

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 23-23

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr
Executive Director
DATE: March 23, 2023

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A FRESHWATER MUSSEL GRANT PROPOSAL TO THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION'S CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality listed approximately 250 miles of streams in Northern Virginia as impaired in 2018; and

WHEREAS, many streams that once supported freshwater mussels no longer do; and

WHEREAS, over 72% of mussel species are imperiled or extinct due to habitat loss, water quality problems, and barriers to host fish passage; and

WHEREAS, mussels function as ecosystem engineers by filtering and cleaning vast volumes of water. Each adult freshwater mussel can filter up to 10 gallons of water a day; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County Department of Public Works has invested significant time and money into stream corridor restoration to improve the hydrologic and geomorphic functions of local streams that have become degraded; and

WHEREAS, to leverage the investments that Prince William County has made, there is an opportunity to enhance biodiversity and help to improve water quality by reintroducing native freshwater mussels to restored streams; and


WHEREAS, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has grant funding available through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to protect and restore water quality, species, and habitats in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

WHEREAS, NVRC has worked in conjunction with Prince William County staff and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service staff in the development of a proposal; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission authorizes the Executive Director to apply for a grant not to exceed \$200,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in support of leveraging freshwater mussels to improve water quality in Prince William County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, should the proposal be accepted for funding.

CERTIFICATION


The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on March 23, 2023.

ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER