



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

FINAL REPORT: LEVERAGING ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE LOWER CHICKAHOMINY

Federal Fiscal Year 2020

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Contents

About PlanRVA	2
Executive Summary	3
Online Project Resources	3
Steering Committee and Final Policy Development	3
Collaboration with Outreach Contractors.....	3
Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan	3
Online Project Resources (Product #1).....	4
Web Page Updates	4
SharePoint Coordination Site	6
Steering Committee and Final Policy Development (Product #2).....	7
Collaboration with Outreach Contractors (Product #3)	9
Develop Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding	9
Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Meetings and Structure.....	9
Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Summit & Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan	11
Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Annotated Directory	11
Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan (Product #4)	12
Purpose	12
Approach.....	12
Conclusion and Next Steps	13

Appendix A: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding

Appendix B: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Annotated Directory

Appendix C: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan

About PlanRVA

PlanRVA, previously known as the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, was established in 1968 by the VA General Assembly. We take pride in being the only organization where representatives from the 9 localities come together to holistically plan for the future of our region. We see, we convene, we plan, and we shape Central Virginia's future.

- As the seer, we identify future opportunities for our region.
- As the convener, we bring local governments to discuss regional challenges and collaborate on a way forward.
- As the planner, our team (of experts) draft a plan of action based on the needs and input from our community stakeholders.
- As the shaper, we leverage resources to solve our regional challenges.

Our program areas of focus include emergency management, environment, transportation, and community development. PlanRVA is where we come together to look ahead. Tomorrow's solutions are born here.



Executive Summary

Online Project Resources

PlanRVA staff created a Lower Chickahominy SharePoint site for file sharing, project coordination, and collaborative documents and data tasks. The SharePoint site is protected and only accessible by invitation; it provides a private space for collaboration among project partners. PlanRVA staff also maintained and updated the [Lower Chickahominy webpages](#). Pages were reorganized to better reflect the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project (LCWP)'s status – support of a newly formed Collaborative effort instead of data gathering and outreach in search of solution(s).

Steering Committee and Final Policy Development

The policy pursued was the creation of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC), formed by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). LCWC signatories include the three counties of the watershed, the three Tribes of the watershed, and the two PDCs of the watershed. Interested stakeholder organizations can sign Supporting Cooperative Partner Statements, declaring their intention to support the signatories and their pursuit of the LCWC priorities. The LCWC aims to improve relationships among signatories and, in doing so, advance natural resource conservation and sustainable economic development priority actions. Throughout the grant period, PlanRVA staff worked in coordination with the University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (UVA-IEN) and stakeholders to finalize the MOU and set up the committee and meeting structure of the LCWC. PlanRVA staff facilitated final edits to the MOU and the signature process. The LCWC structure includes a Steering Committee and three work groups: Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship, Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions, and Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing. While UVA-IEN staff facilitated the first several meetings of these groups, PlanRVA staff provided administrative capacity in organizing and hosting the meetings and a February 2022 LCWC Summit.

Collaboration with Outreach Contractors

UVA-IEN staff provided PlanRVA staff a [synthesis report](#) of year 4 stakeholder outreach work. PlanRVA staff coordinated regularly with UVA-IEN staff regarding MOU creation and planning LCWC meetings. UVA-IEN produced an "Annotated Directory" for use by the signatories of the LCWC. The document informs how best to work with each county or Tribe and includes information about contacts, administration, and history. UVA-IEN also produced a [Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan](#) summarizing priorities and action steps identified through meetings of the LCWC Steering Committee and Work Groups. UVA-IEN facilitated the first several meetings of the LCWC Steering Committee and Work Groups to help establish administrative structure and ensure adequate feedback about for the Implementation Plan. UVA-IEN facilitated a February 2022 LCWC Summit at which LCWC signatories and stakeholders benefited from updates from each of the Work Groups, general interest presentations, and time for stakeholder relationship building.

Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan

PlanRVA staff produced an [Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan](#) advising LCWC signatories and stakeholders how to advance ecotourism through infrastructure improvements. The Plan is based on the Ecotourism Infrastructure Inventories completed during a previous grant year (FY19, Task 93). Consultation with stakeholders and GIS analysis resulted in the recommendations included in the Plan. The Plan introduces

the LCWP, the work done over the course of the 5-year study, and ecotourism - what it is and why it is important. The Plan then provides an overview of the previously completed ecotourism infrastructure analysis, with links to the three-ecotourism infrastructure inventory StoryMaps for each county. To set the stage for the recommendations, the Plan offers maps for existing ecotourism infrastructure in the watershed as well as planned improvements at public access sites. This helps readers to understand where ecotourism infrastructure is currently located, and where there are already plans for improvements. The Plan offers four different recommendations for improvements: improvements at existing public access sites, consider additional public access sites, improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure networks, and new and improved signage.

Online Project Resources (Product #1)

Web Page Updates

PlanRVA staff maintained and updated [project web pages](#) on the PlanRVA website. These pages serve as a resource for project stakeholders as well as the public. The most significant change to the suite of Lower Chickahominy pages was a reorganization that reflects the shift from a project developing ideas and working towards a policy solution to a collaborative organization working towards common goals supported by background information adding context to the work underway. The new web page organization groups pages about the environment, history and culture, and land and water use under a watershed banner. A project section includes an overview of the multi-year CZM-funded project (FY2016-2020), the economic study (FY2018), the project outreach process (FY2018-2020, extending to calendar year 2022), and recreation and tourism in the watershed. A section about the Collaborative includes a page listing all partners throughout the process.

An outline of the new suite of pages is below.

- Lower Chickahominy
 - [The Watershed - Overview](#)
 - [Environment](#)
 - [History and Culture](#)
 - [Land and Water Use](#)
 - [The Project - Overview](#)
 - [Economic Study](#)
 - [Recreation and Ecotourism](#)
 - [Outreach](#)
 - [The Collaborative - Overview](#)
 - [Partners](#)

In addition to the revised page structure, PlanRVA staff updated the layout of some pages using new images, consolidated language, and text drop down boxes. The revised page structure paired with the updated layout gives visitors an improved experience reflecting the status of the project. Some screen shots of the updated pages follow.

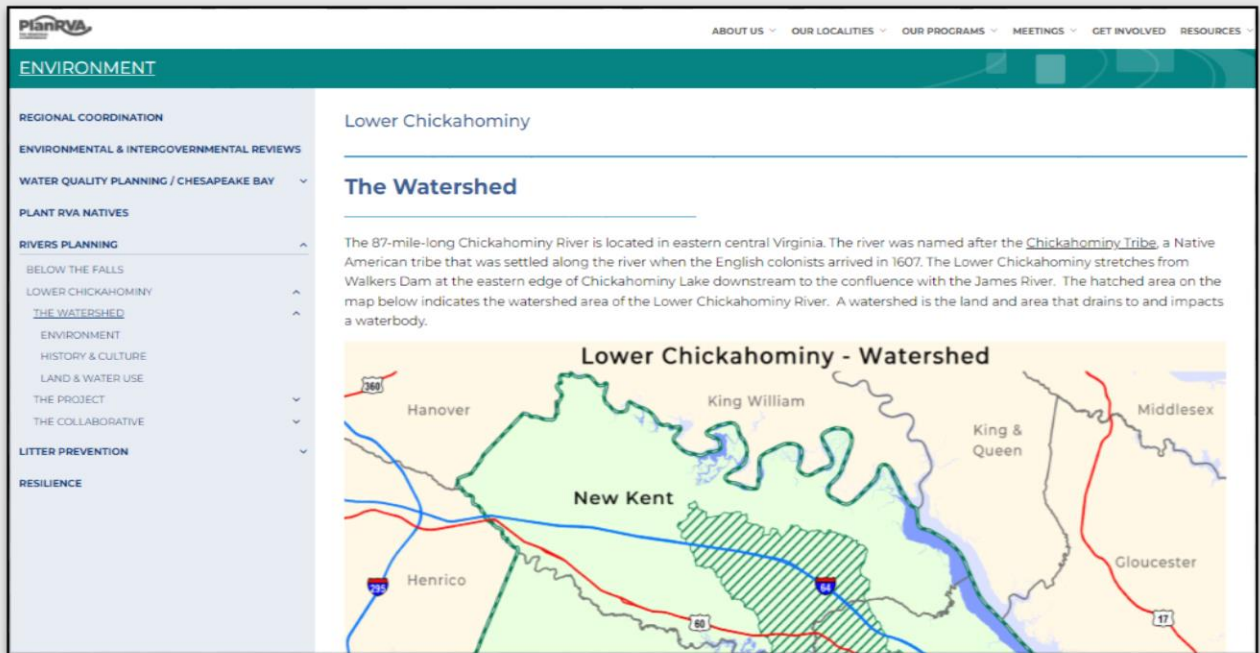


Figure 1 Lower Chickahominy - The Watershed webpage

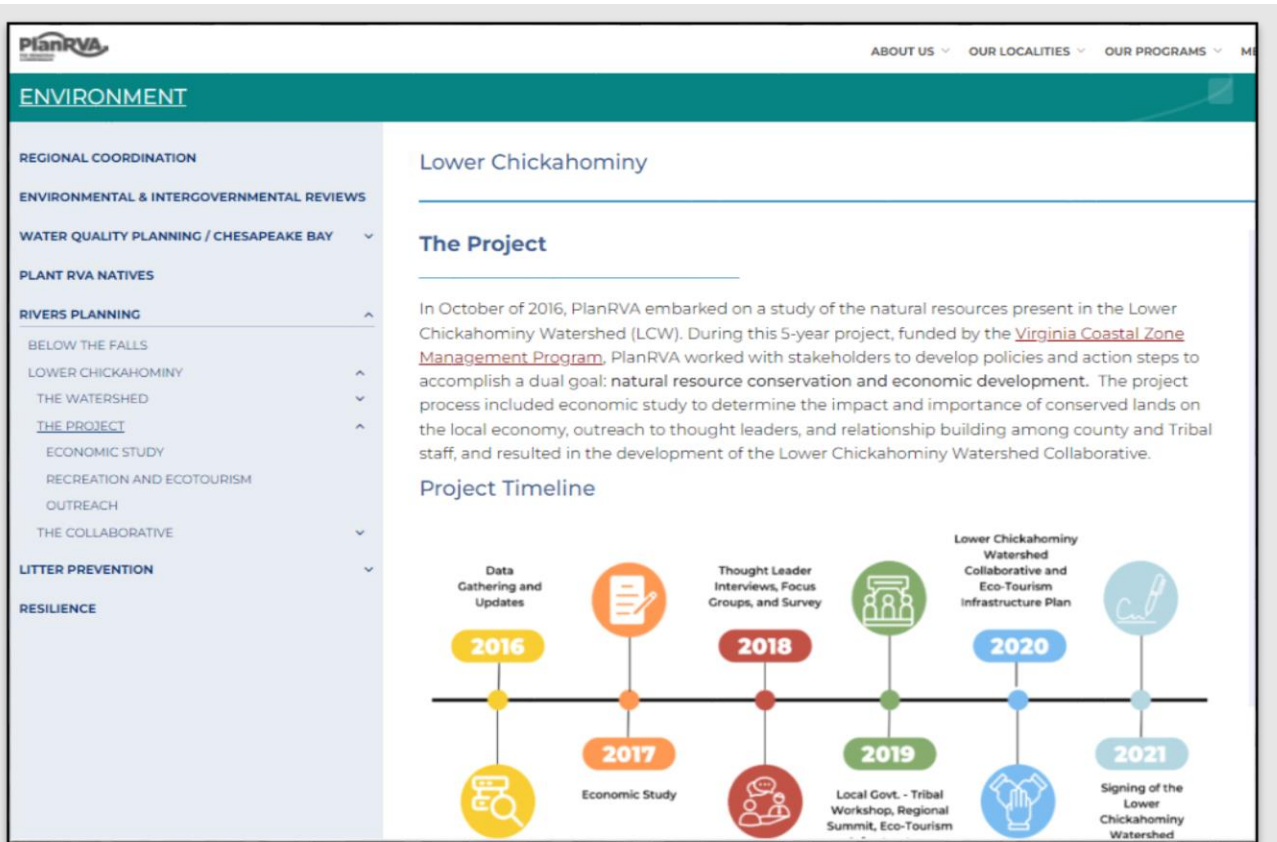


Figure 2 Lower Chickahominy - The Project webpage

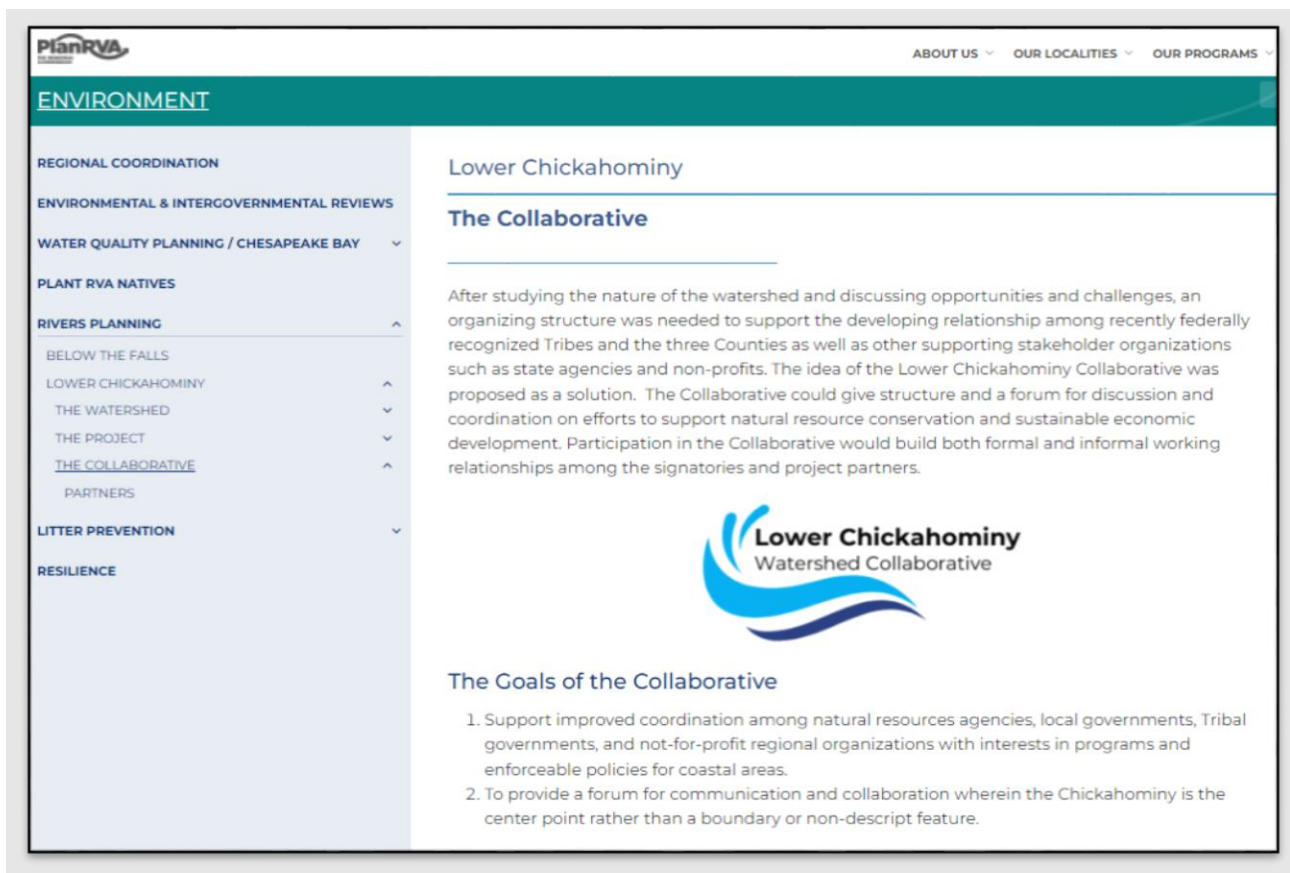


Figure 3 Lower Chickahominy - The Collaborative webpage

SharePoint Coordination Site

PlanRVA staff created and maintain a Lower Chickahominy Project SharePoint site. PlanRVA staff manage access to the SharePoint site for the LCWC signatories, supporting cooperative partners, and other project stakeholders. The site is used for file sharing, including large files, and collaborative editing, including simultaneous editing, of documents, spreadsheets, presentations, etc. The SharePoint site facilitates efficient coordination while avoiding email clutter and file versioning concerns.

Presently, the Lower Chickahominy SharePoint site include the following content:

- **Contacts** – A contact file indicating all members of the LCWC Steering Committee, Workgroups, and interested stakeholders throughout the past years of the project.
- **LCWC MOU** – A folder containing documents related to the development, signing and maintenance of the LCWC MOU.
- **LCWC Summit** – A folder containing files related to past regional Summits.
- **Steering Committee** – A folder containing files related to LCWC Steering Committee meetings and business. This file also includes the Annotated Directory (Appendix B) for use by the Steering Committee in working with each other.
- **Workgroups** – A folder housing materials and documents used by the LCWC Workgroups to collaborate and advance projects.

- **Other Resources** – A folder containing plans, reports, studies, etc. of relevance to the Lower Chickahominy watershed and the Collaborative.

Process Outcomes:

- The maintenance of a series of webpages devoted to the Lower Chickahominy project allows people to easily engage with the information. The pages are a useful resource for stakeholder and public education about the project and the LCWC.
- The Lower Chickahominy SharePoint site enables efficient collaboration among LCWC signatories and partners.

Steering Committee and Final Policy Development (Product #2)

PlanRVA staff maintained communication and collaboration with stakeholders in the region regarding progress of the Lower Chickahominy project during the grant term. The list of stakeholders includes staff from relevant departments in local governments, state resource agencies, federal agencies, Tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, as well as Tribal Council members, business owners, etc.

Outreach during year 4 led PlanRVA staff and other Lower Chickahominy watershed stakeholders to conclude that the primary policy to pursue during the grant term was the creation of an organizing forum or entity focused on the Lower Chickahominy. No such entity existed to organize efforts and foster relationships. The specific avenue pursued was the creation of the LCWC through a MOU.

Initially envisioned as having many stakeholder signatories, in the end the MOU was designed for only County, Tribe, and PDC signatories for a few reasons. First, while many stakeholders are interested and invested in the success of the Collaborative, it became evident that the work revolves around a core group of governments: the counties and the Tribes of the watershed. The support or interest of all or some of these governments is critical to the success of any proposed project, program, or policy. Second, additional support for the evolving relationship among the counties and Tribes would benefit the watershed. Recent federal recognition of the Tribes meant that past relationship dynamics were ill-suited to the current reality. The MOU and Collaborative creates a welcome space to build bridges and find areas of common ground. Finally, the PDCs were included as signatories to the MOU to support their member counties, to improve relationships with the Tribes across broader regions, and to support the Collaborative as it grows through technical and administrative capacity.

While the signatories to the MOU were limited to counties, Tribes, and PDCs, it was important not to lose the interest and support of other stakeholder organizations. The solution to incorporating and documenting stakeholder organization support of the Collaborative was through “Supporting Cooperative Partner” statements. These statements indicate how the stakeholder organization supports, in spirit and action, the LCWC. A sample Supporting Cooperative Partner Statement is appended to the end of the MOU. As of the submission of this grant report, two Supporting Cooperative Partners have submitted signed statements: Capital Region Land Conservancy and Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve – Virginia (CBNERR-VA).

PlanRVA staff worked in close coordination with outreach contractors, UVA-IEN, to finalize the MOU. The timeline for developing and signing the MOU was as follows.

- December 2020 – January 2021 – UVA-IEN staff draft proposed LCWC MOU in cooperation with PDC, county, and Tribal staff
- Feb 2021 – Lower Chickahominy Summit to discuss proposed MOU with broad group of stakeholders
- March – May 2021 – PlanRVA staff revise the draft MOU in cooperation with watershed Tribes and Counties
- July 2021 – October 2021 – Watershed Tribes, Counties and PDCs sign the LCWC MOU
- December 2021 – February 2022 CBNERR and Capital Region Land Conservancy sign MOU as Supporting Partners.

PlanRVA staff worked closely with UVA-IEN staff to determine organizational and administrative details of the LCWC. A Steering Committee of the MOU signatories provides guidance and oversight while work among stakeholders to identify and drive projects forward occurs in 3 Workgroups: (1) Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship, (2) Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions, and (3) Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing. PlanRVA staff worked closely with UVA-IEN staff to hold a Lower Chickahominy Watershed Summit in February 2022; the Summit is described in greater detail below. The intention is for the LCWC to hold an annual summit at which members of the Steering Committee, Workgroups, and other interested stakeholders can gather to provide updates about their work, learn about general interest topics related to the Lower Chickahominy, and network.

While the submission of this grant report comes about six months after completed signing of the LCWC MOU, the impacts of its effectiveness are already evident. Below are two examples that illustrate a new reality in the Lower Chickahominy watershed.

- In spring of 2022 New Kent County staff reached out to LCWC Tribes' staff to alert them to information they had just received about possible Native American artifacts at the site of a proposed development project. Few facts were known at the time given the early stage of the development project. County officials share what they could, informed Tribal staff about next steps in the development process, and welcomed questions. Tribal staff were appreciative of the communication and engaged in discussions with County staff about the project. This type of communication would have been highly unlikely in the years before the Lower Chickahominy Project given a lack of professional relationships knowledge about how best to engage each other.
- Based on conversations in the Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship LCWC Workgroup, Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) staff worked with Virginia Cooperative Extension staff to schedule a Generation NEXT workshop for fall 2022 in the Lower Chickahominy watershed region. Prior to these discussions the workshop had been planned for southwest Virginia. Generation NEXT is an outreach program designed to help family forestland owners make informed decisions regarding passing their land forward to the next generation. The LCWC Steering Committee had identified forest land conservation and heirs' property issues as matters of concern for the Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship Workgroup to consider and improve.

Process Outcome:

The LCWC is a means through which signatory and stakeholder relationships can be built and many of the policy and program ideas gathered over the past 5 years can be carried forward.

Collaboration with Outreach Contractors (Product #3)

PlanRVA staff worked closely with the Outreach Contractor team of staff from UVA-IEN during the grant term. UVA-IEN had supported PlanRVA and the stakeholders of the Lower Chickahominy watershed during the previous grant term, culminating in a regional Stakeholder Summit in August of 2020. [A report](#) summarizing that earlier work sets the stage for work accomplished during this grant term. The primary focus from late 2020 through early 2022 was to establish a new collaborative entity that could carry forward the ideas gathered during the August 2020 Summit.

Develop Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Memorandum of Understanding

In late 2020 and early 2021, UVA-IEN studied collaborative models and drafted a LCWC MOU. The initial draft was first reviewed by staff of PlanRVA, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), and CZM. Next, the draft was discussed with staff from the three watershed Tribes and counties: Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Charles City County, James City County, and New Kent County. The content of the draft was similar to that of the finalized MOU, however, it included all stakeholders as possible signatories.

At the February 2021 Watershed Summit, UVA-IEN staff and PlanRVA staff provided an overview of the proposed MOU. Feedback from stakeholders was supportive but widely varied in the ability, timeliness, and appropriateness of various stakeholders to sign the MOU. During the meeting, it became clear that a Collaborative entity must focus on the core of watershed Tribes and Counties. Accordingly, PlanRVA staff revised the MOU to only include three groups of signatories: Tribes, Counties, and PDCs. The PDCs were included to support their member localities and to grow their relationship with the watershed Tribes. The history and present workplans of both PDCs include many examples of providing support for regional collaborative efforts. Both the Tribes and the Counties supported the inclusion of PDCs as MOU signatories. UVA-IEN proposed that other stakeholders who wanted to support the LCWC could be included as Supporting Cooperative Partners in the Collaborative structure and/or as members on Workgroups. A Supporting Cooperative Partner is an organization that signs a statement detailing how they in action and spirit support the LCWC. The statement is customized to the talents and capacity of the particular organization. A same statement is appended to the MOU as the final page of the document. All partners were amendable to this proposal of having Supporting Cooperative Partners and broader stakeholder participation on Workgroups.

During March through May 2021, PlanRVA staff worked with the signatories to finalize the MOU for signature. From June through October 2021, all MOU signatories formally considered and then signed the MOU. A fully signed copy of the MOU can be found in Appendix B.

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Meetings and Structure

Throughout the grant term UVA-IEN facilitated a series of LCWC meetings to establish the LCWC structure and gather feedback about priorities and near terms actions. As shown in the graphic below, the LCWC Steering Committee provides guidance and direction for three Workgroups: (1) Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship, (2) Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of

Tribal Sites and Traditions, and (3) Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing. The Steering Committee includes staff representatives of the MOU signatories. Membership of the three Workgroups was determined based on interest expressed by project stakeholders publicly during earlier project meetings and email communication with stakeholders in the spring and summer of 2021.

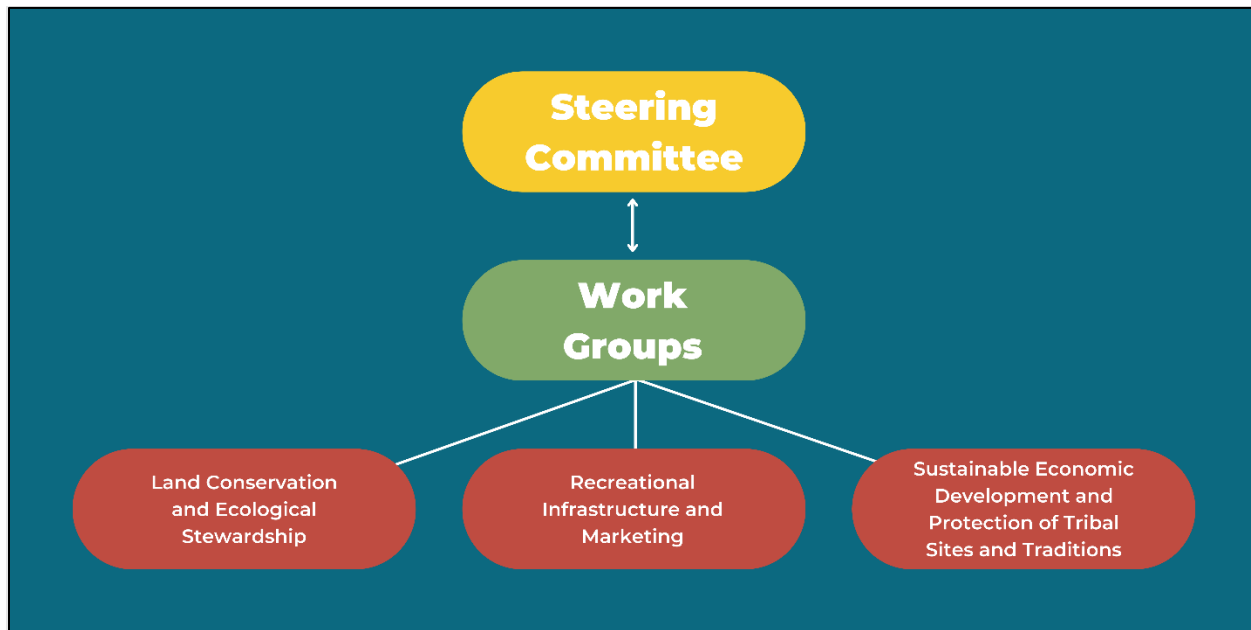


Figure 4 - Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Structure

The following meetings of the Steering Committee and Workgroups allowed UVA-IEN, PDC staff and Workgroup members themselves to better understand next steps and start work on priority actions of the LCWC.

- **September 10, 2021 – Steering Committee Meeting #1:** status update on the LCWC MOU, review and discussion of Workgroup plans, priorities, and timelines
- **October 27, 2021 – Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions Workgroup Meeting #1:** orientation to the LCWC and Workgroup, review of priorities and key strategies, initial discussions on work plan development
- **October 29, 2021 – Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing Workgroup Meeting #1:** orientation to the LCWC and Workgroup, review of priorities and key strategies, initial discussions on work plan development
- **October 29, 2021 - Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship Workgroup Meeting #1:** orientation to the LCWC and Workgroup, review of priorities and key strategies, initial discussions on work plan development
- **December 15, 2021 - Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions Workgroup Meeting #2:** review of priorities and key strategies; further workplan development
- **December 15, 2021 - Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship Workgroup Meeting #2:** review of priorities and key strategies; further workplan development

- **December 16, 2021 - Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing Workgroup Meeting #2:** review of priorities and key strategies; further workplan development
- **February 2, 2022 - Recreational Infrastructure and Marketing Workgroup Meeting #3** - review of priorities and key strategies; final workplan development; preparation for February LCWC Summit
- **February 2, 2022 – Land Conservation and Ecological Stewardship Workgroup Meeting #3:** review of priorities and key strategies; final workplan development; preparation for February LCWC Summit
- **February 3, 2022 - Sustainable Economic Development and Protection of Tribal Sites and Traditions Workgroup Meeting #3:** review of priorities and key strategies; final workplan development; preparation for February LCWC Summit
- **March 9, 2022 – Steering Committee Meeting #2:** Overview of Workgroup workplans, Annotated Directory review, Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan review

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Summit & Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan

In February 2022, UVA-IEN facilitated the first annual LCWC Summit. The aims of the Summit were:

- Update members of the Steering Committee and Workgroups about work underway and planned
- Provide an opportunity for networking
- Provide general interest presentations pertinent to the Lower Chickahominy region and stakeholders

Due to COVID meeting limitations, the Summit was held virtually on Zoom. The Summit opened with introductions from UVA-IEN staff and a quick overview of the project background by Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program staff and PlanRVA staff. Summit participants were then assigned to breakout rooms for discussions based on prompts to allow for a networking opportunity. Next Renee Hoyos, Environmental Justice Director at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Monica Esparza, a board member of the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative provided a presentation on environmental justice initiatives such as DEQ's environmental justice initiatives and the [Virginia Environmental Justice Map](#). Next, representatives from each of the Workgroups provided an update on work underway and next steps for each of the Priorities assigned to each Workgroup. Finally, CZM staff provided an update on a Tribal signage and mapping project and UVA-IEN staff provided an update on a LCWC Annotated Directory and Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan. The Plan summarizes and expands on the discussions of the LCWC Steering Committee and Workgroups about how to move forward policy, program, and project ideas related to sustainable economic development and natural resource conservation. A link to the [Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan](#) is provided on the PlanRVA website. The Plan is also included in Appendix C. The Annotated Directory is described in the next section.

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Annotated Directory

Discussions with County and Tribal staff highlighted their hopes for the development of the LCWC and MOU to offer increased opportunities for improved relationships, as well as a better understanding of how the other governments function. To support improved understanding, UVA-IEN staff developed an

Annotated Directory of the LCWC Tribes and Counties. The Annotated Directory was developed in cooperation with the county and Tribal staff to answer their questions about each other to ensure accurate information. A section for each government includes information such as: history, best method of contact, logos, flags, administration, and key contacts. The Annotated Directory is a Word document now housed on the Lower Chickahominy SharePoint site. The document is easily accessible by all and can be updated whenever necessary. A copy of the Annotated Directory is included in Appendix B.

Process Outcome:

UVA-IEN worked closely with PlanRVA staff and project stakeholders to establish a Collaborative structure and underpinning documents that set the stage for long term success by supporting relationships and action steps.

Ecotourism Infrastructure Plan (Product #4)

The [Lower Chickahominy Watershed Eco-Tourism Infrastructure Plan](#) aims to promote the project's dual goal of natural resource protection and economic development. The Plan provides an overview of the project (i.e., introduces the watershed, explains the project timeline, and states the goals on the Plan), introduces eco-tourism infrastructure as it relates to the Plan, reviews the eco-tourism infrastructure analysis process, and concludes with recommendations and next steps.

Purpose

The three counties that make up the Lower Chickahominy Watershed are historically rural areas. However, in recent years they have experienced growth and development pressures as urban areas associated with Richmond and Hampton Roads expand. As there continues to be pressure to develop in the watershed, this plan aims to promote both ecological conservation and economic development. The purpose of this Plan is three-fold: to introduce the watershed's existing eco-tourism infrastructure, to analyze existing conditions and identify any gaps, and to provide recommendations for new and improved development.

Approach

PlanRVA staff took a three-step approach to developing this Plan:

1. Define eco-tourism infrastructure:

To ensure consistency throughout the planning process PlanRVA staff first developed a definition for eco-tourism infrastructure as it relates to this Plan. For the purposes of this Plan, eco-tourism infrastructure includes those elements of physical or mapped infrastructure that support the eco-tourism industry. That infrastructure included the following:

- Bike and pedestrian infrastructure
- Interpretive signage, to include location and content
- Land trails
- Location or Cultural Heritage information signage
- Parking
- Public and private access to waterways

- Public parks (state and local) and other publicly owned lands open to the public, such as wildlife management areas or state forests
- Water trails

PlanRVA staff decided to include both public and private access sites given their contribution to the eco-tourism industry in the watershed. All sites were reviewed by county officials and verified as beneficial to the eco-tourism industry.

2. Collect watershed-wide eco-tourism infrastructure data:

To understand the existing conditions in the watershed, PlanRVA staff collected extensive eco-tourism infrastructure data. GIS data was collected through web-based resources, such as county and agency GIS data hubs. If data was not available online, PlanRVA staff worked collaboratively with local government staff and relative stakeholders to locate it. If data was not located by staff or stakeholders, layers were created based on up-to-date aerial imagery. To identify any gaps in public access opportunities, a Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project public survey was presented to the public. Additionally, PlanRVA staff engaged county staff and state agencies to identify any planned improvements for each public access site.

3. Analyze findings and make recommendations:

PlanRVA staff analyzed existing conditions data for the watershed to make informed recommendations. Additionally, a drive-time analysis was conducted utilizing GIS network analysis capabilities. The analysis was conducted to understand how long it would take visitors to drive from any point on the map to any access site. These findings helped to determine where there may be room for new public access sites to improve accessibility throughout the watershed. Following the analysis, PlanRVA staff shared findings with locality staff and relative stakeholders so they had the opportunity to review and provide any feedback before finalizing recommendations.

PlanRVA staff made four main recommendations:

- A. Improvements at existing public access sites
- B. Consider additional public access sites
- C. Improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- D. New and improved signage

Conclusion and Next Steps

The next steps for the LCWP include the continued discussion surrounding ecological conservation and economic development in the study area. Through the progression of this project PlanRVA staff and staff from UVA-IEN have worked together to form the LCWC. The LCWC is a collaborative effort to unite the three localities and the three Tribal Nations. Through the signed MOU, the members, along with staff from PlanRVA and HRPDC, work together to foster positive relationships between local government staff and Tribal Nations to improved communication and planning. CZM will also continue to provide staff support as long as needed to ensure the continued success of the LCWC.

The LCWC steering committee and workgroups will continue to develop policies and programs that align with the goals of the LCWP. The LCWC will continue to work to integrate these recommendations into

local (I.e., Comprehensive Plans and Capital Improvement Programs), regional (I.e., bike and pedestrian plans and long-range transportation plans), and state plans (I.e., the Virginia Outdoors Plan and Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan).

The Plan and recommendations are available in [this StoryMap](#). The StoryMap has also been linked to via the [project recreation and ecotourism page](#) on the PlanRVA website.

Process Outcome

A plan for ecotourism infrastructure improvements in the Lower Chickahominy watershed that can be used by signatories and partners of the LCWC to seek funding and advance projects.

**Appendix A: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative
Memorandum Of Understanding**

**Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative
Memorandum of Understanding**

Between

The Counties of New Kent, Charles City and James City

and the

Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Pamunkey Indian Tribe

and the

**Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (Plan RVA) and Hampton
Roads Planning District Commission**

To

**Coordinate and Collaborate on Efforts to Increase Sustainable Ecological and
Economic Activity in the Lower Chickahominy Watershed**

I. Signatories

The Signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are as follows:

- New Kent, Charles City and James City counties
- The Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

All of the above organizations and agencies are referred to herein as “Signatories.” The Signatories have a common interest in conservation, protection, and the sustainable economic growth of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed (LCW).

