

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2003
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Scott J. Thomas, Environmental Division
SUBJECT: Courthouse Bioretention Facility Project

The Environmental Division proposes to convert an existing landscape area at the Williamsburg-James City County Courthouse into a bioretention stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) facility. The project would serve as a full demonstration project for the planning, design, and construction of a bioretention BMP consistent with the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, Better Site Design, and Low Impact Development principles encouraged by the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

A bioretention basin is a water quality practice in which surface landscape plants, a mulch layer, a specialized subsurface planting soil mixture, and an underdrain system collectively remove pollutants from urban stormwater runoff. The landscaped character of the Courthouse will not be compromised by this project; once constructed, the landscaped area will look much the same as it currently does. The enhanced soil and increased moisture conditions will be beneficial to the plants and irrigation will not be needed beyond initial plant establishment.

The project has been coordinated with the City of Williamsburg staff and approved by officials at the Courthouse.

The total cost for the project is estimated at \$55,000. A grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 has been received to partially offset the cost of the project. The attached resolution authorizes the Board to accept the grant funds and to appropriate \$30,000 from the Courthouse Maintenance Fund to fund the project.

Staff recommends the Board adopt the attached resolution.

Scott J. Thomas

CONCUR:

John T. P. Horne

SJT/adw
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Attachments