

THE PATH FORWARD: INVESTING IN VIRGINIA'S LAND AND WATER

VIRGINIAforever's Five-Year Plan, 2021-2025

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VIRGINIA*forever* is ...

- a unique, diverse coalition of businesses, environmental organizations, and outdoor enthusiasts that advocates for increased government funding for water quality improvements and land conservation across the Commonwealth
- the only statewide organization that has a primary focus on increasing funding for natural resources protection



Partner Members



State Natural Resources Funding: A Long-Term Effort

5-Year Plan, 2015-2019: Urged funding for key land programs at \$833,785,000:

- 120,000 acres of working farms
- 240,000 acres of forestland
- 50,000 acres of historic places
- 40,000 acres of natural areas
- 50,000 acres of recreational lands

For water quality programs, funding at \$805,000,000:

- \$50 million every year for wastewater treatment facility upgrades
- \$50 million each year for stormwater management
- \$505 million over the next five years for agricultural best management practices



Virginia Natural Resources Funding: A Comparison

- *Natural Resources Funding and How it Compares to Other States – 2001-2018*, Fiscal Analytics, Ltd. (James J. Regimbal, Jr.; Neal Menkes)
- Virginia ranks near the bottom when compared to other states' spending on natural resources. The average state spends about double the amount as a percent of their state resources compared to Virginia.
- In this period, Virginia's natural resources budget declined (-1.0%).
- In the same period, Virginia's overall budget increased (3.0%).



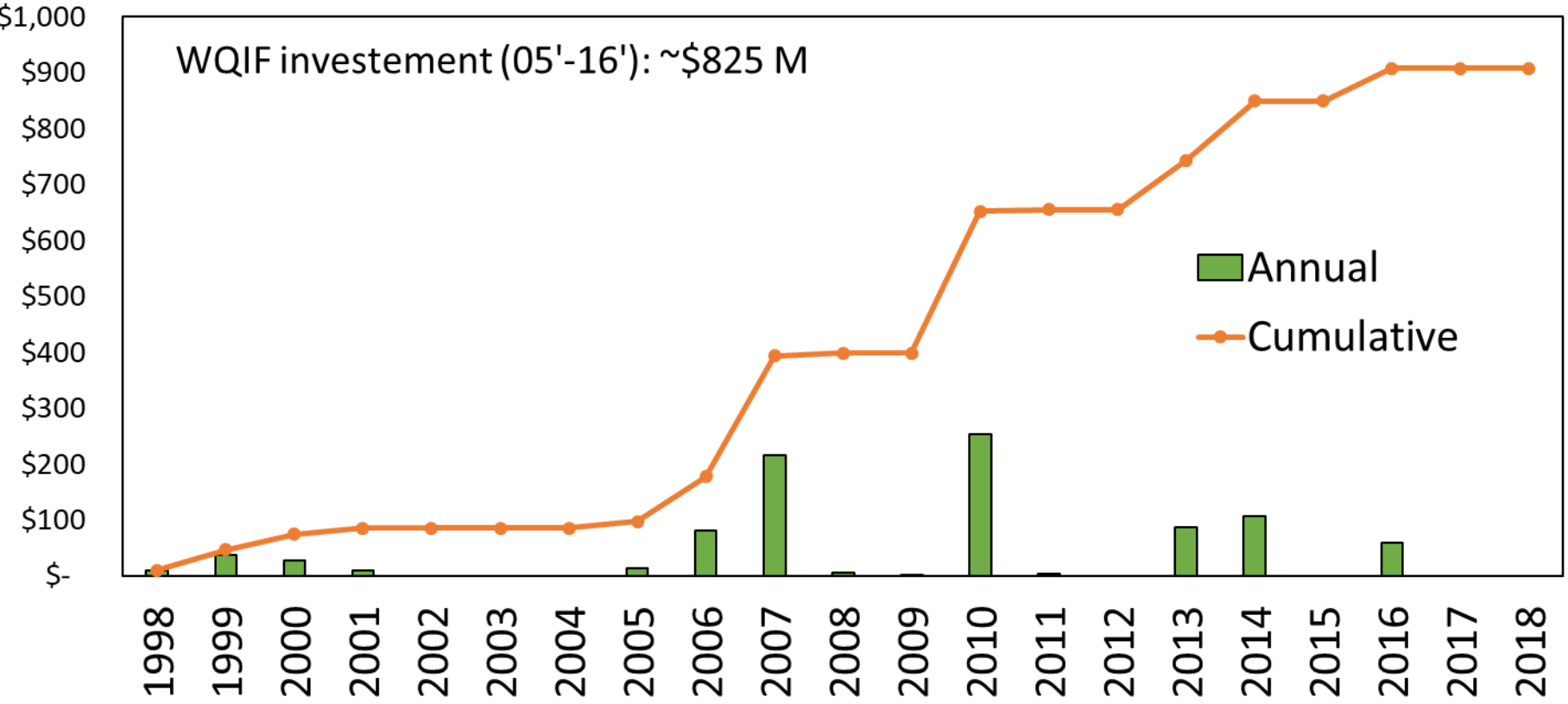
VIRGINIA*forever*'s Five-Year Plan, 2021-2025