II. Authority to Enter into the Memorandum of Understanding

The enabling authority for the County and Planning District Commission Signatories to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding is contained in the following Virginia State Code citations:

Counties of Charles City, James City, and New Kent

Section 15.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia enables local governments to enter into cooperative agreements to exercise those powers that each may be enabled to exercise.

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Section 15.2-4205 of the Code of Virginia enables Planning District Commissions to enter into contracts or agreements, as they may determine, which are necessary or incidental to the performance of their duties and to the execution of those powers that each may be enabled to exercise.

The Tribes of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed have inherent sovereign powers and the right to self-government. The Tribes of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed are:

Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Note: The obligations of all Signatories herein are subject to the availability of funding, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as binding any signatory to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of available private dollars, state or congressional appropriations, or to involve any signatory in any contract or other obligation for further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or private allocations.

III. Lower Chickahominy Supporting Cooperative Partners

State agencies, Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses that wish to support the Signatories and purpose of this MOU may sign a Supporting Cooperative Partner page. These Supporting Cooperative Partners agree to advise, participate as invited, and contribute to the work of the Signatories in carrying out this MOU. A sample Supporting Cooperative Partner statement page is included as an attachment to this MOU.

IV. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate enhanced cooperative and collaborative efforts to increase sustainable ecological and economic activity in the LCW. The Lower Chickahominy watershed (10-digit HUC – 0208020606) is recognized for harboring some of the most biologically diverse and ecologically significant areas in the Coastal Zone of Virginia.

V. Background

This project was initiated in 2016 and established a collaborative planning process across three counties in the LCW, east of Richmond in the counties of New Kent, Charles City, and James City, Virginia to identify and establish an overarching vision for land use, land conservation, and sustainable economic priorities. The effort, funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), supports improved coordination among natural resource agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, and not for profit regional organizations with interests in programs and enforceable policies for coastal areas. This approach also aims to build and strengthen relationships and partnerships among multiple stakeholders across the watershed. Through the first four years of the project, several critical project products have yielded valuable information on the high value of this watershed and the potential for both conservation and sustainable business opportunity. These products, funded by the Virginia CZM Program, are as follows:

- A conservation inventory conducted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Division;
- An economic report on the socio-economic impacts of conserved land in the LCW;

- A stakeholder engagement process including thought leader interviews, focus groups, and stakeholder survey report, individual consultations with three Tribes, and a joint consultation with the three counties;
- A joint Local Government/Tribal Workshop, with a summary report;
- A LCW Summit, with a summary report of the draft LCW Action Plan.

VI. The Natural Resources of the LCW

The three counties of the Lower Chickahominy watershed boast some of the most valuable and unique natural resources in Virginia. Healthy streams run through forested lands and open spaces that are home to the native flora and fauna of the tidal fresh zone of coastal Virginia.

The LCW is characteristic of a rural area experiencing suburban development pressure in Virginia's coastal plain. Figure One below shows the LCW. New Kent County is the third fastest growing county in the Commonwealth of Virginia with Interstate 64 running down the spine of the watershed. Historic Route 5 runs along the southern boundary of the LCW. These three counties run the spectrum from rural to urban, with Charles City County being the most rural to James City County being the most urban. The counties in the LCW represent three different densities of population, ranging from Charles City as the least populated (pop: 6,963) to James City as the most populated (pop: 76,523). The James River borders the southern boundary of the LCW, with the LC emptying into it at the Charles City and James City County border.

The majority of land in the LCW is covered by small and large blocks of privately-owned forests, with some state-owned preserves. Figure Two shows the natural resources of the watershed. The presence of active agriculture across the landscape is reflected in land areas classified as pasture or cropland. Residential and business development is reflected in impervious, turf/grass, and disturbed land areas. The entire three-county study area covers approximately 608 square miles of land and water. Water in rivers and streams comprises 12.6% of the study area. The largest component of land cover is forest (blocks of tree cover greater than 1 acre) or trees (blocks of tree cover less than 1 acre); a total of 52.9% of the entire study area, or 60.4% of the land area, is covered by trees or forest. Impervious cover is approximately 4.0% of the study area.

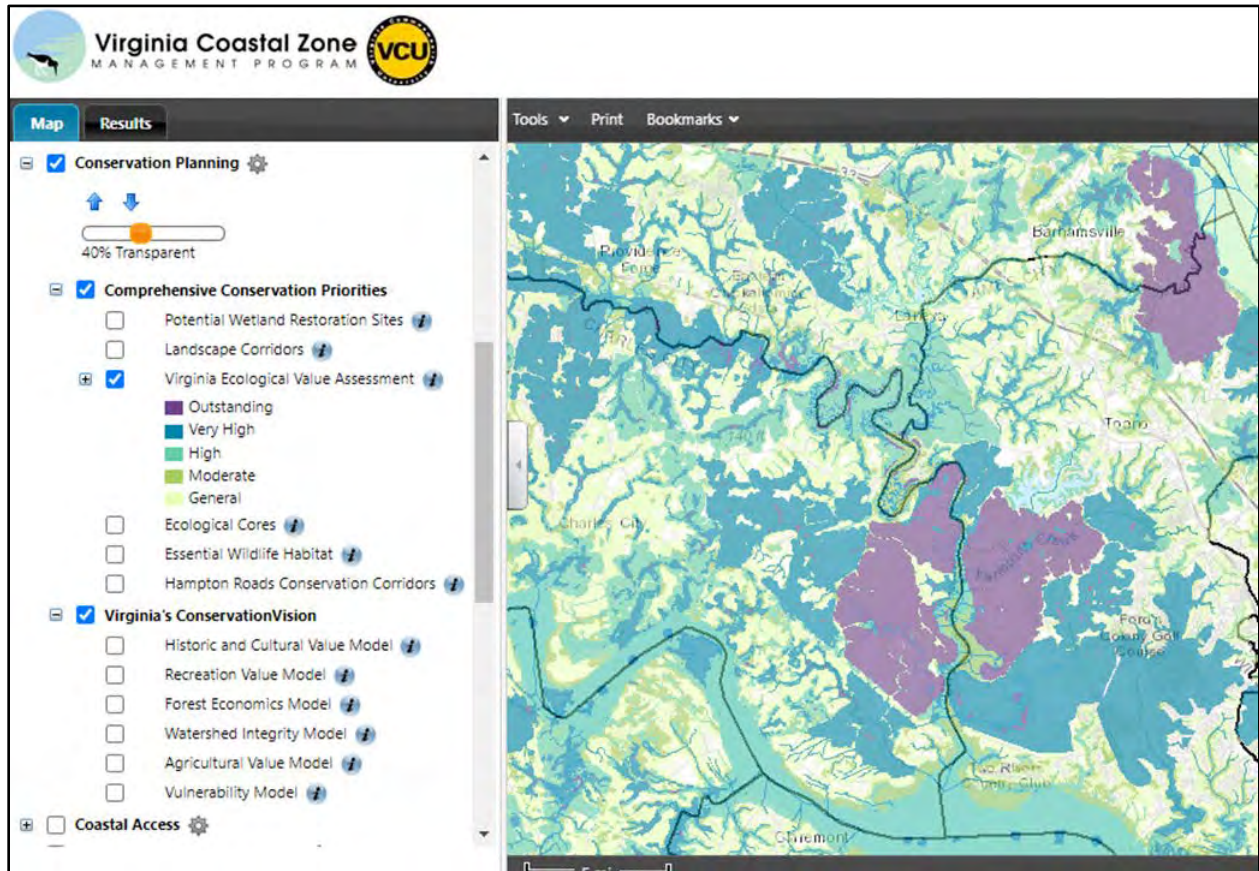
The Lower Chickahominy study area is home to 10 streams and creeks that have been identified as "healthy waters" by the Healthy Waters program of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. One of these is recognized as "outstanding" water, meaning it is estimated to be in the top 20% of waters with high ecological health included in the program. Seventeen bodies of water are in

the middle 20% of streams analyzed in the program and have been identified as restoration candidates. While these bodies of water have suffered some ecological degradation, they maintain aspects of ecological health and present as strong candidates for restoration efforts. The Lower Chickahominy study area has a higher percentage of land and water area recognized in the Virginia Ecological Value Assessment (VEVA) as having either Outstanding or Very High ecological value compared to the entire Coastal Zone of Virginia; 39% compared to 34%. Therefore, the three counties of the Lower Chickahominy represent a concentration of ecologically valuable land and water habitat.

Figure One. The Lower Chickahominy Watershed



Figure Two. Natural Resources of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed



VII. The Cultural Resources of the LCW

The LCW is as rich in cultural resources as it is in natural resources. One of the major cultural resources in the LCW is the presence of three Virginia Tribes, the Chickahominy, Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey. The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017 recognized the Chickahominy, Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Monacan, and Nansemond Tribes as sovereign nations, bringing the number to 573 federally recognized Tribes in the U.S. While the Pamunkey Indian Tribe was recognized via treaty by the Commonwealth since colonial times, they became the first Virginia tribe to be granted federal recognition by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2015, a process finalized in 2016.

Furthermore, this recent recognition of the Virginia Tribes in the LCW also means that the relationships with all levels of government will change. Relationships, particularly at the local level, are critical to the protection of both cultural heritage

and sacred lands for which this Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project (LCWP) has a vested interest in enhancing.

One clear outcome of the Tribes' participation in this MOU is to ensure that Tribal interests are respected and appropriately consulted by local governments in their decision-making through the future of the watershed. A second outcome is to develop a longer-term healthy relationship between local agencies and the Tribal nations, ensuring that Tribal interests are considered and reflected in policy proposals and any other emerging strategy elements that are developed during the LCWP work.

Regarding this work with the Tribes, our primary emphasis was placed on preserving and protecting the cultural heritage and sacred lands. The recent recognition provides inherent powers to the Tribes, and particularly notable is the state's inability to interfere in Tribal affairs. Second, the Tribes desire open and frequent communication processes that are mindful of the uniqueness of each of the tribe's communication methods. Third, the "taught" history is not accurate, and corrections, both historical and current, are paramount if Tribes are to be active, independent sovereign nations as federal recognition dictates. Local government officials in the LCW, particularly those from Charles City County, described a strong relationship with the LCW Tribes. Fourth, the recent recognition has also brought an increased administrative and collaborative workload for Tribal leaders. Hence, longer response times to requests from other governments should be accounted for as relationships grow. Tribal staff is limited and consulting Tribes early in the decision-making process is critical; specifically, consultation is necessary when actions and/or development have known or potential impacts on Tribal lands and interests. To ensure effective communication, Tribes requested frequent contact with county staff and leadership.

The relationship between local governments and Tribes does have, as a core component, the need to work closely with the Department of Historic Resources to further protect Tribal cultural resources. The Commonwealth of Virginia has established an Archeological Discovery Protocol that is referenced in the Virginia Antiquities Act (Va. Code §§ 10.1-1188, 10.1-1197.6 and 15.2-2306). The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires review and consultation with localities and tribes on projects; these Section 106 reviews are limited to projects including Federal actions. While a robust mapping program that identifies and protects sensitive sites safeguards the removal of cultural artifacts, Tribal workshop participants asserted that promoting clarity of regulation(s) and a strong consultation process would fit into the LCWP effort to improve enforceable policies and programs. Discussions between Tribes and local governments about

existing regulations and local policies would be an appropriate first step to improve local government consultation with the tribes to protect tribal cultural heritage from impacts due to development.

Jamestown was established in what is now southeastern James City County; the city of Williamsburg abuts the county. The Lower Chickahominy area is about as close as you can get to the first steps of English colonization of the mid-Atlantic. As Europeans moved westward and Virginia's economy grew, Plantations were established across the Lower Chickahominy area and beyond. Today, a discussion of history, culture or tourism in the Lower Chickahominy would not be complete without mention of the plantations. Shirley Plantation, Virginia's first plantation, was founded in 1613 by a royal land grant. Through the 1600s the European population increased in the area now known as Virginia and across the mid-Atlantic. The 1700s saw the construction of great plantation houses, including Shirley, built with the proceeds from selling tobacco.

Both the production of tobacco and the construction of plantation houses across Virginia relied on the economic realities of slave labor. The first African slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619. In 1623, the rolls at Flowerdew Hundred in the then borough of Charles City counted 11 of these first African slaves in Virginia. Charles City County has produced a series of exhibits and a self-guided driving/biking tour all about the African American experience in the county called Freedom's Jubilee: An African American Journey.

VIII. The Need for the MOU

Situated between the City of Richmond to the west and the City of Williamsburg to the east, the LCW is rich in both environmental and cultural resources. The resources of the LCW are wedged between these cities and bounded by the James River to the south and are in conflict with this growing population. To attain a stable conservation and protection base while working to find sustainable economic opportunities, an enhanced effort and expectation of ongoing, consistent collaboration among the multiplicity of LCW stakeholders is necessary.

Sitting across three counties, two planning district commissions, and a myriad group of state, federal, and not for profit organizations, a formal agreement will provide a solid foundation for collaboration, increased communication, and regional solutions for the LCW.

IX. Statement of Mutual Agreement

It is mutually understood and agreed by the Signatories that:

1. Only by working together can the signatories achieve enhanced natural resources conservation, environmental and cultural protection, and economic opportunities;
2. The LCW is an area of critical and important natural and cultural resources to all Signatories;
3. The Signatories agree to support the conservation and protection priorities of the LCW and to build on the community engagement ideas and concepts identified through the existing project years;
4. The Local Government and Planning District Commission Signatories will seek to build equitable relationships with the Tribes of the LCW;
5. Additional funding will be needed to achieve the goals set forth in this MOU. The Signatories shall work together to seek and leverage funding from private, local, State, and Federal sources such that it can be maximized to advance the LCW goals;

X. Scope of Work

The Signatories shall communicate and coordinate with regard to land conservation, land protection and economic opportunity issues important to each signatory.

Within ninety days of the effective date of this Memorandum of Understanding, as soon thereafter as convenient to the Signatories, the Signatories shall meet to develop priorities and goals for the Collaborative, including the following priorities previously identified through the project's work but not limited to:

- **Improving physical recreational infrastructure;**
- **Supporting sustainable economic development;**
- **Enhancing river advocacy, education, and marketing;**
- **Promoting land conservation and landowner education;**
- **Ensuring protection of sites and traditions that are sacred and historic to the tribes; and**
- **Increasing ecological restoration and stewardship.**

Thereafter, at least annually, the Signatories shall update and refine the above information.

XI. Modifications

Material modifications to this Memorandum of Understanding must be submitted in writing and approved by all Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding. Approval may be via electronic assent via email.

XII. Effective Date

The effective date of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be the date of the last signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Counties of Charles City, James City, and New Kent, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA).

XIII. Duration and Termination of the Agreement

The duration of this Memorandum of Understanding will be until such time as it is terminated upon agreement of all Signatories; however, any party to the Memorandum of Understanding may terminate its participation by 30 days' written notice to all other Signatories. Termination of participation does not require approval by other Signatories.

XIV. Manner of Financing

This Memorandum of Understanding will not require financing or budgeting from or by the Signatories; however, this clause will not preclude, under a separate document or agreement, grant funding or other financial assistance from one signatory to another for the purpose of carrying out the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding.

XV. Ownership of Property

It is not the intent of the Signatories that this Memorandum of Understanding will result in the purchase, ownership, holding, or conveying of any real or personal property.

XVI. Project Officers

The following project officers, for the purpose of administering this MOU, including receiving and reviewing reports, meeting attendance, project proposals, and the handling of termination notices are:

- James City County: Tammy Rosario, Assistant Director Community Development
- Charles City County: Rhonda Russell, Assistant County Administrator/ Director of Community Development
- New Kent County: Justin Stauder, Assistant County Administrator
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe: Dana Adkins, Tribal Environmental Director
- Chickahominy Indians Tribe - Eastern Division: Jessica Phillips, Environmental Director
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe: Chief Robert Gray
- PlanRVA: Sarah Stewart, Planning Manager - Environmental Program
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission: Ben McFarlane, Senior Regional Planner

XVII. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS.

This MOU may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original, all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

XVIII. APPROVALS

List of Signatories to the MOU:

- Charles City County
- James City County
- New Kent County
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Indians Tribe - Eastern Division
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CHARLES CITY COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

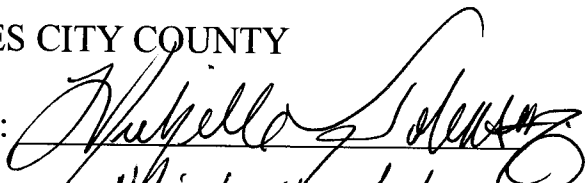
Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:


Michelle Johnson
8/2/2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR JAMES CITY COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe


Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Signature: 

Printed Name: Scott A. Stevens

Date: 10-11-2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM

COUNTY ATTORNEY

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR NEW KENT COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

NEW KENT COUNTY

Signature:  _____

Printed Name: Rodney Hathaway

Date: 10/22/2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE

Signature: Stephen R. Adkins

Printed Name: Stephen R. Adkins

Date: October 5, 2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE – EASTERN DIVISION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE – EASTERN DIVISION

Signature: *Chief Gerald A Stewart*
Chief Gerald A Stewart (Jun 3, 2021 10:33 EDT)

Printed Name: Chief Gerald A Stewart

Date: 06/03/2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE

Signature: 

Printed Name: ROBERT GREGG, CHIEF

Date: 7/6/21

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (PLANRVA)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (PLANRVA)

Signature: Martha Shickle Heeter

Printed Name: Martha Shickle Heeter

Date: October 5, 2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT
COMMMSSION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Signature:  _____

Printed Name: Robert A. Crum, Jr.

