



Be River Friendly

It's Your Backyard

The Rappahannock River Basin Commission



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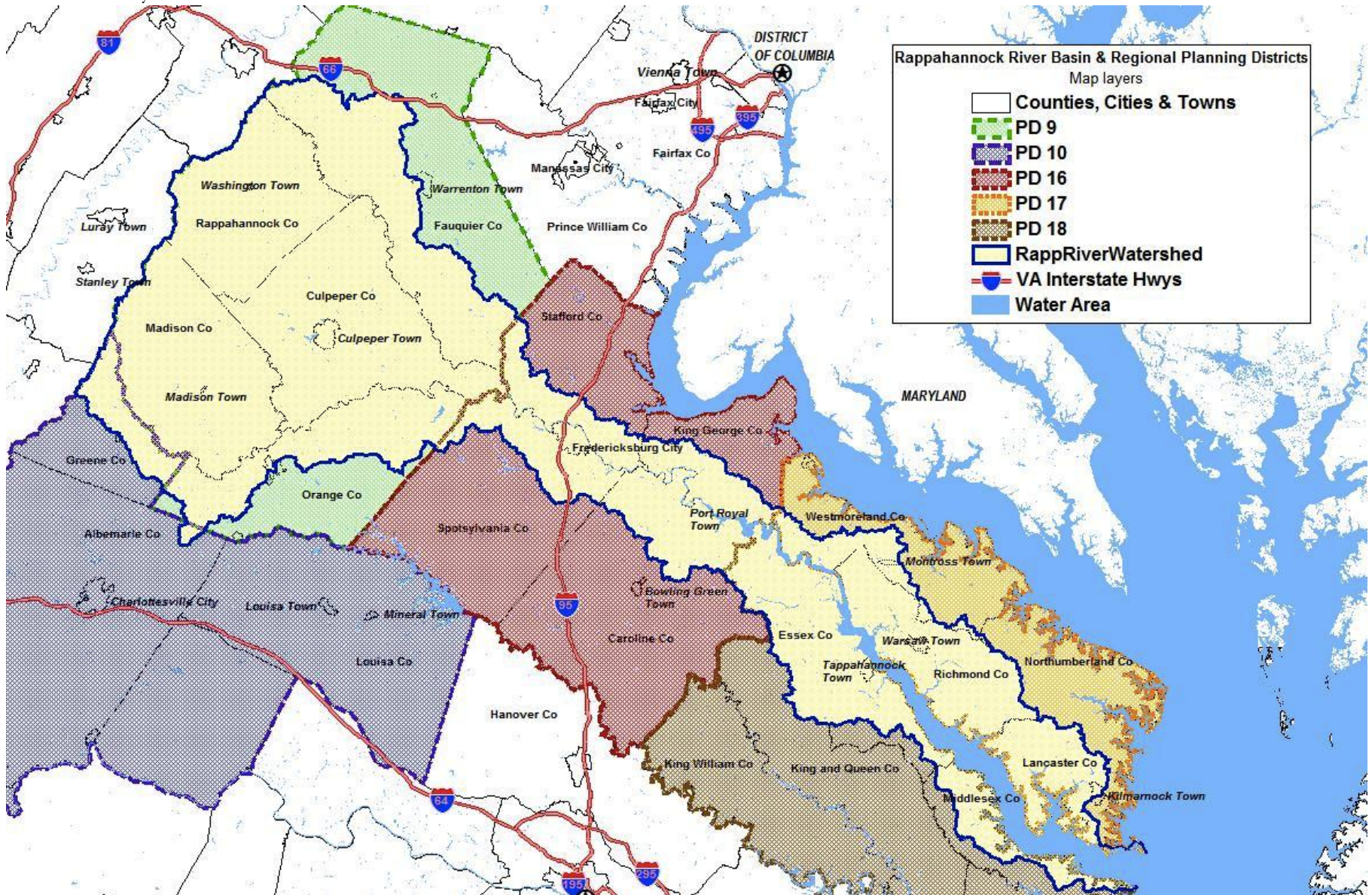
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- The Rappahannock River
- History of the Commission
- Structure of the Commission
- What are we doing to achieve clean water?
- How will we be responding to the TMDL?
- How can the CBC help?



