



Be River Friendly

It's Your Backyard

The Rappahannock River Basin Commission



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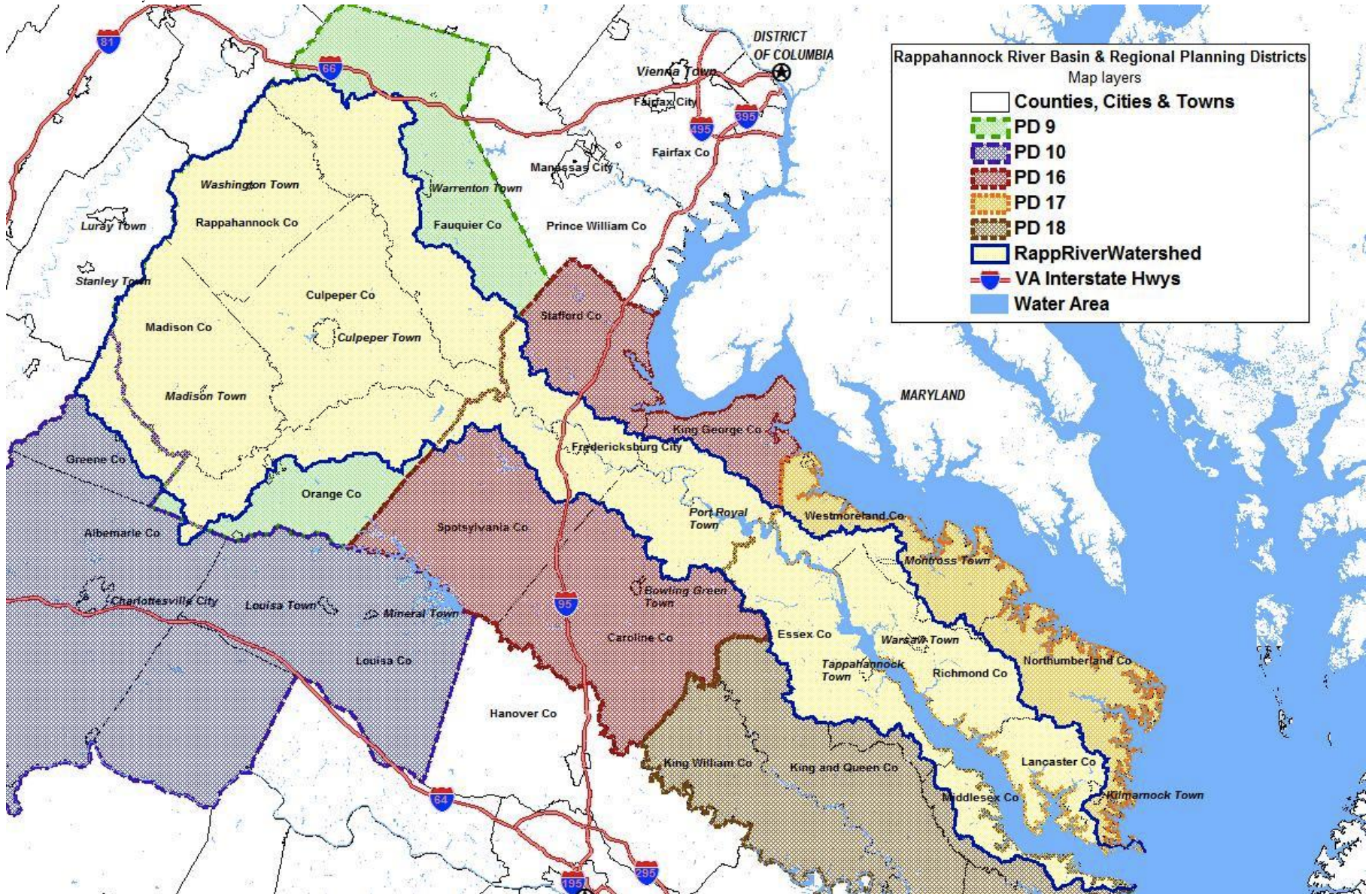
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- The Rappahannock River
- History & Structure of the Commission
- What are we doing to achieve clean water?
- How have we responded to the Ches-Bay TMDL?
- Is the Commission unique?
- How can the CBC help?