Date: 8/20/2021

SAMPLE SUPPORTING COOPERATIVE PARTNER STATEMENT

As a Supporting Cooperative Partner of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC), __[organization]__ supports the Signatories of the LCWC in building respectful and cooperative relationships among each other.

__[Organization]__ supports the LCWC goals of

- Enhanced natural resource conservation,
- Environmental and cultural protection, and
- Sustainable economic opportunities.

__ [Organization]__ recognizes that the Lower Chickahominy Watershed is an area of critical and important natural and cultural resources.

__[Organization]__ supports the conservation and protection priorities of the LCWC as identified in earlier years of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project and agreed upon annually by the LCWC Signatories.

__[Organization]__ commits to the following activities that will advance common understanding and action on the goals and priorities of the LCWC:

- e.g., Meeting attendance (attend meetings of the LCWC, committees, or workgroups)
- e.g., Information sharing and education (update about relevant work or studies)
- e.g., Technical assistance (water quality monitoring, data or mapping assistance, document creation, etc.)
- e.g., Funding assistance (support through direct funding or leveraging of partnerships for funding assistance)
- [other]

Name
Title
Organization

Date

**Appendix B: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Annotated
Directory**

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

Annotated Directory

The following directory was created for the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative. In late 2019 and early 2020, the project team began working with the three Tribes (The Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe) and the three local governments (Charles City County, New Kent County, and James City County) of the Lower Chickahominy watershed to explore ways in which the Tribes and Counties want to work together to advance common goals of preserving the region's important ecological assets and supporting ecologically sound development. One request from Tribal and county representatives was a directory that could specify the best points of contact with each entity for various areas of interest, to better facilitate partnership and working relationships. This also supports the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the parties in 2021.

This document will be housed on the PlanRVA Sharepoint where it can be updated or edited at any time, with the intent that each entity will review their entry at least annually to reflect staffing transitions or any other changes or additions.

Resources for working with Indigenous Tribes

- [Virginia Indian Heritage Trail 2nd edition](#)
 - See specific guidance in the “Writing and Thinking About Virginia Indians” section on pages 78 and 79 (pages 80 and 81 of the PDF)
- [Tribal Nations and the United States: An Introduction](#)
 - “What is Federal Recognition?” section on page 25
 - Government to Government Consultation with Tribal Nations (equally important for local governments) - pages 33-35
- [State information on Tribes in Virginia and resources](#)

Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Information drawn from the websites of the [Chickahominy Tribe](#) and the [Secretary of the Commonwealth](#)

The Chickahominy originally lived in permanent villages along the Virginia river that still bears their name, until they were displaced by the Treaty of 1646. The Chickahominy families began a gradual migration to the area called the Chickahominy Ridge, where they now reside. This area, between Richmond and Williamsburg, is only a few miles from one of their 1607 village sites. In 1901, the Chickahominy Tribe established Samaria Indian Baptist Church, which serves as an important focal point for their community to this day.

The Chickahominy are an Algonquin people: one of the largest cultural and linguistic groups in North America. Algonquin lands once stretched all the way from the southeastern coastal plain to near the Arctic Circle. Like other Algonquins in this area, the Chickahominy are often called Powhatan Indians. However, their villages were always independent—never under the control of Chief Powhatan, known to his people as Wahunsunacock. The Chickahominy Tribe have maintained their independence, while remaining close to other Native people in this area.

The 20th century was a time of great change for the Chickahominy people. Under the Racial Integrity Act, Virginia's policies of segregation were among the most severe in the nation. Officials went so far as to destroy documents and records of Native people—including birth, marriage, census, and death records. According to state policy, Virginia's Native peoples no longer existed. In time, the Chickahominy saw the repeal of the Racial Integrity Act and the disgrace of those who championed it. The tribe was granted official recognition by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1983 and federal recognition in 2018.

Before European contact, the Chickahominy Tribe was ruled by a council of elders called the mungai or "great men." Today, a Tribal Council of twelve men and women, including a chief and two assistant chiefs, are elected by vote of the tribe.

Website: <https://www.chickahominytribe.org>

Chief: The Honorable Stephen R. Adkins has served as Chief since 2001.

First Assistant Chief: Wayne Adkins

State recognition: 1983

Federal recognition: 2018

Location of Tribal Headquarters: 8200 Lott Cary Rd. Providence Forge, VA 23140 in Charles City County.

Other lands: Mamanahunt - 944 acres of ancestral land on the Chickahominy River in Charles City County, purchased in 2021.



Tribal Logo:

Best method of contact: All correspondence should be addressed to Chief Adkins. If it is a general inquiry, please email Chief Adkins and CC First Assistant Chief Wayne Adkins and Deputy Tribal Administrator Lindsey Johnson. Prefer in-person meetings when possible, but virtual meetings work fine during the pandemic and when there are time constraints.

Pow-wow dates/details and other important events: Held annually (the 2022 pow wow has been canceled due to the ongoing pandemic).

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
Chief/Tribal Administrator	Stephen R. Adkins	stephen.adkins@chickahominytribe.org	All matters. CC Asst Chief and Deputy Tribal Admin

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
<u>Tribal Council Members</u>	Stephen R. Adkins Wayne Adkins Reggie Stewart Martha Adkins Rhonda Canaday Troy Adkins Adam Adkins Cami Adkins Heath Adkins Ross Stewart Donovan Wynn		
Deputy Tribal Administrator	Lindsey Johnson	lindsey.johnson@chickahominytribe.org	
Deputy Finance Officer	Holly Smith	holly.smith@chickahominytribe.org	
Tribal Environmental Director	Dana Adkins	dana.adkins@chickahominytribe.org	Natural Resources
Housing Program Manager	Rufus Elliott	rufus.elliott@chickahominytribe.org	Housing
Program Management & Compliance Officer	C. Lenora Adkins	carmen.adkins@chickahominytribe.org	
Child Care and Development Program Director	Susann Brown	susann.brown@chickahominytribe.org	
Elder Support Representative	Bobbie Stewart	eldercare@chickahominytribe.org	

Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division

Information drawn from the websites of the [Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division](#) and the [Secretary of the Commonwealth](#)

When the English settlers set shore along the Virginia coastline, the Chickahominy were one of about 30 tribes who received them. In 1646 a Treaty displaced the tribe from their homeland to present-day King William County where they resided until migrating to New Kent and Charles City Counties around 1750. An 1870 census showed an enclave of Indians in New Kent County which is believed to be the beginning of the Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division (CIED). Records were destroyed when the New Kent County courthouse was burned, and a state census is the only record from this time.

The CIED began forming their own Tribal government in 1920-1921, and a certificate of incorporation issued in 1925. During this period the Tsena Commocko Baptist Church was organized in New Kent County. The Tribe was granted state recognition in 1983 and in 2002 they purchased 41 acres located partially along Route 60 and Mount Pleasant Road where the Tribal Government Center now resides. The CIED received federal recognition in 2018.

Today, the CIED is governed by a Tribal council, which consists of a Chief, Assistant Chief, Secretary, Treasurer, and at least two Councilmen. Office positions are held for four years without term limits. Elections are held the second Saturday of every 4th April.

Website: <https://www.cied.org>

Chief: The Honorable Gerald A. Stewart

Assistant Chief: Matthew Chippawa Adkins

State recognition: 1983

Federal recognition: 2018

Location of Tribal Headquarters: 2895 Mt. Pleasant Road Providence Forge, VA 23140 in New Kent County

Other lands: None currently



Tribal Logo:

Best method of contact: All correspondence should be addressed to Chief Stewart. If it is a general inquiry, please email Chief Stewart and CC Deputy Tribal Administrator Doris Austin. Virtual meetings are fine.

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
<u>Chief</u>	Gerald A. Stewart	Jerry.Stewart@cit-ed.org	All matters. CC Asst Chief and Deputy Tribal Admin, and any other relevant departments
<u>Assistant Chief</u>	Matthew Adkins (stepping down after term ends in April 2022)		
<u>Tribal Council Members</u>	Matthew Chippewa Adkins Doris Austin Joanne Howard William Gibbs Joseph Adkins Charles Bradby Scott Holmes Candace Dickerson (Elections in April 2022 may change members)		
<u>Tribal Administrator</u>	Penny Wynn	Penny.Wynn@cit-ed.org	
<u>Deputy Tribal Administrator</u>	Doris Austin	Doris.Austin@cit-ed.org	
<u>Tribal Environmental Director</u>	Jessica Phillips	Jessica.Phillips@cit-ed.org	Natural Resources

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
<u>Tribal Cultural Resources Director</u>	Tanya Stewart	Tanya.Stewart@cit-ed.org	Cultural

Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Information drawn from the websites of the [Pamunkey Indian Tribe](#) and the [Secretary of the Commonwealth](#)

The Pamunkey Indian Tribal Government administers the affairs of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe and Pamunkey Indian Reservation and is comprised of one Chief and seven council members, all of whom are elected by the voting citizens of the Tribe. The Assistant Chief is selected by the elected council members. The role of Chief is a 4-year term, elected during the same year as the U.S. Presidential election. Council members are elected to either two or four-year terms, with council elections taking place every other year as necessary.

The Pamunkey Indian Tribe is one of the most prominent Indian tribes to first meet Europeans on the East Coast of North America. This status is due in part to the prominence of Pamunkey Indians, especially Powhatan and Pocahontas, whose activities were integral to American history. The Pamunkey Indians long defended their rights as unique citizens of the United States, with treaty and legal privileges that date back more than four hundred years. The Pamunkey Indian Tribe played a vital role in England's early settlements in North America, and documents preserved in the archives of the United States and England show the existence of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe since the first visit of Captain John Smith in 1607 when the English settled Jamestown.

The Pamunkey Indian Reservation lies along the Pamunkey River, and is mostly surrounded by the river, and is located within King William County on the border with New Kent County. Approximately 1,600 acres in size, including about 500 acres of wetlands, the Reservation was confirmed to the Pamunkey in 1646 and is considered the oldest inhabited Indian reservation in North America.

Website: <https://pamunkey.org>

Chief: The Honorable Robert Gray is the Chief of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, a position he has held since August 2015.

Assistant Chief: Tim Langston

State recognition: 1983

Federal recognition: 2015, through the Department of Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs). The Pamunkey are the first and only Tribe in Virginia to receive federal recognition through the Department of Interior process.

Historic reach: The Pamunkey Indian Tribe has lived, farmed, hunted and traded with other tribes across much of central and eastern Virginia for more than 10,000 years.

Location of Tribal Headquarters: 1054 Pocahontas Trail, King William, VA 23086. Open M-F, 8:00-4:30.

Location of Reservation: Within King William County and adjacent to New Kent County, along the Pamunkey River in Virginia's Middle Peninsula region. For map, see [website](#).

Location of Museum & Cultural Center: On the Reservation. The museum is open to the public; check the [website](#) for current hours. Special tours and programs are available and may be booked through Shaleigh Howells, below. The museum hosts a gift shop with items handcrafted by Pamunkey Tribal Citizens. Additionally, be sure to check the amount of gas you have prior to visiting to ensure you have enough for your return trip.

Other lands: Land is owned within the Lower Chickahominy watershed in the northern region of New Kent County. In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that permitted the Pamunkey Indian Tribe to pursue gaming in Norfolk. The Tribe signed an agreement with the City of Norfolk to purchase 13.4 acres along the Elizabeth River to build a resort and casino next to Harbor Park, which was subsequently supported through a city referendum.



Tribal Seal:

Best method of contact: All correspondence should be addressed to Chief Gray; i.e., please email Chief Gray and the specific person with whom you wish to communicate. If it is a general inquiry, please email Chief Gray and CC Shaleigh Howells. Virtual meetings work fine. Landline connectivity isn't great, so phone call follow-up is not effective.

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
<u>Chief</u>	Robert Gray	robert.gray@pamunkey.org	All correspondence
<u>Tribal Council Members</u>	Walter Hill Jr. Wendy Roberson Debra Martin Gordon Atkinson Terry Langston Ashley Spivey		
<u>Tribal Administrator</u>	Vacant		
<u>Cultural Resource Director and Museum Director</u>	Shaleigh Howells	shaleigh.howells@pamunkey.org	Interim THPO contact
<u>Natural Resource Manager</u>	Warren Taylor	warren.taylor@pamunkey.org	
<u>Housing Manager</u>	Vacant		
<u>Chief Financial Officer</u>	Jennifer Dixon	jennifer.dixon@pamunkey.org	
<u>Tribal Coordinator/ Enrollment Officer/ICWA</u>	Allyson Gray	allyson.gray@pamunkey.org	
<u>Tribal Office Assistant</u>	Rebecca Hill	Rebecca.hill@pamunkey.org	

Charles City County

Information drawn from the [Charles City County website](#)

Charles City County is a rural haven of 7,256 residents located in the east-central portion of the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1634, the colonial General Assembly met at Jamestown and divided the Virginia Colony into eight shires, similar to those in England. These were Accomack, Charles River, Henrico, Elizabeth City, James City, Warwick River, Warrosquyoake and Charles City. The Charles City shire was named for the English King's son, Charles, who later became King Charles I. When first established, Charles City comprised a large area on both sides of the James River, but gradually it lost land area to the formation of other counties.

Charles City County has a County Administrator and a three-member Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are elected on four-year terms. The Board is responsible for planning, developing and regulating growth and for maintaining current county operations and services. Additionally, the board appoints members to the various advisory boards and commissions associated with the county's government and management.

The County has a comprehensive plan and zoning and subdivision ordinances. Charles City is the county seat. There are no incorporated towns within the county.

Website: <https://www.co.charles-city.va.us/1/Home>

Address: 10900 Courthouse Road Charles City, VA 23030

Phone: 804-652-4701

Office hours for County operations: 8:00-4:30 p.m.

County Administrator: Michelle Johnson

Board of Supervisors meetings: 6:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Government /School Administration Building Auditorium 10900 Courthouse Road Charles City, VA 23030

Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.co.charles-city.va.us/335/Comprehensive-Plan>

The Comprehensive Plan is updated every five years and the Planning Commission meets monthly.

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
County Administrator	Michelle Johnson	mjohnson@co.charles-city.va.us	
Board of Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryon Adkins Sr. • Gilbert Smith • William Coad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • badkins@co.charles-city.va.us • gsmith@co.charles-city.va.us • bcoada@co.charles-city.va.us 	
Asst. County Adm./Dir. of Community Development	Rhonda Russell	rrusell@co.charles-city.va.us	
<u>Center for Local History</u>			
Director of Social Services	Elizabeth Holt	e.holt@dss.virginia.gov	
Health Department		804-829-2490	
<u>Planning Commission</u>			
<u>School Board</u>			
Sheriff	Alan M. Jones, Sr.	ajones@ccoslaw.us	
<u>Wetlands Board/Chesapeake Bay Board</u>			

New Kent County

[Information drawn from the New Kent County website](#)

New Kent County was formed in 1654, by the House of Burgesses when it was carved from what was then York County. The population is 22,945 per the 2020 census. New Kent County has a land area of about 212 square miles (135,680 acres) and is bounded by the Pamunkey and York Rivers to the north and east, and the Chickahominy River to the south and west.

New Kent is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, with daily operations handled by a County Administrator. Members serve concurrent four year terms and are elected by district. The term of the current board runs from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023. The board selects its chairman and vice chairman, adopts the meeting schedule and reviews, amends, and/or adopts its bylaws at the first meeting in January.

Website: <https://www.co.new-kent.va.us>

Address: PO Box 150 - 12007 Courthouse Circle New Kent VA 23124

Phone: 804-966-9861

Office hours for County operations: 8:00-4:30 p.m.

County Administrator: Rodney Hathaway

Board of Supervisors meetings: 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month, in the boardroom of the County Administration Building located at 12007 Courthouse Circle New Kent, VA 23124. Work sessions are held on the last Wednesday of each month. To request business to be included on a future meeting agenda, please contact the deputy clerk at least 12 days prior to the meeting.

Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.co.new-kent.va.us/211/Comprehensive-Plan>

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
County Administrator/ Clerk of the Board	Rodney A. Hathaway	rahathaway@newkent-va.us	
Board of Supervisors	Thomas W. Evelyn C. Thomas Tiller Jr. Patricia A. Paige Ron Stiers John N. Lockwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • twevelyn@newkent-va.us • cttiller@newkent-va.us • papaige@newkent-va.us • ronstiers@newkent-va.us • jnlockwood@newkent-va.us 	
Assistant County Administrator	Justin Stauder	jmstauder@newkent-va.us	
<u>Agricultural & Forestal District Advisory Committee</u>			
Environmental Director	Josh Airaghi	jcairaghi@newkent-va.us	
Health Department		804-966-9640	

Role	Name	Email address	Best point of contact for matters related to
<u>Historic Commission</u>			
<u>Planning Commission</u>		Members and their phone numbers are listed <u>here</u>	
Planning Manager	Kelli Le Duc	<u>klleduc@newkent-va.us</u>	
School Board		804-966-9650	
Sheriff	J.J. "Joe" McLaughlin, Jr.	<u>jimclaughlinjr@newkent-va.us</u>	
Social Services Director	Suzanne Grable	<u>suzanne.grable@dss.virginia.gov</u>	
<u>Wetlands Board /Chesapeake Bay Board</u>			

James City County

Information drawn from the [James City County website](#)

For thousands of years before the arrival of the English settlers, migratory hunters lived along the Chesapeake Bay, first in base camps and then in permanent villages along the Bay's many estuaries. By the 1600's the several hundred Native Americans of the lower tidewater farmed and hunted near James City County, and communicated and traded with tribes on both sides of the Chesapeake. 104 English Colonists arrived in what is now James City County on May 13, 1607. In 1699 the newly established city of Williamsburg became Virginia's capital and James City County continued to thrive as Williamsburg grew in economic, political, and social importance. And in 1776 the Virginia Convention, meeting in Williamsburg, voted unanimously for independence from Great Britain.

James City County is home to the Historic Triangle Campus of Virginia Peninsula Community College (formerly Thomas Nelson Community College), Jamestown Island (where evidence of the original settlement of English colonists has been found), and the amusement park, Busch Gardens. Today over 70,000 people reside in the County, which is 144.1 square miles in size.