- Discussions with legislators, conservation and industry partners, agency heads on needs, possibilities
- Consensus draft by board members (industry and conservation)
- Early September 2019 release
- Timed to assist legislators, policy makers, lobbyists, and citizens
- Educate on current land conservation progress/challenges
- Take into account final Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan
 - Progress achieved by Commonwealth
 - Gap between achievement and goals (N,P, S)
 - Reductions needed to address climate change
 - Sector/basin allocations

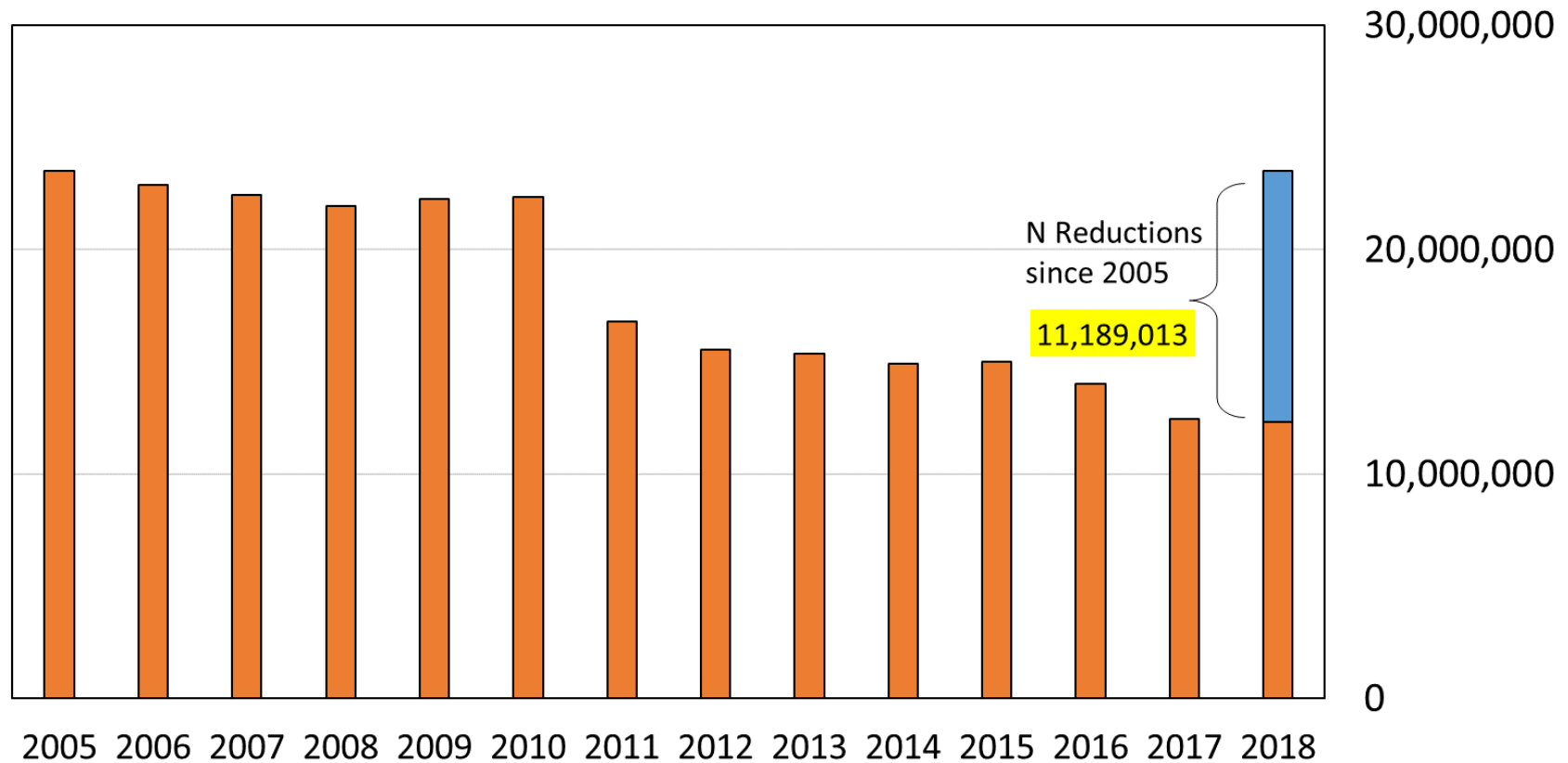


Water Programs: Building on Success, Reaching to 2025

- **Wastewater: A Story of Achievement**
 - WQIF, WGP, etc., etc.
 - Investments to date (2005-2018): \$825 million
 - Nitrogen Reduction Progress: 11.1 million pounds
 - Cost Efficiency: \$73 in state dollars (WQIF) per pound of nitrogen reduced
- **WIP III work to 2025: Finishing the Work**
 - 4 mg/l N; 0.3 mg/l P
 - Approximately 2.5-3.7 million pounds of nitrogen
 - WQIF Need \geq \$273 million (using historical cost-efficiency calculation)
 - \$55 million each year for five years



