

# Issue Analysis Form



**Date:** 01/24/2023  
**Item:** Forest Sustainability Grant Application  
**Lead Department(s):** Recreation / Finance  
**Contact Person(s):** Keith Rotzoll / Betsy Drewry

## Description and Current Status

On November 9, 2022, the Board of Supervisors granted authority for the Assessor to apply for a Virginia Department of Forestry Forest Sustainability Fund grant. This funding was newly created by the Virginia General Assembly for FY2023 (Code of VA 58.1-3242.1), and a total of \$1,000,000 was appropriated for use by Virginia localities. The General Assembly created the sustainability fund to assist localities in replacing tax revenue losses resulting from offering the land use program for forestland.

The application was submitted and an award of \$6,828.69 was received on January 4, 2023. The funds may be used for education, outdoor recreation or forest preservation.

The staff recommendation is to use the funds for outdoor recreation initiatives, and there is a recommendation to use this year's award for a self-service Kayak Rental Station at the Appomattox River Regional Park.

The estimated cost of the self-service kayak rental is \$16,000. The remaining funding needed to purchase the self-service kayak rental station will come from Tourism Funds.

### Board Action Requested:

Authorize appropriation of \$6,828.69 in State Forest Sustainability Funds to purchase a self-service Kayak Rental Station. No formal Board award of contract is required for this purchase, as it is less than \$50,000.

### Appropriation Entry is:

General Fund

### Expenditures:

0100-07-211-0505-46120 Recreation Forest Sustainability Projects \$6,828.69

### Revenues:

0100-20-601-8203-323106 State Forest Sustainability Funds \$6,828.69

## Government Path

**Does this require IDA action?**  Yes  No  
**Does this require BZA action?**  Yes  No  
**Does This require Planning Commission Action?**  Yes  No

**Does this require Board of Supervisors action?**

Yes  No

**Does this require a public hearing?**

Yes  No

**If so, before what date?**

Yes  No

### **Fiscal Impact Statement**

There is no local funding impact for applying for these funds. The funds will allow for completion of outdoor recreation initiatives with no burden to County taxpayers. There is no local match required. The self-service Kayak Rental Station will consist of a \$2,800 annual fee which will be budgeted within the Tourism Fund budget.

### **County Impact**

The Prince George County Comprehensive Plan encourages the County to provide recreational needs for citizens and to explore opportunities to provide additional access to the James and Appomattox Rivers. The funds will allow for the completion of additional outdoor recreation initiatives at the Appomattox River Regional Park. The addition of the Kayak Rental Station at the Appomattox River Regional Park adds to the existing 65 acres of wooded trails, observatory pier, kayak/canoe launch pavilion, restrooms and greenspace provided to our citizens. The Kayak Rental Station will provide accessories to citizens and visitors to enjoy the outdoors and the river.

### **Notes**

**Betsy Drewry**

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**From:** Brian Gordineer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 12:48 PM  
**To:** Jeff Stoke; Betsy Drewry  
**Subject:** FYI: Forest Sustainability Fund Award

**From:** Jones, Amanda (DOF) <Amanda.Jones@dof.virginia.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023 10:59 AM  
**To:** Brian Gordineer <bgordineer@princegeorgecountyva.gov>  
**Subject:** Forest Sustainability Fund Award

Rob Farrell  
State Forester



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Department of Forestry

900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800 • Charlottesville, Virginia 22903  
(434) 977-6555 • Fax: (434) 296-2369 • [www.dof.virginia.gov](http://www.dof.virginia.gov)

Brian Gordineer  
Prince George County

Thank you for submitting an application for a portion of the Forest Sustainability Fund. The Fund was a result of legislation introduced in the 2022 Virginia General Assembly by Delegate Robert Bloxom and Senator Frank Ruff. Now part of the Code of Virginia (§ [58.1-3242.1](#)), it assists localities that provide a lower forest land tax rate to landowners by restoring a portion of forgone revenues back to localities. This year, 68 localities submitted applications with a forgone revenue amount of nearly \$72.5 million dollars.

I am pleased to notify you that your locality will be receiving a proportional share of this year's funding in the amount of **\$6828.69**. This amount was determined by dividing your reported forgone revenue by the total forgone revenue of all the localities that applied, then multiplying that fraction by the amount budgeted for this year (\$1 million). A check will be issued by the Treasurer of Virginia or sent by electronic means if your locality had previously set up electronic payments with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Per the Code, monies from the Fund must be used solely for public education generally or for projects related to outdoor recreation or forest conservation. Unfortunately, we have not received more specific guidance than this, except that these monies cannot be used for staff or other costs associated with administering the forest land use tax program in the locality.

As this is the first year of the Forest Sustainability Fund, we are interested in your feedback regarding the application process and your tentative plans for using your portion of the Fund monies. Please take a few minutes to complete this [Forest Sustainability Fund Post-Award Survey](#) to help us collect your feedback.

Again, I am pleased that you will be receiving a portion of the Fund and thank you and other staff in your locality for your time and effort applying for this funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Farrell  
State Forester

Board of Supervisors  
County of Prince George, Virginia

Resolution

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George held in the Boardroom, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023:

Present:

Vote:

Donald R. Hunter, Chairman  
T. J. Webb, Vice-Chairman  
Floyd M. Brown, Jr.  
Alan R. Carmichael  
Marlene J. Waymack

A-6

On motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, which carried unanimously, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION; APPROPRIATION STATE FOREST SUSTAINABILITY FUNDS \$6,828.69

BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023, does hereby authorize and appropriate the following increase of funds within the 2022-2023 Budget, such line items increased as follows, which monies shall be expended for purposes authorized and approved by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George:

<u>FUND/ORGANIZATION</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
0100-07-211-0505-46120	Recreation Forest Sustainability Projects	\$6,828.69
<b>Revenues:</b>		
0100-20-601-8203-323106	State Forest Sustainability Funds	\$6,828.69

A Copy Teste:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey D. Stoke  
County Administrator