The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and provides leadership and administration of the day-to-day operations of the County. As the Chief Executive Officer, the County Administrator is responsible for developing the annual budget and carrying out policies and laws which are reviewed and approved by the Board.

Website: <https://www.jamescitycountyva.gov>

Address: 101 Mounts Bay Road Building D Williamsburg, VA 23185

Phone: 757-259-4080

Office hours for County operations: 8:00-5:00 p.m

County Administrator: Scott Stevens

Board of Supervisors meetings: 5:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month (except August). Business meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except August).

Comprehensive Plan: <https://jamescitycountyva.gov/3683/The-Plan>

The Comprehensive Plan is updated every five years and most recently was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in October, 2021.

Role	Name	Email address and Phone	Best point of contact for matters related to
County Administrator	Scott Stevens	scott.stevens@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6602	Intergovernmental relations Budget Strategic Plan Board of Supervisors
Board of Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Hipple • Jim Icenhour • Ruth Larson • John McGlennon, Jr. (Chair) • Sue Sadler (Vice Chair) <p>Teresa Saeed, Secretary to the Board of Supervisors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • michael.hipple@jamescitycountyva.gov • james.icenhour@jamescitycountyva.gov • ruth.larson@jamescitycountyva.gov • john.mcglennon@jamescitycountyva.gov • sue.sadler@jamescitycountyva.gov <p>teresa.saeed@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6609</p>	Upcoming public hearings Presentations to the Board
Chief of Police	Eric Peterson	police@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-1800	Investigations Crime prevention
Community Development, Director and Assistant Director	Paul Holt, Director Tammy Rosario, Assistant Director	Paul.holt@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6671 tammy.rosario@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6688	General community and neighborhood development issues, planning and zoning Open space preservation Special event permits

Role	Name	Email address and Phone	Best point of contact for matters related to
Director of Economic Development	Christopher Johnson	christopher.johnson@jamescitycountyva.gov	Economic development
Health Department		757-253-4813	Well and septic system approvals
<u>Historical Commission</u>	John Risinger, Planner	John.risinger@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6691	Historic preservation Archaeology studies Historical markers
Parks Administrator	Alister Perkinson	Alister.perkinson@jamescitycountyva.gov	Parks Tourism
<u>Planning Commission</u>	Paul Holt (Secretary to the Planning Commission)	Contact for each member can be found here Paul.Holt@jamescitycountyva.gov	Upcoming public hearings Presentations to the Commission
Principal Planner	Ellen Cook (Long-range planning) Josh Crump (Current planning) Tom Leininger (Transportation planning)	Ellen.Cook@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6693 Josh.Crump@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6867 Tom.leininger@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6795	Long-range planning and Comprehensive Plan Current planning and development plans Transportation issues
School Board	Olwen Herron, Superintendent	Phone numbers for each member are listed here	

Role	Name	Email address and Phone	Best point of contact for matters related to
Social Services Director	Rebecca Vinroot	dss@jamescitycountyva.gov	Adult services, benefits, child & family services, housing, special needs, emergency shelters
<u>Wetlands Board</u> and <u>Chesapeake Bay Board</u>	Michael Woolson, Stormwater and Resource Protection Division Section Chief	Michael.Woolson@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6823	Development and conservation of designated tidal wetland areas Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance issues
Stormwater and Resource Protection Director	Toni Small	Toni.small@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-7680	General environment and stormwater issues
Agricultural and Forestal District (AFD) Advisory Committee	Josh Crump, Staff Liaison	Josh.crump@jamescitycountyva.gov (757) 253-6867 https://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/866/AFD-Advisory-Committee	AFD withdrawal and renewal requests

**Appendix C: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Priorities Implementation
Plan**

The Lower Chickahominy Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan:

A FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY WITH RECOMMENDATIONS



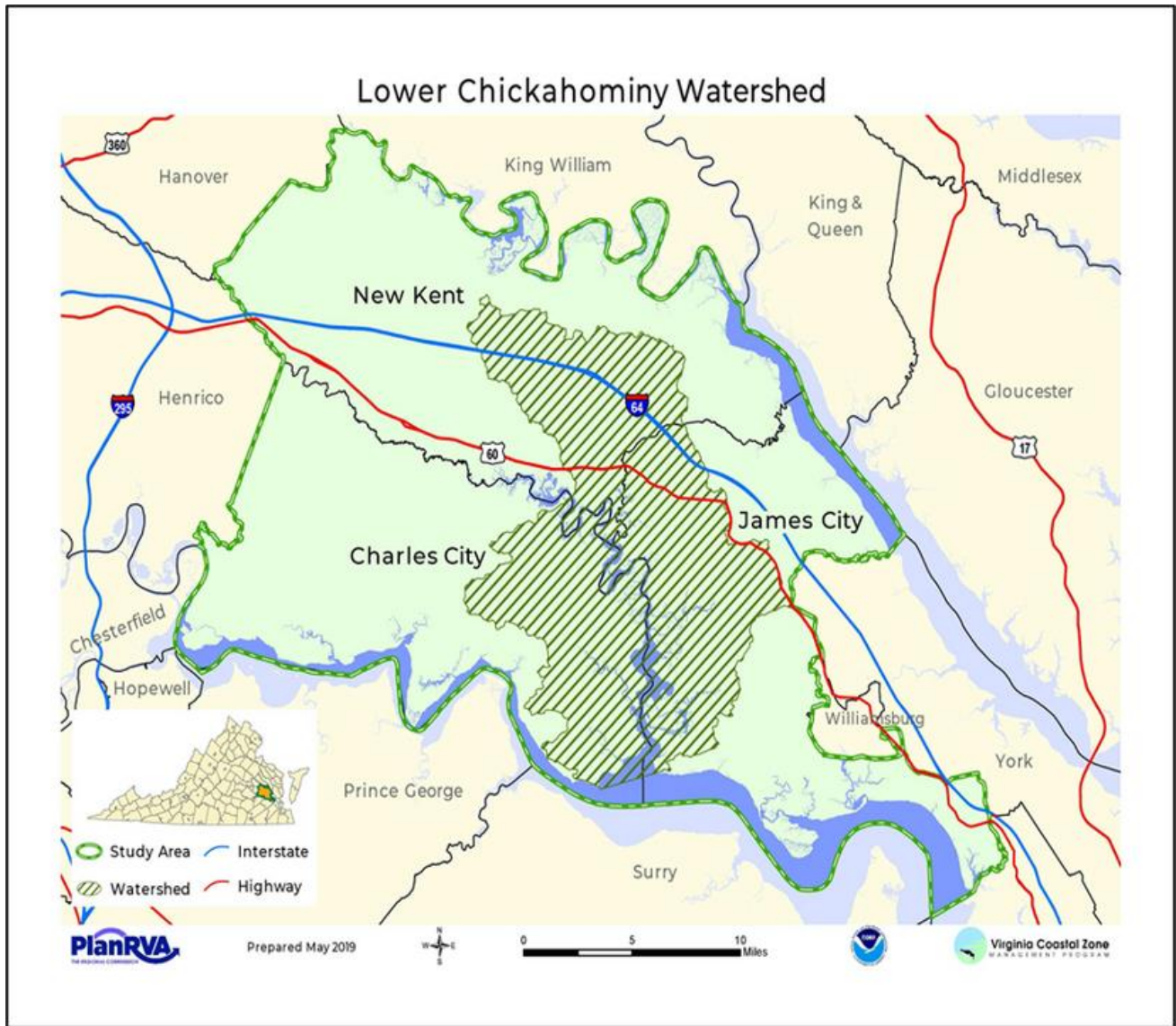
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ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
Shaping Our World Together

Table of Contents

A Successful Collaborative Approach	6
Project History	9
Year 1: Ecological Inventory	10
Year 2: Economic Study	11
Year 3: Community Engagement	12
Year 4: Watershed Plan & Collaborative	16
Year 5: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative	20
Watershed Action Plan	21
Internal Organizational Action Plan	27
Ecotourism Opportunity StoryMaps	28
A Call To Action	29
Appendix One: Full Names of Project Leads, Partners, and Important Stakeholders	30
Appendix Two: Abbreviations	31
Appendix Three: LCW Memorandum of Understanding	32

This project, Task FY20 #93 was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA20NOS4190207 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Figure 1. The Lower Chickahominy River Watershed and Project Study Area



A Successful Collaborative Approach

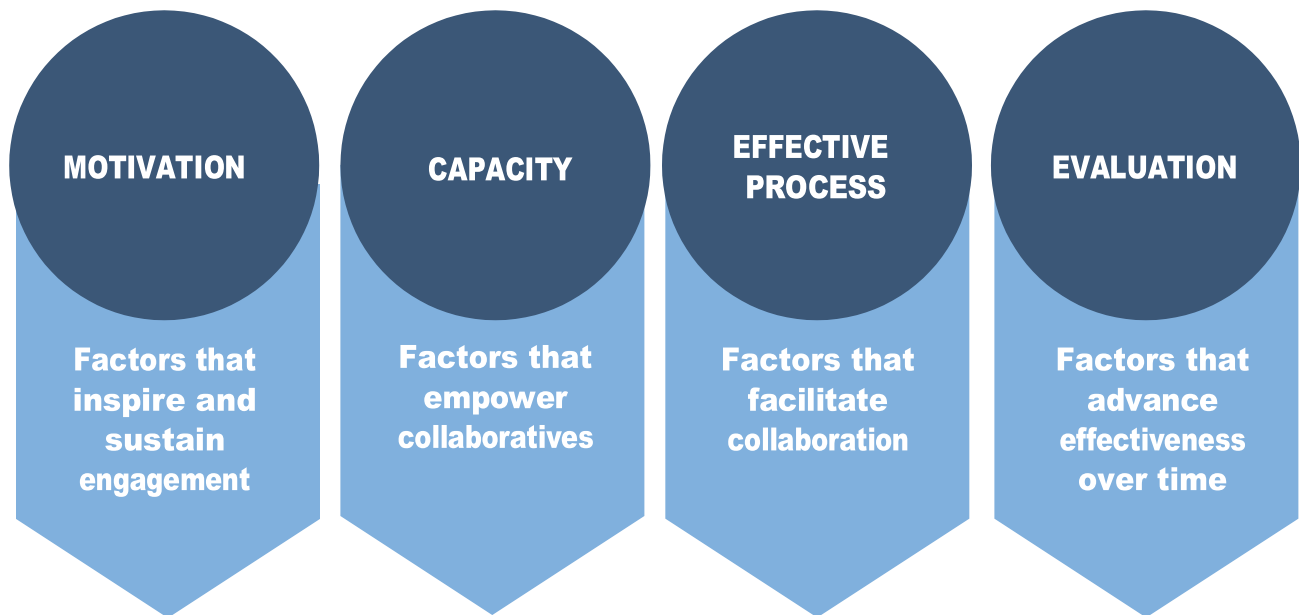
The Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project (LCWP) began as an identification of an ecologically significant watershed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Identified by a series of analyses by local, state, federal officials and stakeholders including the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), led by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the LCWP grew into a long-term successful collaborative effort. Fueled by strong local passion and intention to conserve an ecosystem known for “nearly pristine” marshes and swamp forests and some of the most impressive tidal freshwater wetland communities and vegetation in the Mid- Atlantic region, the watershed was described by scientists during the first year of this project as “among the highest quality remaining along Virginia’s tidal rivers.”

Much of the success of this effort could not have been anticipated in 2016. Led by the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA) in partnership with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), the project was funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)’s Office for Coastal Management (NOAA-OCM) through CZM. Clear synergies developed as a result of all participants – local, regional, state, and tribes – working together to develop and refine consensus-based recommendations. Federal recognition in 2018 of six sovereign tribes in Virginia created a new awareness, desire, and responsibility to consult with the three tribes that have an historic and current presence in the watershed.

Through this collaborative work, this Watershed Priorities Implementation Plan was co-created by regional stakeholders including tribal leaders over the five-year project period. This plan reflects a joint vision for the watershed and how it will be advanced through time by a formal and collaborative local government-tribal partnership. The formation of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC) reflects a dedicated commitment by all parties to work together on shared priorities for land conservation and land uses that both protects ecological resources and promotes sustainable economic opportunity. Formalized through the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between local governments and tribes in the Commonwealth, the LCWC offers a ground-breaking approach to government- to-government relations at the local level.

In 2020, through research conducted for the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the University of Virginia’s Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN) identified primary factors contributing to successful collaboratives such as the LCWP.[1] Among the findings were that people and relationships typically matter more than structures or processes in determining whether ecosystem collaboratives are able to sustain engagement, build on successes, and ultimately achieve on-the- ground outcomes. Figure two below shows the four critical overarching factors identified for successful ecosystem collaboration.

Figure 2. Four Ecosystems Collaboration Success Factors



Motivation: External factors, such as broad ecological threats or new policy landscapes, are significant motivators in bringing stakeholders to the table and incentivizing partnerships. Once collaboratives take shape, people and relationships typically matter more than structures or processes when it comes to why they are able to sustain engagement, build on successes, and ultimately achieve on-the- ground outcomes. Funders can help collaboratives harvest the passion and expertise of stakeholders by supporting the consistent meetings and periodic retreats required to sustain activity, engagement, and vision over the long term.

Capacity: While it is generally good for collaboratives to remain as lean and flexible as possible in light of local and regional contexts, they do need to reach a certain level of capacity in order to sustain engagement and ultimately achieve results.

[1] Metrics and Strategies for Funders to Consider in Incentivizing and Strengthening Ecosystem Collaboratives; Final Recommendations of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF); Model Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation Collaboratives Project; Prepared by the Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN), University of Virginia, 2020.

The most efficient way to boost collaborative capacity may be to fund a full or part-time staff position dedicated to the coordination of core operating functions (e.g. meetings, communications, fundraising, and evaluation). In fact, funding a coordinator position emerged as one of the top strategies mentioned across the board in the interviews and surveys conducted as part of this study.

Effective process: Collaborative processes do not have to be complicated, but successful collaboratives define and document an approach to decision making, a governing structure, relevant policies, and key plans (e.g. strategic plans, work plans, communication plans, evaluation plans).

Evaluation: Normalizing evaluation fosters a culture of learning and growth in relation to changing needs and opportunities. In its early phase, a collaborative should place greater focus on establishing and evaluating processes and structures while also tracking programmatic/ecological metrics. As effective processes take root, evaluation can shift its focus towards ecological outcomes.

With the LCWP, these four overarching factors were present in abundance. Over the five-year period, the stakeholders remained highly motivated to preserve the watershed's pristine ecosystem. The PlanRVA and HRPDC project leadership felt strongly that stakeholders and the tribes should be empowered to co-create the plan. The funding enabled facilitation and engagement processes that encouraged collaboration and communication and the process was continuously iterative, with learning, evaluation, and adjustment occurring at every step of the process. The development of this unique collaborative, supported by the regional government, offers a model for others seeking to preserve ecosystems while supporting ecologically sensitive business opportunities.

Project History

In 2016, PlanRVA in partnership with HRPDC initiated a five-year comprehensive strategic planning process funded by CZM that would be driven by the three Counties that form the Lower Chickahominy River Watershed (LCW): James City, Charles City, and New Kent. When the initiative completed research in the watershed and entered its engagement phase in 2018, the process was expanded to include consultation and collaboration with the three tribes who have a current or historical presence in the watershed: the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe. The goal for the initiative was to create a community-driven vision for conservation and land uses that support both environmental protection and economic opportunity. Appendix One provides the names of project leads, stakeholders, tribal leaders, and partners. Appendix Two provides a list of acronyms used in this report.

Much of the LCW and, in particular, the lower Chickahominy River itself, has been identified as having very high to outstanding ecological significance by the Coastal Virginia Ecological Value Assessment (VEVA), a dataset that ranks land and water areas based on modeled ecological and conservation value. The engagement approach introduced in 2018 created an ongoing opportunity for stakeholders to work together to align priorities in land use and conservation for maximum socio-economic and ecological benefit, and to create a shared vision for economic growth and conservation in the LCW. The objective is to develop policies, procedures, and partnerships to address the impacts of growth and development on natural resources while maintaining economic opportunities.



As a part of Section 309 of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, NOAA requires states and projects funded by states to contain new “enforceable polices and mechanisms” as a part of their final deliverables. As a significant enforceable policy, a MOU was developed and signed by local governments, tribes, and partner organizations to express a shared vision and outline consistent approaches toward watershed protection and leveraging of identified economic benefits. These efforts have led to the development of this LCW Implementation Plan and continues focused work to enable local governments in the watershed to establish additional conservation and economic policies and programs.

Year One (2016-17): Ecological Inventory

Year One focused on conducting an ecological inventory of the LCW. The last inventory conducted for the watershed was over 15 years old and needed updating to reflect the changes in land use, population growth, and habitat loss. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Division of Natural Heritage (DCR- DNH) performed this inventory. The LCW is harboring some of the most biologically diverse and ecologically significant areas in the Coastal Zone of Virginia. The Coastal VEVA classifies much of the watershed’s three counties and especially the Lower Chickahominy corridor itself as “very high to outstanding ecological significance.”

The biological resources inventoried include: habitat for populations of federally listed threatened or endangered species; habitat for populations of proposed candidate species for federal listing; and habitat for populations for other rare plant and animal species monitored by DCR-DNH. Significant terrestrial community occurrences were also included and combined; these resources collectively are known as Natural Heritage Resources. To maximize impact, only older (1995 or previous) Natural Heritage Resource occurrences were updated as these were most important to inform conservation priorities. In addition to conducting surveys for these Natural Heritage Resource occurrences, DCR-DNH collected aquatic community information through the collection of fish community data and instream habitat data at 40 stream locations within the LCW.

The Natural Heritage Resource occurrences included 48 plant populations, three animal populations, and 14 significant natural communities. In essence, this analysis confirms the known ecological significance of the LCW and represents many unique land and water habitats.