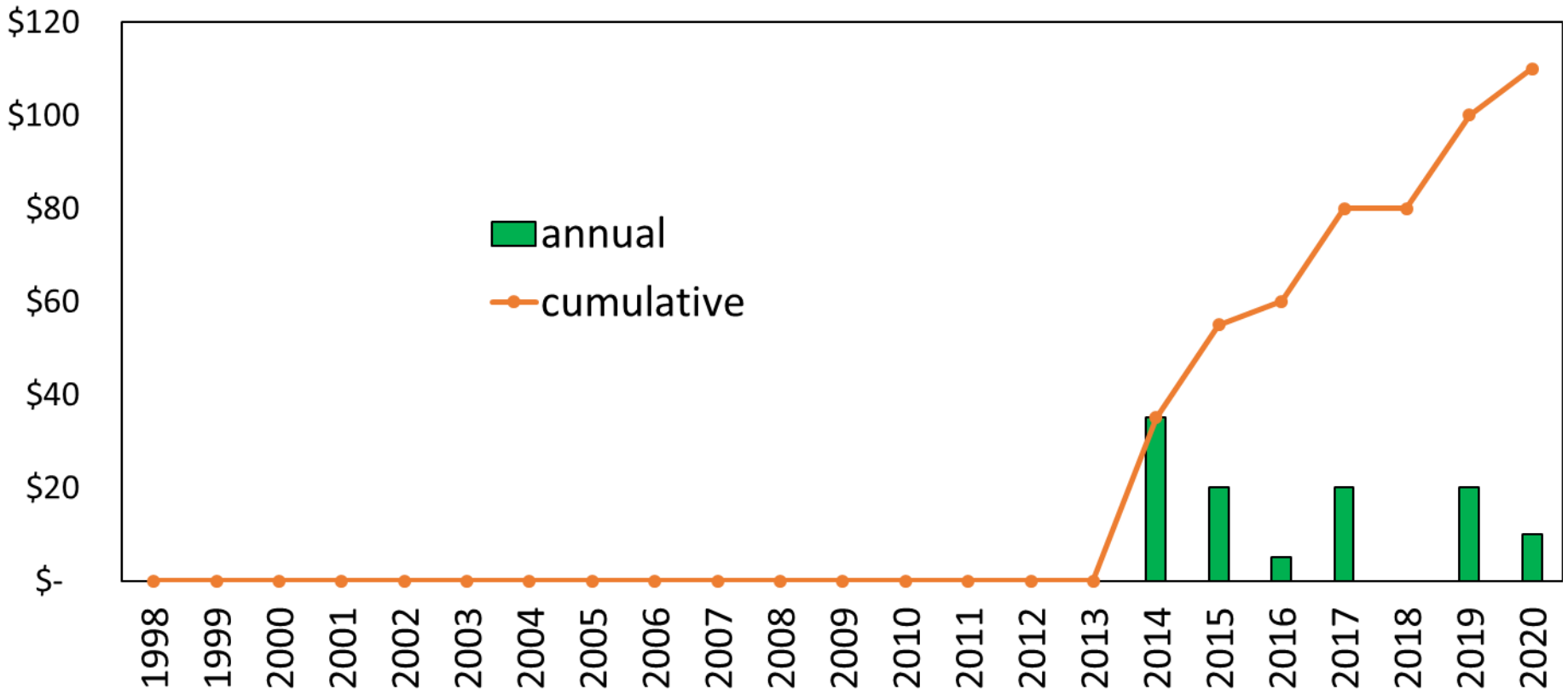
Wastewater progress (N Edge of tide)