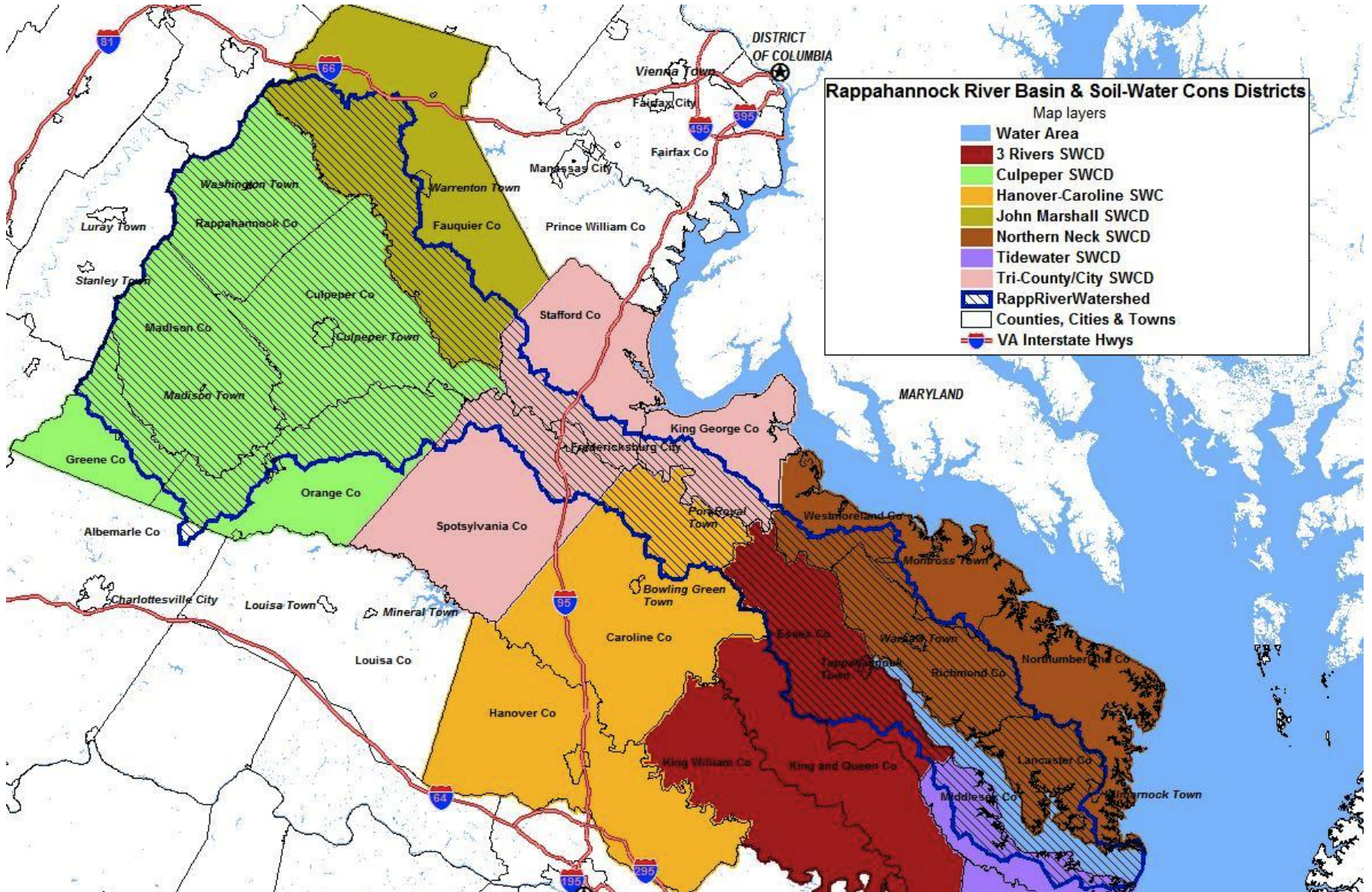
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2010 Population for Basin

- Est. Watershed Population = 317,305
 - Upper: 119,193 (37.6 %)
 - Middle: 160,315 (50.5 %)
 - Lower: 37,797 (11.9 %)
- Basin Communities Population = 671,286
 - Upper: 283,427 (42.2%)
 - Middle: 327,650 (48.8%)
 - Lower: 60,209 (9.0%)

Source: GWRC July 2011



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REPORT OF THE

**RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER
BASIN STUDY COMMISSION**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 50

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2000**



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- The Commission is empowered to establish committees and to conduct studies:
 - Water Allocation Group (1998 - 2004)
 - Guiding Principles for Regional Water Supply Planning
 - Non Point Source Work Group (2005 - 2010)
 - Multiple Basin wide Summits/Recommendations
 - Technical Committee (2011 →)
 - Nutrient Trading Expansion Recommendations



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What Are We Doing to Achieve Clean Water?

- Commission and Technical Committee are engaging all sectors in policy-level discussions – *what we do best*.
- Recommendations to Va. DEQ's Nutrient Trading Expansion Study Group.
- Technical Committee will be engaging the USACE – potential for collaboration.



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How will we be responding to the TMDL?

- Commission will dialog with key stakeholders, directly and through the Technical Committee to seek input on:
 - How we can promote the most cost-efficient solutions?
 - How do we “get out of our own way”?
 - How do we give primary focus to improving water quality while operating within the limitations of “making the model happy”?



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How will we be responding to the TMDL?

- The Commission will continue to provide a link between state agencies and local governments in helping each to clearly communicate their different perspectives on the issues. We all want clean water but we have different roles, responsibilities and challenges.



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How can the CBC help?

- Push for an environment that encourages innovation and private sector risk-taking in the development of new practices.
 - A robust and aggressive process for validating and authorizing practices; costs ~\$250K.
 - A system that increases certainty that good faith investments are protected from future regulatory change.



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How Can the CBC help?

- Encourage Broad Scale Outreach and Advocacy – consistency of message.
- Legacy Sediments must be addressed and should be part of the TMDL equation – part of the solution and not just another problem.
- As local government partners are asked to do more/different things responsibility and authority must align.



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Questions