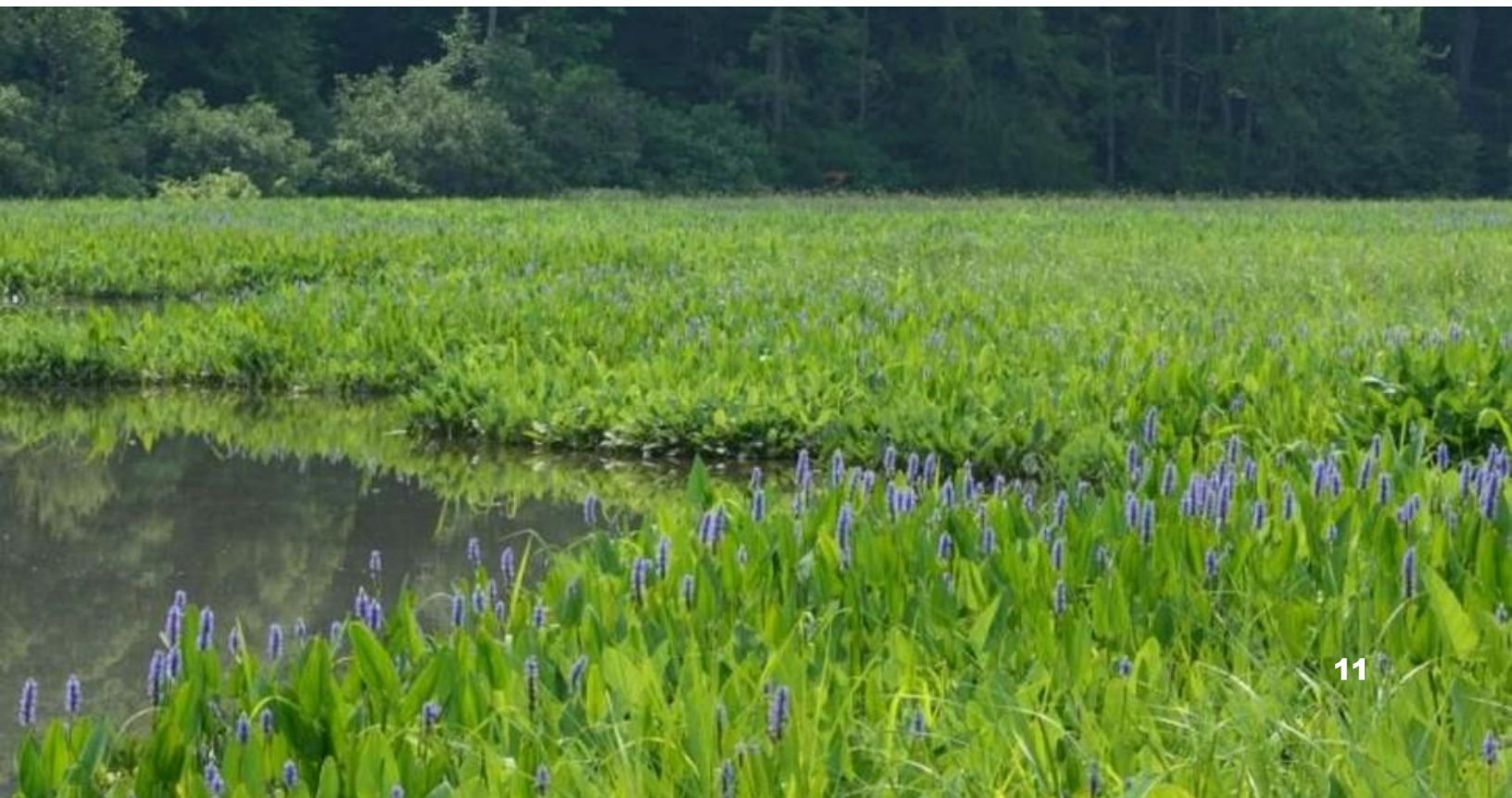
Inventory of Important Biological Resources in the Chickahominy Watershed

Year Two (2017-18) Economic Study

Year Two established a steering committee (SC) of program leads and technical experts to develop a shared vision for coordinated planning in the LCW and outreach committee (OC) to guide ongoing communication efforts. As a first step toward understanding how conservation could accompany development, an economic analysis of protected lands in the LCW was conducted by Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. This economic study led to three key findings:

- ◆ Land conservation through tax-exempt mechanisms would not reduce the annual net revenue surplus for the three counties.
- ◆ Lands with conservation easements do not place a fiscal burden on any of the three counties in the watershed.
- ◆ Of the 30,300.6 acres in the watershed, 12,500.7 acres (or 41.3 percent of the total land in the watershed) are considered conserved lands and valued at \$83.03 million (or 26.2 percent of the total land value in the watershed). In other words, the most highly valued lands in the watershed are not compromised by conservation.

[Full George Mason University Economic Study](#)



Year Three (2018-19): Community Engagement

Year Three involved initiating the formal community engagement and co-creating the process, which was designed and facilitated by IEN in partnership with the SC. The process began with identification of local government, nonprofit, and business thought leaders in the three counties, tribal leaders, and technical experts. Through 16 thought leader interviews, challenges, needs, and ideas were generated. Analysis of these interviews by the IEN team led to identification of the following five common themes:

Conserve existing habitat and forest cover

Increase public access to the river



Enhance ecotourism, local history, and venue availability

Develop a river corridor plan



Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between stakeholders

Of the themes identified, increasing public access to the river was the number one priority of interviewees. Critical to this priority is the need for stewardship of the resource. As access to the river is increased, it is vital that the river resource is not degraded. Closely tied to this idea was the stakeholder priority of developing a river corridor plan.

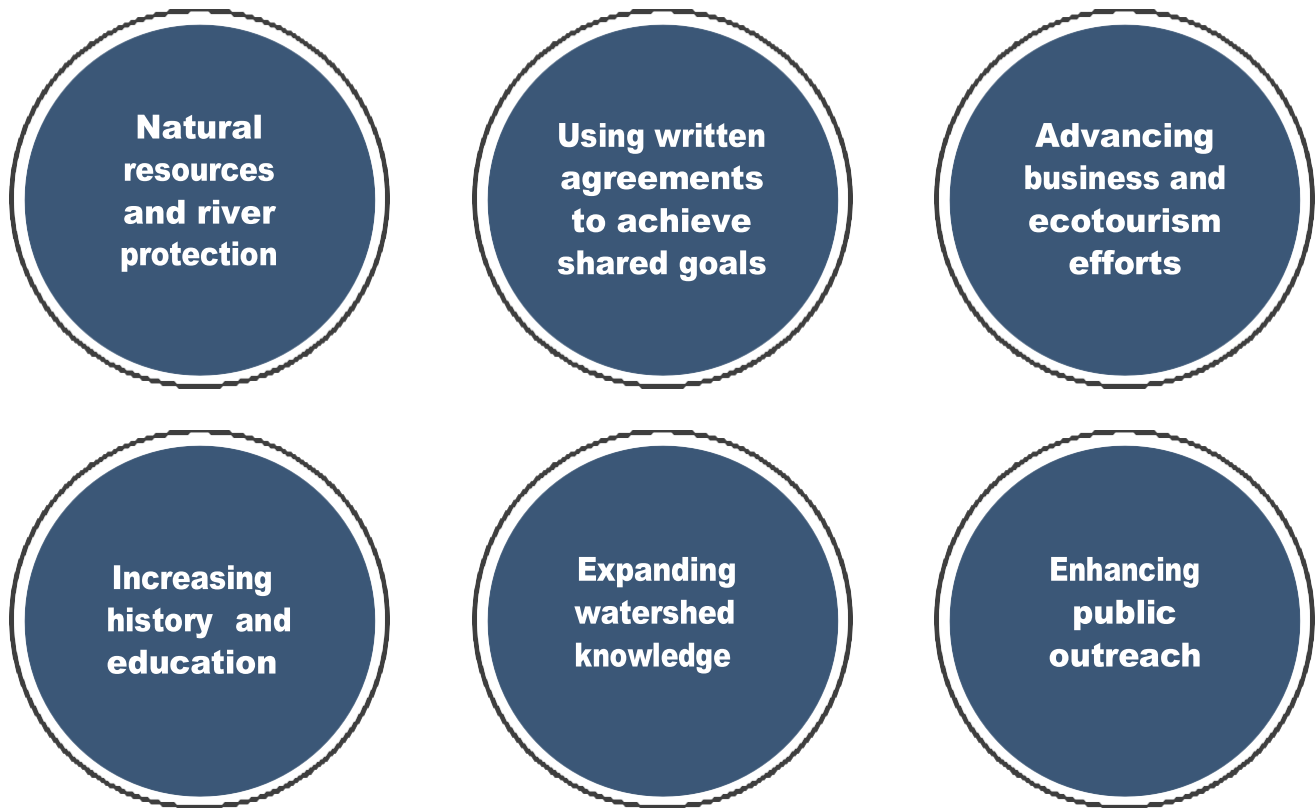
A second priority that emerged from thought leaders is enhancing ecotourism, combined with local history and increased venue availability such as restaurants. Increased educational/informational outreach, relating to the combined ecotourism/history/restaurant elements, was identified as an important strategy for advancing project goals. Thought leaders see experiential learning opportunities as a key component of this priority, and specifically highlighted the goal of connecting people to the river. Leveraging the Virginia Capital Trail is a foundation for further economic activity under this priority. Similarly, the development of trail spurs heading north from the existing trail is an important idea to pursue.

A third priority for many thought leaders is the conservation of existing habitat and forest cover. Engaging landowners, reaching out to educate them on forest conversion and conservation easement planning and legacy planning, seeking additional incentives such as land use for Charles City County – all could aid in protecting existing habitat and forest cover.

A key method for advancing these priorities identified by thought leaders is the development of formal agreements, such as MOAs/MOUs between stakeholders. MOAs/MOUs would be an important early step in clarifying relationships and advancing work in the LCW, as formal agreements provide a pathway for cooperative work to occur. While not the only method for working together, the negotiation of MOAs/MOUs can start a process that leads to additional collaborative efforts and synergy between stakeholders.

Following these thought leader interviews, a series of three focus groups were held that allowed stakeholders the opportunity to review, refine, and begin to prioritize the ideas generated through the lens of what would be needed for ecological conservation, sustainable business development, and government. These synthesized themes and suggestions for priority actions were then tested and further validated and prioritized through a broad outreach survey to watershed stakeholders.

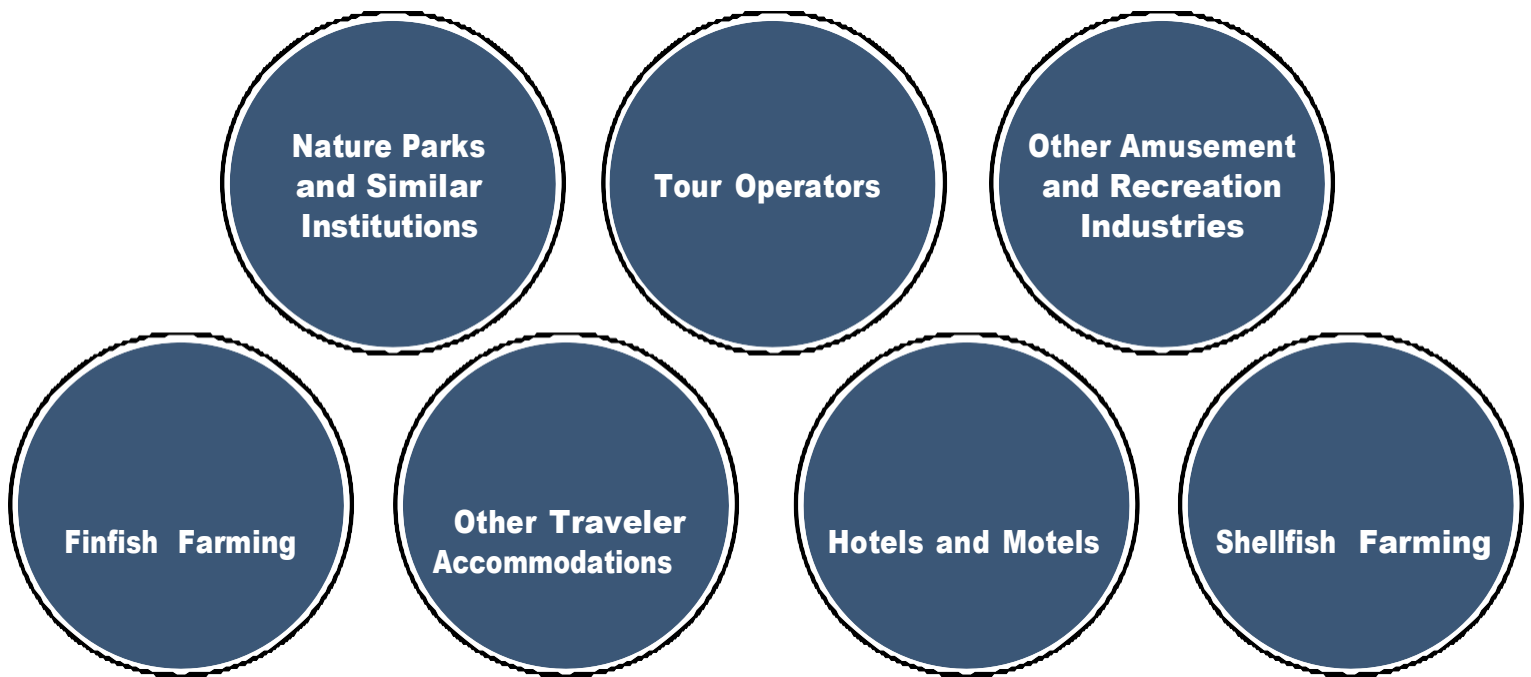
This phase of watershed engagement and co-creation was capped with a two-day series of focus group sessions held in August 2019, where participants reviewed and evaluated the final emerging themes and priorities. The following themes, each encompassing numerous priorities, resulted from that engagement:



Additionally, a second economic study was completed using the information gained from the IEN stakeholder engagement in Year Three as well as from previous interactions with economic development entities in the watershed as a part of the socio-economic impact assessment. A mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) approach was utilized in identifying specific industry opportunities for economic growth and business development that meet the conservation mandates of the LCW plan. The results of the analysis offer an actionable framework from which the economic development authorities in each of the counties can choose specific industry targets of opportunity that best fit within their overall economic development strategies and conservation goals.

As demonstrated in previous analyses, the conserved lands of the LCW generate net fiscal revenues for local jurisdictions and contribute to overall regional and local economic development activity. Improving overall water quality in the LCW will open a pathway to expand economic development opportunities that include traditional

hospitality sector businesses like eco-tour operators and the businesses that directly support those sectors of the economy. Moreover, a targeted economic development strategy focusing on just seven core industry sectors would substantially enhance the economic impacts of the preserved lands and create a range of business and employment opportunities in the LCW. These seven core industries include:



In addition, value chain analyses provide clear evidence of the potential for these industries to become an important cluster of industries that will enhance the regional economy and provide clear economic justification for the continued protection of sensitive wetlands in the LCW. Maximizing these opportunities will require integrating these potential clusters within the overall economic development plans for the three counties and other relevant jurisdictions.

Finally, to enhance the success of an LCW based economic development strategy, the plan should consider including the creation of Conservation Community residential developments that meet the overarching goals of protecting the river and its surrounding wetlands and forests while creating new sustainable economic development opportunities and enhancing the resilience of tax revenues for local jurisdictions.

Year 3 Stakeholder Engagement Process

Year Four (2019-20): Watershed Plan & Collaborative

Year Four focused on initiating individual consultations with each of the three county governments and the three federally-recognized tribes active in watershed, as they would be the principal entities to advance the watershed plan. Additionally, a virtual Watershed Summit explored in more depth the draft themes and action priorities and what might be missing, whether any actions needed further refinement or presented challenges, as well as how the tribes and local governments would want to work with each other to advance goals for the watershed.

Drawing on specific suggestions from the tribes and local governments, an additional day-long workshop was held to facilitate their relationship-building and collaboration. A key outcome of this workshop was a decision by the counties and tribes to formalize their partnership for advancing goals in the watershed through a MOU. Additionally, they decided on what work groups should be formed to implement the watershed plan.

Led by IEN, the LCW project team conducted three additional tribal consultation meetings in Spring 2020 with the three tribes of the LCW. These included two in-person meetings prior to the pandemic, and one consultation by phone after the pandemic began. The Project Team consisted of CZM, PlanRVA, IEN, and legal expertise and guidance provided by Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC) at the College of William & Mary's Law School, as well as general guidance on tribal consultation protocols by IEN-Subject Matter Expert, Chris Howell (Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma). These local government-tribal meetings asked the following questions:

- What are the tribe's interests in the emerging watershed priorities?
- Are there other interests not represented in these emerging priorities?
- What do the tribes want local governments to know about them and how to best consult with them?
- How would they like to participate in future trainings and meetings associated with this project?
- What do they want or need to know about local governments in Virginia in order to better participate in local government decisions that impact them?

Goals for this process included ensuring that tribal interests were respected and appropriately consulted by local governments in their decision-making process, and

developing a long-term partnership between state and local agencies and the tribal nations, to ensure that tribal interests are considered and reflected in state environmental impact statements, policy proposals and any other emerging elements that are developed during the LCWP work.

Another Year Four action resulting from the stakeholder engagement work was the design and facilitation of the Tribal-Local Government Workshop training for local government administration and staff on working with tribes in the LCW, held on July 22, 2020. Participants from local governments included county administrative officers, planning staff, and economic development staff. Topics for the workshop included but were not limited to:

- History of the tribes in the region.
- How can local governments today best consult and work with tribes?
- How the tribes might best work with, and provide input, to local government decision-making?

Thirty-five participants across the tribes, federal, state, and local government(s), including PDCs, actively worked to listen and learn from each other and develop strategies for working together and advancing the project goals.

