



Virginia Environmental Law

22nd Annual Environment Virginia Symposium Wraps Up

By: Ann Neil Cosby. *This was posted Friday, April 8th, 2011*

I just got back from the [22nd Annual Environment Virginia Symposium](#), and, boy, is my frontal lobe tired. Hosted by the VMI [Center for Leadership and Ethics](#), the theme of this year's symposium was "Sustainable Solutions for Uncertain Times: Partnering for Economic and Environmental Success." With plenary sessions on [Global Warming](#) and the [Chesapeake Bay TMDL](#) and the [Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan \(WIP\)](#), and tracks focused on these issues as well as Energy Efficiency and Innovation, Getting to Zero Waste, Restoring Ecosystems, Conservation of Natural & Historic Resources and Emerging Issues [in Environmental Sustainability], the program provided diverse information on a number of relevant and important topics. Thank you, [VMI](#) for a great conference, to the speakers for a wealth of information that will keep me blogging for years to come, and for the sponsors for their support.

As someone who has been discussing and following the creation and implementation of the Bay TMDL and state WIPS ([here](#) and [here](#)), and the new Stormwater Regulations ([here](#)), I was interested in detailed discussions presented on both topics. Of particular interest were discussions about the costs of these programs, and how they will be paid for. After a truly informative session outlining how Phase II of the WIP is expected to be developed, questions remained as to what the financial impact would be on localities, and how communities will pay for required sector reductions in pollutants. For example, localities will be required to develop their own Community Conservation Profiles to meet sector load allocations, but modeling information used to calculate the cost of expanding or adopting new programs that might be included in such profiles is not yet available. Until such information is provided, it will be difficult for localities to implement Phase II in a meaningful way.

Other thoughts from attendees? Any additional issues from Symposium that you would like to share?

Also, a quick shout out and thank you to the [Virginia State Bar's Environmental Law Section](#) (of which I am a proud [Virginia environmental lawyer](#) member), for an excellent CLE prior to the Symposium on the topic of "Checks and Balances: Implementation of Federally Delegated Environmental Programs in Virginia." The topic could not have been more timely.

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