

BOATING ACCESS GRANTS TO LOCALITIES

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Boating Access Specialist and Grant Manager

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Objectives for this Presentation

- Make you aware of the program
- Brief Program Outline
- Invite your questions

Covington Site, Jackson River



Program Purpose

To assist localities in providing opportunities for new or improved public boating access facilities.

This will allow for new construction of facilities and will address the increasing demand for hand-launch boating access sites.

James Adams



Steve Kesler



James:

- Budget
- Annual work schedule
- Program material
- Coordinate OAG review
- Web page postings
- Coordinate PR - VACo, VML, PDCs
- Support information and participate on Review Team
- Notify applicant of award
- Negotiate Agreements, coordinate signatures
- Invoices/reimbursements
- Confirm project period

Steve:

- Review comment, program material
- Receive/review applications
- Applicant Coordination
- Coordinate internal environmental review
- Schedule, facilitate internal review team
- Review/approve plans
- Provide technical advice
- Inspect facilities, approve product
- Receive, review invoices

Authority

- Code of Virginia §29.1-103 (Board), § 29.1-109 (Director), and § 29.1-701 (Boat Fund and use)
- § 2.2-4301, Grants to Localities are exempt from the bidding provisions of Virginia Public Procurement Act



Funding

- \$600,000 per year
- Use of the Motorboat and Water Safety Fund (Boat Fund) and Sport Fish Restoration Fund (Federal Assistance Grants)
- Grants will reimburse up to 75% of allowable project costs up to the maximum Award amount
- Subject to availability of funds
- Information posted on DGIF web page

Site Funding Categories

- Non-Power - up to a maximum \$15,000 for hand launch human power boats (canoes/kayaks) and at least 5 parking spaces
- Small Power - up to a maximum \$35,000 for non-trailer hand launch boats and at least 5 parking spaces
- Medium Power - up to a maximum \$75,000 for trailered boats with a hardened ramp and at least 15 parking spaces
- Large Power - up to a maximum \$150,000 for trailered boats with a hardened ramp and at least 25 parking spaces

Eligible Project Costs

- Administrative
- Planning and Design
- Permitting - includes environmental (VMRC, USACE), historical (VDHR), building (local)
- Construction
- In-kind Services (match)

Design Requirements

- VA Statewide Building Code
- DGIF Design Standards
- Americans for Disability Act Standards
- DGIF Reviews and approves plans

Project Evaluation

- Registered boats and fishing licenses sold
- Water depth, distance from existing site, only site in locality, quality of access road, defined need, number of parking spaces
- Located in protected area (park, protected), no restrictions on type of boat, time open to public, available services, no fees to use
- Resource opportunities (fisheries, wildlife, scenic, white water), innovation in design or materials, other site characteristics (no water hazards, improved roads, ease of use by disabled, law enforcement patrols, visibility, year-round use)

Review Team

- Evaluations by a multi-division team that reviews all applications and each potential boating access site
- A determination is made on each applicants eligibility
- Points awarded by pre-determined scoring criteria (program material posted)
- Review based on points and known attributes of the site
- Required Resolution of support from each local jurisdiction's governing body

Cooperative Grant Agreement

- Standard protective language and terms and conditions and is in effect for 20-25 years; form approved by OAG
- Requires resolution of support from administrative body
- Requires locality to maintain to agency standards
- Requires local law enforcement to monitor
- Allows agency to advertise on web page (inventory)
- Requires recognition signs
- Protects site for intended use of public boating access
- Requires locality to post contact information to report problems

Implementation Schedule FY15

- Approved for FY15 funding (July 1, 2014 – June 31, 2015)
- Advertised late June 2014 (VML, VACo, VPDCs, DGIF Web, Press Release)
- Applications due October 1, 2014
- Department staff will review and evaluate all applications based on merits of the project
- Grant awards by January 1, 2015
- Construction must be completed in 12 months for non-power sites and 18 months for power sites (from date of award); projects delayed due to permitting and other reasons. We work with localities and assist them, allow time extensions.

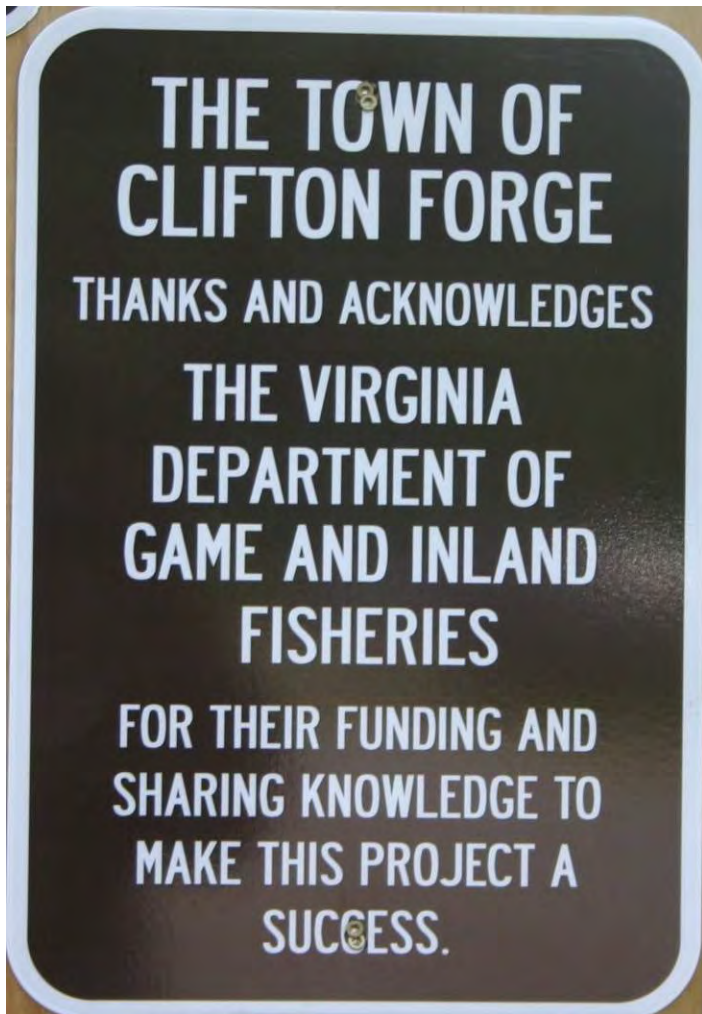
Two Years!

- Fiscal Year 13 – received 17 applications for sites in 10 different water bodies for \$744,000
 - 11 sites awarded totaling \$292,150 under cooperative grant agreements; sites on 7 different rivers
 - 6 sites are complete and open to public (\$60,000)
- Fiscal Year 14 – received 11 applications for sites in 9 different water bodies for \$550,000
 - 7 sites awarded totaling \$280,000 under agreements; sites are on 7 different water bodies

Economic Benefit

- DGIF grants act as stimulus to local community
 - one particular grant for \$10,000 resulted in the locality investing \$163,706 in the site
- Boaters contribute \$2.2 Billion Dollars to the Virginia economy (NMMA, 2013)
- Boating in VA is responsible for 23,044 jobs (NMMA)

Clifton Forge, Jackson River



Lynch Memorial Park, Franklin Co., Pigg River



Emporia, Meherrin River



Waid Recreation Area, Franklin Co., Pigg River



Glasgow, Rockbridge Co., James R.



Questions

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Contact Information

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