The workshop was followed in August 2020 by the first Lower Chickahominy Watershed Summit, held virtually. The goals for the Summit were as follows:

- Prioritize the identified strategies from the Year Three stakeholder engagement work.
- Establish working groups.
- Enhance watershed networking between stakeholders including local government, non-governmental organizations private businesses, tribes, and community members.
- Find common ground among the numerous ideas generated during year three on improving the watershed's ecological integrity and sustainable economic development.
- Determine next steps and feasible strategies for the nine core ideas resulting from the Year Three stakeholder engagement process.

At the Watershed Summit, 30 participants representing 24 organizations deliberated about the strategies developed thus far and developed the following specific priorities across nine topics.

Local Planning and Ordinances

- ◆ Engage stakeholders in how local and tribal history can be integrated into each county's Comprehensive Plans for both ecological significance and business opportunity.

Physical Recreational Infrastructure

- ◆ Develop watershed-wide policies/programs to expand on the Virginia Capital Trail by creating spur trails heading north from the existing trail.
- ◆ Develop an app that provides all appropriate ecotourism opportunities and historic landmarks and other educational features.

Sustainable River-Oriented Economic Development Opportunities

- ◆ Develop watershed-wide policies and programs that support using the river as a "soft" economic driver for activities such as ecotourism, ecological tours, fishing, and fish farming.
- ◆ Combine different types of tourism experiences to create larger tourist packages, such as combining winery and estate tours with ecotourism and "paddle and peddle" opportunities.
- ◆ Develop watershed-wide programs to educate residents and visitors about how economic development can be undertaken in a way to support ecological integrity and natural resources and to integrate into each county's Comprehensive Plan.

Data Improvement and Use

- ◆ Develop policies or programs to obtain water quality monitoring data relating to human use (e-coli), habitat and fish populations, and ensure that these monitoring costs are not borne by local businesses, through an MOU process with DEQ.
- ◆ Develop watershed-wide policies and programs for improving data on contiguous forest blocks. Increase geospatial mapping Improve natural resources data access, by developing watershed-wide policies and programs for improving data on contiguous forest blocks.

River Advocacy, Restoration, and Use of Recreation

- ◆ Increasing local river advocacy efforts through the creation of a “Friends of...” group.
- ◆ Increase river access via public access and trail easement agreements.
- ◆ Increase the quality and frequency of signage for river access.
- ◆ Strengthen or augment the existing MOU between VDOT and other state agencies to consider public access when planning bridge restoration work.
- ◆ Develop programs to better educate recreationists about water safety and to enforce existing safety and boating regulations and establish a buoy system for safety.
- ◆ Conduct a river carrying capacity assessment to better understand boat users and access points.

Land Conservation and Purchase

- ◆ Enhance public education efforts for Family Legacy and Forest Conservation.
- ◆ Conduct Generation Next landowner education programs, emphasizing underserved communities.

Protection of Tribal, Sacred, Cultural, Historic Sites and Traditions

- ◆ Develop watershed-wide policies and programs to systematically integrate tribal and other histories into public access points including family-owned fishing industries.
- ◆ Design and conduct a communications and outreach process with the three tribes of the LCW.
- ◆ Design and conduct training for local government administration and staff on working with tribes.

Ecological Opportunities

- ◆ Establish policies to better support “living shorelines” for river restoration projects.
- ◆ Enable seasonal access where appropriate, including policies that promote low-impact activities.
- ◆ Create “No wake” zones to mitigate the erosion on the living shoreline from foot traffic and larger waves.

Create an Ongoing LCW Partnership

- ◆ Work with the project SC and other interested stakeholders to develop a final policy proposal for consideration.
- ◆ Design, convene, and conduct a full-day invitational, the watershed-wide summit in 2021.
- ◆ Develop a Watershed Implementation Priorities Plan in Year Five (2021-2022)
- ◆ Make recommendations regarding infrastructure improvements that will support and encourage the growth of the ecotourism industry in the LCW counties.
- ◆ Maintain the project's online web platform.
- ◆ Specify the goals of the partnership between tribes and governments.

Creating a Framework for a Watershed Action Strategy

Year Five (2021-22): Extended to March 2022: Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

In Year Five, as a first priority, the Steering Committee began developing a draft MOU that would formally establish the Collaborative. Throughout the year, the core Collaborative signatories of three county governments and three tribes, as well as PlanRVA and HRPDC, reviewed and revised the MOU with the intention that the Collaborative would be beneficial to all signatories if it could be established to operate in perpetuity. While other watershed partners may sign on to the MOU as supporting cooperative partners, their signature is not required for their active participation in the Collaborative.

History was made when all core signatories completed their review and signed the MOU to establish the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative in October 2021, creating the first MOU in Virginia between tribal nations and local governments. Through this historic ground-breaking agreement, the Collaborative represents a long-term commitment by the parties to identify, establish, and implement an overarching vision for land use, land conservation, and economic priorities that support natural resource conservation.



Watershed Action Plan

At the same time that the MOU was being developed, members of the Collaborative worked to refine the watershed priorities into a Watershed Action Plan. Following the establishment of the Collaborative, the core signatories formed a Steering Committee that began to meet, shape its method of work, and tackle the implementation of the Watershed Action Plan. The nine action priorities and strategies (page 18 - 20) identified during the prior years of outreach and engagement were combined into three major action workgroups with the initial key strategies shown below:

Improve Physical Recreational Infrastructure + Enhance River Advocacy, Education, and Marketing



Key Strategies

- Develop watershed-wide policies/ programs to expand on the Virginia Capital Trail by creating spur trails.
- Make recommendations regarding infrastructure improvements that will support and encourage the growth of the ecotourism industry in the LCW counties.
- Develop an app that provides all appropriate eco-tourism opportunities and historic landmarks/other educational features.
- Strengthen or augment the existing MOU between VDOT and other state agencies to consider public access when planning bridge restoration work.
- Develop programs to better educate recreationists about water safety and enforce existing safety and boating regulations and establish a buoy system for safety.

Support Sustainable Economic Development + Ensure Protection of Tribal, Sacred, Cultural, Historic Sites and Traditions



Key Strategies

- Develop watershed-wide policies and programs that support using the river as a "soft" economic driver for activities such as ecotourism, ecological tours, fishing, and fish farming.
- Combine different types of tourism experiences to create larger tourist packages, such as combining winery and estate tours with ecotourism and "paddle and peddle" opportunities. This could also include a local ordinance, for example, if a County wants to encourage small inns, B&B's, and small restaurants along the Capital Trail.
- Developing watershed-wide programs to educate residents and visitors about how economic development can be undertaken in a way to support ecological integrity and natural resources and to integrate into each county's comprehensive plan.
- Develop watershed-wide policies and programs to systematically integrate tribal and other history into public access points including family-owned fishing industries.
- Engage stakeholders in how local and tribal history can be integrated into the three county Comprehensive Plans for both ecological significance and business opportunity.
- Support land acquisition along the Chickahominy River by the Chickahominy Tribe and the Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division, to enable access to the river and space for pow-wows.



Key Strategies

- Develop watershed-wide policies/ programs for improving data on contiguous forest blocks. Increase geospatial mapping and access to data.
- Enhance public education efforts for Family Legacy and Forest Conservation. Conduct Generation Next landowner education programs emphasizing underserved communities.
- Establish policies to better support “living shorelines” for river restoration projects.
- Establish policies that allow for seasonal access where appropriate, including policies that promote low-impact activities.
- Establish “no wake” zones to mitigate the erosion on the living shoreline from foot traffic and larger waves.

To begin implementation of the Watershed Action Plan, the Collaborative’s Steering Committee formed three workgroups that included MOU signatories and non-signatory watershed partners and stakeholders. Assigned to a set of action priorities, each workgroup met three times from fall 2021 through winter 2022 to further refine their priorities and strategies and develop clear work plans. At the first annual meeting of the full Collaborative in early February 2022, the workgroups presented three separate work plans.

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative Action Plan

Implementation Work Plans

Workgroup #1: Recreational Infrastructure + Advocacy, Education, and Marketing



First Steps

- Determine what is needed to further expand and connect the Virginia Capital Trail, such as the Courthouse to Courthouse extension.
- Contact at Dominion Energy, and pass contact info to the Work Group. All can help to support next steps.
- Determine progress and timeline of the Birthplace of America Trail/connection with the Capital Trail (currently stalled at where to cross Rt. 199).
- Explore with county and local DOT engineer how bridge improvements are prioritized and whether public access is considered.
- Learn what Brickyard Landing projects are being planned, and next steps, and determine if recommendations are needed. Additionally, ask about existing programs around boating safety already in place in James City County (pertaining to a different group priority).
- PlanRVA will connect with Va Tourism re: possibilities for funding for the app, or any other resources/recommendations she might have.
- CZM Coastal Policy Team will discuss at its next meeting how many bridges are in play within the watershed, and what group is the best place to handle this issue?

Longer-term Actions

- Develop a list and map of park access points for all abilities and include an app. Explore within member organizations what the possibilities would be for this; also seek input from the community on sites that may not be known. **Timeline: first 6 months of 2022.**
- PlanRVA will work on ecotourism infrastructure (road and stream analysis), to identify gaps, including identification of "hot spots" for starting and ending points for a water trail. **Timeline: 9-10 months.**
- PlanRVA: After conducting an inventory of public access sites for a "resilience audit," create a list of recommended projects for infrastructure improvements. **Timeline: 9-10 months.**

Workgroup #2: Land Conservation + Ecological Stewardship



First Steps

- Reach out to local Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to see what kind of group might attend the planned Generation Next (GN) workshop and to explore the idea of moving one of the two GN workshops to the Forestry Center in New Kent. Also connect with the Black Family Land Trust about the GN workshops.
- Schedule education workshops on heirs' property issues.

Longer-term Actions

- With agency partners, PlanRVA and CZM will map historically underserved populations (fine tune maps being produced by others - e.g. EJ Screen), with the goal of connecting these populations to resources to ensure their access to the coast. Data collection and preliminary mapping by CZM and PlanRVA staff will start now, with potential CZM funding starting in Oct 2023.
- PlanRVA, in collaboration with CZM and DCR, will map heat islands to better understand where green infrastructure/trees may be needed.
- Compile data already available on contiguous forest blocks, to avoid replication of work already completed. Add to already available data if possible (could be something simple like a Google doc/ spreadsheet).
- PlanRVA, working with CZM, will assemble organizations who have access to land acquisition funding to meet separately, to coordinate and collaborate on who could match whose money to support land acquisition and to identify specific parcels to go after: DWR, DCR, CZM, VOF, (TNC-not active in LCW), land conservancies, and local government land conservation program contacts.
- Work with VA United Land Trusts (VAULT) and Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) on a legislative initiative, with Cultural Heritage Partners, LLC, so that tribes may become eligible for receiving funding from state VLCF funds for acquiring land, without having to go through an intermediary (2022 General Assembly).
- CZM will explore how to establish a living shoreline Community of Practice for the Lower Chickahominy Watershed. Contacts have already been made through the James River Living Shorelines Collaborative. **Timeline: 1 year, following completion of their NFWF-funded training program.** Defer to JRA.
- JRA Living Shoreline Collaborative and Colonial SWCD will advance living shorelines. Identify sites where living shorelines are possible, then identify landowners and educate landowners about the opportunity for living shorelines. Then develop a template site-specific plan for living shorelines and find funding to support. Find ways to match landowners with existing resources.

Workgroup #3: Sustainable Economic Development + Protection of Tribal Sites



First Steps

- Determine what signage currently exists at Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- CZM will coordinate a call with LCW tribes and VT re: fish farming, aquaponics, and shoreline stabilization. Set up a call with Cooperative Extension regarding funding for a tribal aquaculture liaison staff position.

Longer-term Actions

- Plan RVA will create a list of which canoe and kayak launches need repair, as part of a grant associated with Water Trails (necessary improvements due to climate change).
Timeline: 9-10 months
- CZM and DHR will meet with Tribal reps to discuss a list of possible signage sites not associated with plantations. **Timeline: Spring 2022**
- PlanRVA will inquire with the three counties about the timeline of their next Comp Plan updates, reminding them of this goal and inquiring how PlanRVA and LCWP can provide the information needed to integrate local and tribal history into their next Comp Plan update. Invite their planners to attend this workgroup.

Finally, an Annotated Tribal-Local Government Directory also was developed by IEN in response to guidance from the Steering Committee and presented at the February Summit. The goal of this Directory is to assist in building an ongoing long-term relationship between the three tribes and three county governments.



Internal Organizational Action Plan

Based on the five years of collaboration, outreach, and engagement to create the LCWC, the PlanRVA and HRPDC project team developed the following action items to guide their ongoing support of the Collaborative and its goals for ecologically sound development in the watershed.

Internal Organizational Recommendations

1. Continue to work on adding supporting cooperative partners to the MOU, such as the National Park Service and Captain John Smith Water Trail.
2. Hold an annual LCW Summit to showcase progress and advancements in ecological integrity and sustainable business practice in the watershed.
3. Extend NOAA funding for specific project implementation activities in the LCW.
4. Assist the three tribes in the LCW by supporting LCW projects.
5. Increase the involvement of state agencies in LCW activities.
 - a. Utilize the Department of Forestry's New Kent Forestry Center for river access and other supporting activities like Generation Next landowner training.
 - b. Expand the visibility and use of the LC Wildlife Management Areas through added cooperation with the Department of Wildlife Resources.
 - c. Revise the Department of Historic Resources Code to better characterize and protect tribal sites and their cultural legacy.
 - d. Apply for Department of Tourism grants to expand sustainable business opportunities such as ecotourism and "paddle and peddle" packages.
6. Focus on federal and state resources for land conservation, water quality, and sustainable business opportunities.
 - a. Earmark funding from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for the LCW including identified historic tribal lands.
 - b. Increase river access points through identification and implementation efforts, particularly with any VDOT bridge restoration projects.

Ecotourism Opportunity StoryMaps

As part of the 5-year effort on the natural resources present in the LCW, PlanRVA staff produced story maps to display existing eco-tourism infrastructure in the watershed and report the findings. Each of the three counties boasts some of the most unique and valuable natural resources in Virginia. As stated above, the LCW consists of healthy streams, forested lands, and open spaces that are home to distinct native flora and fauna of the tidal fresh zone of coastal Virginia. Given these distinctive attributes and the three counties prime location in the region, the LCW is experiencing suburban development pressure in Virginia's coastal plain. These story maps promote the development of various strategic approaches to harnessing both the ecological and economic value in the watershed.

The following story maps provide a detailed eco-tourism infrastructure inventory for LCW by county. This inventory highlights the existing public access sites that contribute to the eco-tourism industry. The inventory allows PlanRVA staff and other project partners to pinpoint opportunities for growth to increase both the ecological and economic value in the county. The links to the three story maps are shown below:



[New Kent StoryMap](#)



[Charles City StoryMap](#)



[James City StoryMap](#)

A Call to Action

The Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project (LCWP) represents a remarkable collaborative effort to advance both ecological integrity and sustainable business opportunity. The development of a landmark MOU between local governments and tribes to establish a long-term joint commitment to the protection of the watershed is unique. Working together with numerous other watershed stakeholders, the three counties and three tribes have demonstrated vision and leadership for mutual benefit. Continued progress to achieve the project's goals will take further commitment and effort by all parties.

Overcoming the ever-present shifting of organizational and project priorities of MOU signatories and stakeholders will take perseverance but will reward participants with a stable, healthy watershed, protection of ecologically important resources, and continued sustainable business opportunities for decades to come.



Appendix One

Full Names of Project Leads, Partners, and Important Stakeholders

Project Team

PlanRVA, Sarah Stewart, Rebekah Cazares

HRPDC, Ben McFarlane

CZM, Laura McKay, Jefferson Flood

Institute for Engagement & Negotiation at the University of Virginia, Tanya Denckla Cobb, Kelly Altizer, J. Michael Foreman

Outreach Committee

Capital Region Land Trust, Parker Agelasto

Historic Virginia Land Conservancy, Patrice Sadler

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Ben McFarlane

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Becky Gwynn

Virginia Department of Forestry, Terry Lasher

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Division of Natural Heritage, Joseph Weber

Virginia Tourism Corporation, Staci Martin

Virginia Commonwealth University, Todd Janeski

James River Association, Justin Doyle

The Nature Conservancy, Andy Lacatell

Tribal Parties

Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chief Stephen Adkins, Tribal Environmental Director Dana Adkins

Chickahominy Tribe - Eastern Division, Chief Gerald Stewart, Tribal Environmental Director Jessica Phillips, and Tribal Council woman Doris Austin

Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Tribal Natural Resource Manager Warren Taylor and Tribal Cultural Resource Director and Museum Director Shaleigh Howells

Appendix Two

Abbreviations

PlanRVA – Richmond Area Planning District Commission

HRPDC – Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

DEQ – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

CZM – Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

VDOT – Virginia Department of Transportation

DCR-DNH – Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage

HUC – Hydrologic Unit Code

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

IEN – Institute for Engagement & Negotiation at the University of Virginia

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MOA – Memorandum of Agreement

LCW – Lower Chickahominy Watershed

LCWP – Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project

LCWC – Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

CIED – Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

VEVA – Coastal Virginia Ecological Value Assessment

SC – LCWP Steering Committee

OC – LCWP Outreach Committee

Project Team – PlanRVA, HRPDC, UVA - IEN, CZM

Appendix Three

LCW Memorandum of Understanding

Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Counties of New Kent, Charles City and James City

and the

Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Pamunkey Indian Tribe

and the

Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (Plan RVA) and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

To

Coordinate and Collaborate on Efforts to Increase Sustainable Ecological and Economic Activity in the Lower Chickahominy Watershed

I. Signatories

The Signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are as follows:

- New Kent, Charles City and James City counties
- The Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

All of the above organizations and agencies are referred to herein as “Signatories.” The Signatories have a common interest in conservation, protection, and the sustainable economic growth of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed (LCW).

II. Authority to Enter into the Memorandum of Understanding

The enabling authority for the County and Planning District Commission Signatories to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding is contained in the following Virginia State Code citations:

Counties of Charles City, James City, and New Kent

Section 15.2-1300 of the Code of Virginia enables local governments to enter into cooperative agreements to exercise those powers that each may be enabled to exercise.

