



FACT SHEET

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

VAMSA is a statewide association of local governments and the leading consulting firms that support local government stormwater agencies in Virginia.

VAMSA actively works where policy is made to support the development and implementation of policies based on sound science and balanced approach to environmental and fiscal sustainability.

VAMSA was organized in 2006 as the stormwater sister organization of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA), which has ably served Virginia localities since 1989.

Today, VAMSA is actively involved in every major state stormwater issue in Virginia such as:

- Virginia Stormwater Legislation
- DCR and DEQ Rulemakings and Guidance
- Phase I Individual MS4 Permits & Phase II MS4 General Permit
- Stormwater Management Regulations (Post-Construction Stormwater Management)
- Water Quality Standards & TMDLs for Urban Streams
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL and Watershed Implementation Plans
- Nutrient Offsets and Trading
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Local Implementation
- Erosion and Sediment Control Law and Regulations
- Dam Safety Regulations & Inundation Zone Policies
- Regulatory Compliance & Enforcement
- Stormwater Utility Law

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Monitor Virginia (and select federal) stormwater legislation, provide Membership with timely analyses, and advocate for policies that are good for local government and the environment

Monitor Virginia (and select federal) stormwater rulemakings and policy development, provide Membership with timely analyses, and advocate for sensible outcomes with regulators

Monitor Virginia and EPA Region III activities related to permitting, compliance, inspections and enforcement, and provide Membership with updates and generally applicable advice

Provide a forum to keep abreast of changing regulatory requirements, have a positive influence as such requirements are developed or amended, and share insights and experience

Conduct face-to-face Membership Meetings (typically held in April, July and October) with briefings and discussion of the most important pending policy matters facing local stormwater agencies

Provide weekly legislative teleconferences during the General Assembly Session to review stormwater legislation and develop VAMSA recommendations on pending bills

Issue email alerts and analyses and conduct special meetings or teleconferences for the Membership on hot topics, as needed

Help Members perform better and save money through enabling statewide peer-to-peer support, sharing lessons learned, avoiding "reinventing the wheel," avoiding pitfalls, helping localities behind the regulatory curve catch up, and creating a safer regulatory climate.

Gain from knowledge and experience from sister organizations in neighboring states that are also counseled and represented by AquaLaw (MD, NC, SC, WV)

Promote maximum effectiveness and avoid duplicating services by collaborating across disciplines within local government, such as senior leadership (VML, VACo), legal (Local Government Attorneys of Virginia), wastewater (VAMWA), and regional planning (PDCs), and with various non-governmental stakeholders

ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Trusted in legislative and regulatory circles as a responsible and expert voice on stormwater policy matters of critical interest to localities statewide

Helped secure \$35 million in state grant funds for stormwater capital projects in the 2013 General Assembly Session as part of a broader water quality bond package

Promoted efforts among Membership to develop estimates of Chesapeake Bay TMDL compliance costs, which were incorporated into critical Senate Finance Committee report in 2011 and provided a foundation for state grant funding appropriated in 2013

Negotiated improvements to draft Small MS4 General Permit Regulation approved by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board in March 2013

Lead proponent (with VAMWA) of 2012 legislative expansion of nutrient trading in Virginia, which was successfully expanded to authorize a locality to trade between its MS4 and its wastewater plant to achieve nutrient reductions at lowest cost to local residents

Secured a beneficial phase-in of stormwater nutrient reductions as part of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan through participation in Secretary of Natural Resources' Stakeholder Advisory Group in 2010 and 2011

Made positive impact on numerous other bills and rulemakings affecting local government authority and state requirements, including DCR rulemakings (e.g., design requirements for new development and redevelopment, small MS4 general permit, dam safety regulations, etc.)

Routinely brought together management, technical and regulatory expertise on stormwater issues to impact policy and promote knowledge and information exchange cost-effectively