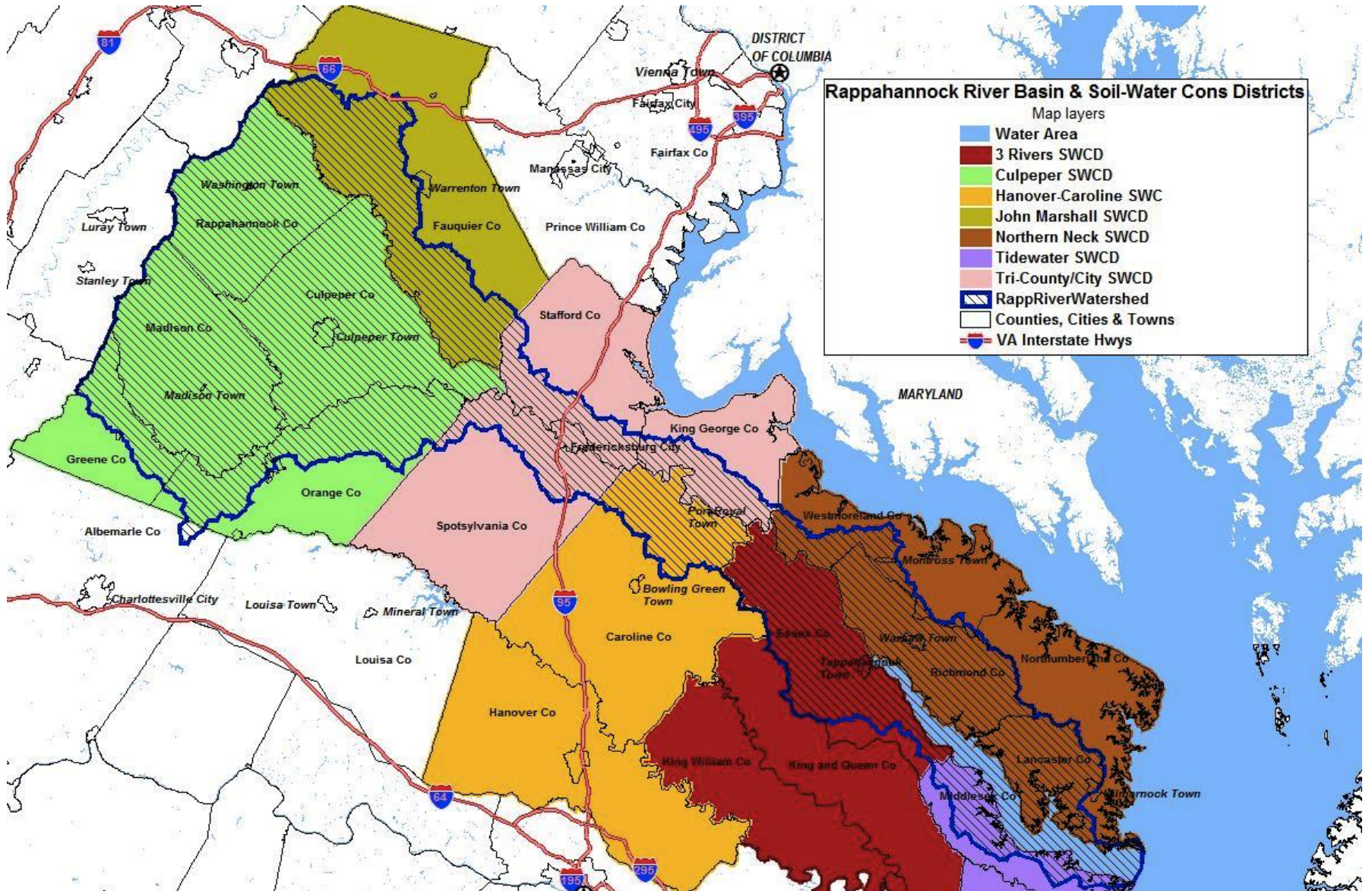
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2010 Population for Basin

- 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
 - Revisions to the VSMP



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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 on improvements to managing stormwater.
- Technical Committee engaged the USACE on several planning projects including recommending expansion of river and rain gauges in the upper basin.



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How have we responded to the Ches-Bay TMDL?

- Commission dialogs 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 give primary focus to improving water quality while operating within the limitations of "making the model happy"?



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How have we responded to the Ches-Bay TMDL?

- The Commission is working with the Virginia DOF, CBC staff, TNC, EPA and Virginia DEQ on a pilot project to demonstrate the value of retaining forestland in the Bay watershed. A significant topic at the upcoming Summit.



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Is the Commission unique?

- Unique only in the sense that the cooperative and collaborative policy exploration process has become institutionalized – 17 years of experience.
- It's about relationships – Developing Trust and Perspective (and Issue) Understanding.



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How can the CBC help?

- Push for an environment that encourages innovation and private sector risk-taking and the corresponding ability to make a profit in the development of new practices and approaches.
 - Such as identifying ways to promote the retention of high-value forests for both economic and ecosystem benefits. Tools for localities and developers to development and assess plans using this criteria.



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How Can the CBC help?

- Encourage investments in small rural community (villages) to solve septic failures
 - Virginia has over 200 small villages with high concentrations of failed septic systems.
 - A public health, environmental health and economic problem.
 - Need a direct source to assist counties in addressing the problem.



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Thank You!