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Section 15.2-4205 of the Code of Virginia enables Planning District Commissions to enter into contracts or agreements, as they may determine, which are necessary or incidental to the performance of their duties and to the execution of those powers that each may be enabled to exercise.

The Tribes of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed have inherent sovereign powers and the right to self-government. The Tribes of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed are:

Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Note: The obligations of all Signatories herein are subject to the availability of funding, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as binding any signatory to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of available private dollars, state or congressional appropriations, or to involve any signatory in any contract or other obligation for further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or private allocations.

III. Lower Chickahominy Supporting Cooperative Partners

State agencies, Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses that wish to support the Signatories and purpose of this MOU may sign a Supporting Cooperative Partner page. These Supporting Cooperative Partners agree to advise, participate as invited, and contribute to the work of the Signatories in carrying out this MOU. A sample Supporting Cooperative Partner statement page is included as an attachment to this MOU.

IV. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to facilitate enhanced cooperative and collaborative efforts to increase sustainable ecological and economic activity in the LCW. The Lower Chickahominy watershed (10-digit HUC – 0208020606) is recognized for harboring some of the most biologically diverse and ecologically significant areas in the Coastal Zone of Virginia.

V. Background

This project was initiated in 2016 and established a collaborative planning process across three counties in the LCW, east of Richmond in the counties of New Kent, Charles City, and James City, Virginia to identify and establish an overarching vision for land use, land conservation, and sustainable economic priorities. The effort, funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), supports improved coordination among natural resource agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, and not for profit regional organizations with interests in programs and enforceable policies for coastal areas. This approach also aims to build and strengthen relationships and partnerships among multiple stakeholders across the watershed. Through the first four years of the project, several critical project products have yielded valuable information on the high value of this watershed and the potential for both conservation and sustainable business opportunity. These products, funded by the Virginia CZM Program, are as follows:

- A conservation inventory conducted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage Division;
- An economic report on the socio-economic impacts of conserved land in the LCW;

- A stakeholder engagement process including thought leader interviews, focus groups, and stakeholder survey report, individual consultations with three Tribes, and a joint consultation with the three counties;
- A joint Local Government/Tribal Workshop, with a summary report;
- A LCW Summit, with a summary report of the draft LCW Action Plan.

VI. The Natural Resources of the LCW

The three counties of the Lower Chickahominy watershed boast some of the most valuable and unique natural resources in Virginia. Healthy streams run through forested lands and open spaces that are home to the native flora and fauna of the tidal fresh zone of coastal Virginia.

The LCW is characteristic of a rural area experiencing suburban development pressure in Virginia's coastal plain. Figure One below shows the LCW. New Kent County is the third fastest growing county in the Commonwealth of Virginia with Interstate 64 running down the spine of the watershed. Historic Route 5 runs along the southern boundary of the LCW. These three counties run the spectrum from rural to urban, with Charles City County being the most rural to James City County being the most urban. The counties in the LCW represent three different densities of population, ranging from Charles City as the least populated (pop: 6,963) to James City as the most populated (pop: 76,523). The James River borders the southern boundary of the LCW, with the LC emptying into it at the Charles City and James City County border.

The majority of land in the LCW is covered by small and large blocks of privately-owned forests, with some state-owned preserves. Figure Two shows the natural resources of the watershed. The presence of active agriculture across the landscape is reflected in land areas classified as pasture or cropland. Residential and business development is reflected in impervious, turf/grass, and disturbed land areas. The entire three-county study area covers approximately 608 square miles of land and water. Water in rivers and streams comprises 12.6% of the study area. The largest component of land cover is forest (blocks of tree cover greater than 1 acre) or trees (blocks of tree cover less than 1 acre); a total of 52.9% of the entire study area, or 60.4% of the land area, is covered by trees or forest. Impervious cover is approximately 4.0% of the study area.

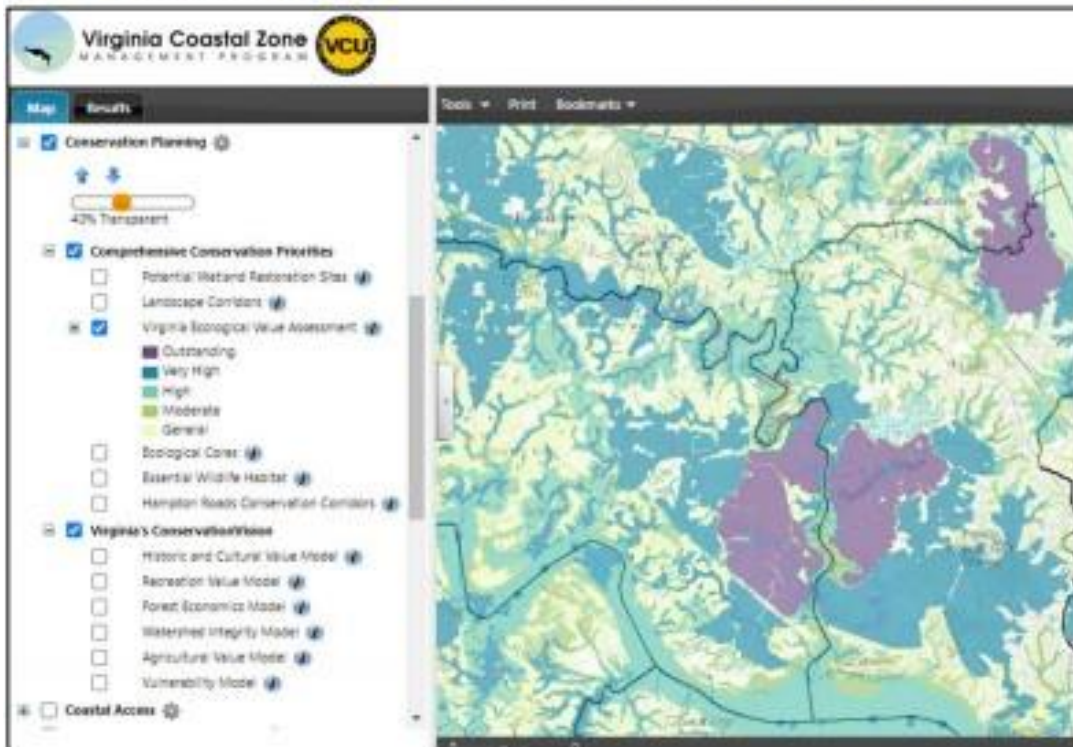
The Lower Chickahominy study area is home to 10 streams and creeks that have been identified as "healthy waters" by the Healthy Waters program of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. One of these is recognized as "outstanding" water, meaning it is estimated to be in the top 20% of waters with high ecological health included in the program. Seventeen bodies of water are in

the middle 20% of streams analyzed in the program and have been identified as restoration candidates. While these bodies of water have suffered some ecological degradation, they maintain aspects of ecological health and present as strong candidates for restoration efforts. The Lower Chickahominy study area has a higher percentage of land and water area recognized in the Virginia Ecological Value Assessment (VEVA) as having either Outstanding or Very High ecological value compared to the entire Coastal Zone of Virginia; 39% compared to 34%. Therefore, the three counties of the Lower Chickahominy represent a concentration of ecologically valuable land and water habitat.

Figure One. The Lower Chickahominy Watershed



Figure Two. Natural Resources of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed



VII. The Cultural Resources of the LCW

The LCW is as rich in cultural resources as it is in natural resources. One of the major cultural resources in the LCW is the presence of three Virginia Tribes, the Chickahominy, Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, and the Pamunkey. The Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017 recognized the Chickahominy, Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, Monacan, and Nansemond Tribes as sovereign nations, bringing the number to 573 federally recognized Tribes in the U.S. While the Pamunkey Indian Tribe was recognized via treaty by the Commonwealth since colonial times, they became the first Virginia tribe to be granted federal recognition by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2015, a process finalized in 2016.

Furthermore, this recent recognition of the Virginia Tribes in the LCW also means that the relationships with all levels of government will change. Relationships, particularly at the local level, are critical to the protection of both cultural heritage

and sacred lands for which this Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project (LCWP) has a vested interest in enhancing.

One clear outcome of the Tribes' participation in this MOU is to ensure that Tribal interests are respected and appropriately consulted by local governments in their decision-making through the future of the watershed. A second outcome is to develop a longer-term healthy relationship between local agencies and the Tribal nations, ensuring that Tribal interests are considered and reflected in policy proposals and any other emerging strategy elements that are developed during the LCWP work.

Regarding this work with the Tribes, our primary emphasis was placed on preserving and protecting the cultural heritage and sacred lands. The recent recognition provides inherent powers to the Tribes, and particularly notable is the state's inability to interfere in Tribal affairs. Second, the Tribes desire open and frequent communication processes that are mindful of the uniqueness of each of the tribe's communication methods. Third, the "taught" history is not accurate, and corrections, both historical and current, are paramount if Tribes are to be active, independent sovereign nations as federal recognition dictates. Local government officials in the LCW, particularly those from Charles City County, described a strong relationship with the LCW Tribes. Fourth, the recent recognition has also brought an increased administrative and collaborative workload for Tribal leaders. Hence, longer response times to requests from other governments should be accounted for as relationships grow. Tribal staff is limited and consulting Tribes early in the decision-making process is critical; specifically, consultation is necessary when actions and/or development have known or potential impacts on Tribal lands and interests. To ensure effective communication, Tribes requested frequent contact with county staff and leadership.

The relationship between local governments and Tribes does have, as a core component, the need to work closely with the Department of Historic Resources to further protect Tribal cultural resources. The Commonwealth of Virginia has established an Archeological Discovery Protocol that is referenced in the Virginia Antiquities Act (Va. Code §§ 10.1-1188, 10.1-1197.6 and 15.2-2306). The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires review and consultation with localities and tribes on projects; these Section 106 reviews are limited to projects including Federal actions. While a robust mapping program that identifies and protects sensitive sites safeguards the removal of cultural artifacts, Tribal workshop participants asserted that promoting clarity of regulation(s) and a strong consultation process would fit into the LCWP effort to improve enforceable policies and programs. Discussions between Tribes and local governments about

existing regulations and local policies would be an appropriate first step to improve local government consultation with the tribes to protect tribal cultural heritage from impacts due to development.

Jamestown was established in what is now southeastern James City County; the city of Williamsburg abuts the county. The Lower Chickahominy area is about as close as you can get to the first steps of English colonization of the mid-Atlantic. As Europeans moved westward and Virginia's economy grew, Plantations were established across the Lower Chickahominy area and beyond. Today, a discussion of history, culture or tourism in the Lower Chickahominy would not be complete without mention of the plantations. Shirley Plantation, Virginia's first plantation, was founded in 1613 by a royal land grant. Through the 1600s the European population increased in the area now known as Virginia and across the mid-Atlantic. The 1700s saw the construction of great plantation houses, including Shirley, built with the proceeds from selling tobacco.

Both the production of tobacco and the construction of plantation houses across Virginia relied on the economic realities of slave labor. The first African slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619. In 1623, the rolls at Flowerdew Hundred in the then borough of Charles City counted 11 of these first African slaves in Virginia. Charles City County has produced a series of exhibits and a self-guided driving/biking tour all about the African American experience in the county called Freedom's Jubilee: An African American Journey.

VIII. The Need for the MOU

Situated between the City of Richmond to the west and the City of Williamsburg to the east, the LCW is rich in both environmental and cultural resources. The resources of the LCW are wedged between these cities and bounded by the James River to the south and are in conflict with this growing population. To attain a stable conservation and protection base while working to find sustainable economic opportunities, an enhanced effort and expectation of ongoing, consistent collaboration among the multiplicity of LCW stakeholders is necessary.

Sitting across three counties, two planning district commissions, and a myriad group of state, federal, and not for profit organizations, a formal agreement will provide a solid foundation for collaboration, increased communication, and regional solutions for the LCW.

IX. Statement of Mutual Agreement

It is mutually understood and agreed by the Signatories that:

1. Only by working together can the signatories achieve enhanced natural resources conservation, environmental and cultural protection, and economic opportunities;
2. The LCW is an area of critical and important natural and cultural resources to all Signatories;
3. The Signatories agree to support the conservation and protection priorities of the LCW and to build on the community engagement ideas and concepts identified through the existing project years;
4. The Local Government and Planning District Commission Signatories will seek to build equitable relationships with the Tribes of the LCW;
5. Additional funding will be needed to achieve the goals set forth in this MOU. The Signatories shall work together to seek and leverage funding from private, local, State, and Federal sources such that it can be maximized to advance the LCW goals;

X. Scope of Work

The Signatories shall communicate and coordinate with regard to land conservation, land protection and economic opportunity issues important to each signatory.

Within ninety days of the effective date of this Memorandum of Understanding, as soon thereafter as convenient to the Signatories, the Signatories shall meet to develop priorities and goals for the Collaborative, including the following priorities previously identified through the project's work but not limited to:

- **Improving physical recreational infrastructure;**
- **Supporting sustainable economic development;**
- **Enhancing river advocacy, education, and marketing;**
- **Promoting land conservation and landowner education;**
- **Ensuring protection of sites and traditions that are sacred and historic to the tribes; and**
- **Increasing ecological restoration and stewardship.**

Thereafter, at least annually, the Signatories shall update and refine the above information.

XI. Modifications

Material modifications to this Memorandum of Understanding must be submitted in writing and approved by all Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding. Approval may be via electronic assent via email.

XII. Effective Date

The effective date of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be the date of the last signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Counties of Charles City, James City, and New Kent, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA).

XIII. Duration and Termination of the Agreement

The duration of this Memorandum of Understanding will be until such time as it is terminated upon agreement of all Signatories; however, any party to the Memorandum of Understanding may terminate its participation by 30 days' written notice to all other Signatories. Termination of participation does not require approval by other Signatories.

XIV. Manner of Financing

This Memorandum of Understanding will not require financing or budgeting from or by the Signatories; however, this clause will not preclude, under a separate document or agreement, grant funding or other financial assistance from one signatory to another for the purpose of carrying out the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding.

XV. Ownership of Property

It is not the intent of the Signatories that this Memorandum of Understanding will result in the purchase, ownership, holding, or conveying of any real or personal property.

XVI. Project Officers

The following project officers, for the purpose of administering this MOU, including receiving and reviewing reports, meeting attendance, project proposals, and the handling of termination notices are:

- James City County: Tammy Rosario, Assistant Director Community Development
- Charles City County: Rhonda Russell, Assistant County Administrator/ Director of Community Development
- New Kent County: Justin Stauder, Assistant County Administrator
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe: Dana Adkins, Tribal Environmental Director
- Chickahominy Indians Tribe - Eastern Division: Jessica Phillips, Environmental Director
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe: Chief Robert Gray
- PlanRVA: Sarah Stewart, Planning Manager - Environmental Program
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission: Ben McFarlane, Senior Regional Planner

XVII. EXECUTION AND COUNTERPARTS.

This MOU may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original, all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

XVIII. APPROVALS

List of Signatories to the MOU:

- Charles City County
- James City County
- New Kent County
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Indians Tribe - Eastern Division
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CHARLES CITY COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

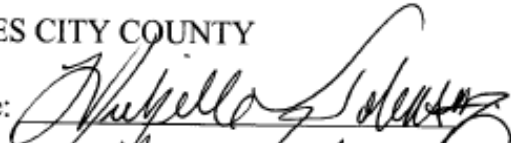
Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:


Michelle Johnson
8/2/2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR JAMES CITY COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe


Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Signature: 

Printed Name: Scott A. Stevens

Date: 10-11-2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM

COUNTY ATTORNEY

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR NEW KENT COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe


Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

NEW KENT COUNTY

Signature:  _____

Printed Name: Rodney Hathaway _____

Date: 10/22/2021 _____

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE

Signature: Stephen R. Adkins

Printed Name: Stephen R. Adkins

Date: October 5, 2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE – EASTERN DIVISION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

CHICKAHOMINY INDIAN TRIBE – EASTERN DIVISION

Signature: *Chief Gerald A Stewart*
Chief Gerald A Stewart (Jun 3, 2021 10:33 EDT)

Printed Name: Chief Gerald A Stewart

Date: 06/03/2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)



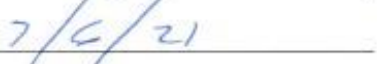
Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT
COMMISSION (PLANRVA)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (PLANRVA)

Signature: Martha Shickle Heeter

Printed Name: Martha Shickle Heeter

Date: October 5, 2021

SIGNATURE PAGE FOR HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT
COMMISSION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following individuals execute this agreement.

Chief Administrative Officer, Charles City County

Chief Administrative Officer, James City County

Chief Administrative Officer, New Kent County

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Chief, Pamunkey Indian Tribe

Executive Director, Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)

Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Signature:  _____

Printed Name: Robert A. Crum, Jr

Date: 8/20/2021

SAMPLE SUPPORTING COOPERATIVE PARTNER STATEMENT

As a Supporting Cooperative Partner of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Collaborative (LCWC), __[organization]__ supports the Signatories of the LCWC in building respectful and cooperative relationships among each other.

__[Organization]__ supports the LCWC goals of

- Enhanced natural resource conservation,
- Environmental and cultural protection, and
- Sustainable economic opportunities.

__ [Organization]__ recognizes that the Lower Chickahominy Watershed is an area of critical and important natural and cultural resources.

__[Organization]__ supports the conservation and protection priorities of the LCWC as identified in earlier years of the Lower Chickahominy Watershed Project and agreed upon annually by the LCWC Signatories.

__[Organization]__ commits to the following activities that will advance common understanding and action on the goals and priorities of the LCWC:

- e.g., Meeting attendance (attend meetings of the LCWC, committees, or workgroups)
- e.g., Information sharing and education (update about relevant work or studies)
- e.g., Technical assistance (water quality monitoring, data or mapping assistance, document creation, etc.)
- e.g., Funding assistance (support through direct funding or leveraging of partnerships for funding assistance)
- [other]

Name
Title
Organization

Date