data base.

The **strategies** that the City of Lexington intends to utilize in its continuing efforts to improve water quality within the City limits are:

- Continue to explore nonstructural and structural retrofit possibilities on City owned land. The City has established riparian buffers, installed measures such as rain gardens and other similar bioretention techniques where feasible on City property, improved dry detention ponds by upgrading them to wet ponds and adding constructed wetlands to improve treatment of storm water runoff. These projects have been used to make the community aware of and to demonstrate the effectiveness of these types of measures
- Continue to identify opportunities to partner with property owners in installing BMP's on private property. The City has partnered with several private property owners to install water quality BMP's on private property with City assistance
- Continue to encourage those developing land within the City to install higher efficiency BMP's than required by current State regulation. The City has been successful with such efforts in the past. The City has also provided supplemental funding to support these efforts in the past
- The City has been an active participant in grant programs which have provided funding support for both public and private projects undertaken to improve water quality. The City will continue to aggressively pursue funding

opportunities to support this effort.

The following **resource needs** will be required to support the City in its continuing efforts to implement the above strategies:

- Sufficient grant funding will need to be made available to allow the City to continue its local water quality efforts. The City typically budgets local funds to provide the match required for these grants but depends on obtaining state and federal grants to leverage these local funds. We have been able to match out local investment with more than an equal amount of grant funding for the past several years.
- The local economy and the ever tightening local fiscal situation are making it increasingly difficult to include funds for water quality efforts in the City budget. Increased awareness on the part of State government of the impact of their mandates on localities and improved funding support of these mandates would greatly assist the City in maintaining a sound, balanced budget which still provides adequate funds for its water quality improvement efforts.

Hopefully, it will be obvious from Lexington's response to your request that we are fully committed to assisting the Commonwealth in addressing its water quality issues. As you requested in your letter, we believe that we have seized "this opportunity to fully engage and participate in this process so that we may work together to achieve our common goals of improving the water quality of local streams and the Chesapeake". I have to express my disappointment with the management of the process. Information was not made available on a timely basis as promised, regional DCR staff who we tried to use as a resource to answer our questions had a poor understanding of the details of the program, and there seemed to be a lack of communication with engaged localities such as Lexington. For instance, we learned that the time frame for a response to your initial request had been extended, not from a notice from DCR, but during a phone call when we were trying to obtain the information we needed to prepare our response.

We hope for a tighter, better coordinated program in the future.

Sincerely,

T. Jon Ellestad
City Manager