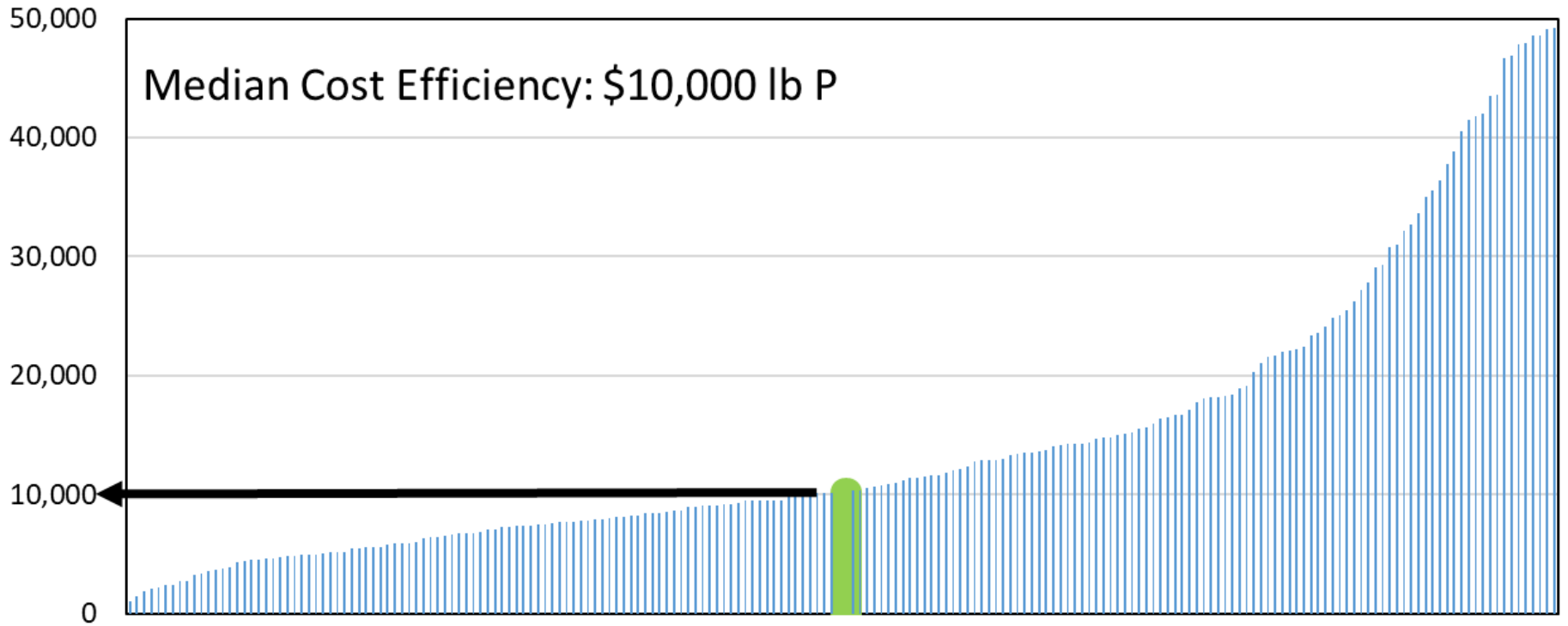


Stormwater: A Longer Tale

- Stormwater work: Began about 2014, MS4 backloaded schedule
- Stormwater reductions to date reflect average cost to Commonwealth (SLAF) of \$10,000 per pound of phosphorus reduced
- WIP III to 2025: 182,000 pounds of phosphorus
 - Assumes Urban NMPs, Tree Canopy Advances will reduce 50,000 pounds
 - Assumes SLAF funds are allocated 75% to regulated and 50% to unregulated
- SLAF Need to 2025 \geq \$400 million
- \$80 million each year for five years



Phosphorous Cost Efficiency



SLAF Efficiencies



Agriculture: Cost-Effective Water Quality Programs

- Virginia Agricultural Cost-share Program (BMPs and Technical Assistance)
- DCR's periodic needs assessment – not yet complete for this year, but has averaged \$100 million (never achieved) for **statewide** cost-share needs
- *Virginiaforever* anticipates similar numbers this year, allocated somewhat differently in respect of WIP-related work by DCR, SWCDs, agriculture community
- We urge \$100 million per year for five years for \$500 million total



Land Conservation and Public Access

- **\$660 million over five years**
 - \$20 million for Virginia Land Conservation Foundation grants
 - \$70 million in bonds for land acquisition
 - \$75 million for Land Preservation Tax Credit
 - \$115 million in bonds for public access
- **WIP III implications**



General Fund Appropriations for Natural Resources Agencies

- Reductions in budgets of all natural resource agencies
- Department of Environmental Quality
 - WIP development and oversight – WWT/VPDES, Stormwater, E&S, CBPA, etc.
 - Groundwater
 - WQ monitoring
 - Analytical, communications, EJ needs
- Department of Conservation & Recreation/Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - BMP inspections
 - RMP & NMP program support
 - Conservation Suites Applications
 - Public Lands Staffing: Division of Natural Heritage, Park System, VOF
- Department of Forestry
 - E.g., land conservation staffing

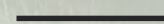
Funding for resiliency measures

- Increases in extreme weather events
- Huge economic and cultural implications
- Coastal and non-coastal effects and strategies
- Natural carbon sequestration
- Shoreline Resiliency Fund





Questions?



Thank You!