Nutrient Trading Benefits in Southeast Virginia

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, Chief of Water Quality

jmitchell@hrsd.com

CSWEA Nutrient Trading Pre-Conference Workshop, May 28, 2025



HRSD provides sustainable, innovative wastewater treatment to 20 cities and counties of SE Virginia



Political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia



Governing body: Governorappointed commission



Population served: 1.9 million



Combined wastewater treatment capacity: 225 million gallons/day



Operate 8 major and 6 smaller treatment plants and more than 100 pump stations







Eastern Virginia coastal systems are faced with multiple water related challenges requiring One Water strategy



The challenges of today and tomorrow requires integrated solutions that provide multiple benefits for the same investment dollars.



SWIFT provides multiple regional benefits including nutrient reductions



Nutrient Trading: Meeting Chesapeake Bay restoration needs while providing time for cost-effective capital planning

Virginia Nutrient Trading Laws: Nutrient Credit Exchange Program

§ 62.1-44.19:12. Legislative findings and purposes.

... The General Assembly finds and determines that adoption and utilization of a watershed general permit and market-based point source nutrient credit trading program will assist in (a) meeting these cap load allocations cost-effectively and as soon as possible... (b) <u>accommodating continued growth and economic development in the Chesapeake Bay watershed</u>, and (c) providing a foundation for establishing market-based incentives to help achieve the Chesapeake Bay Program's nonpoint source reduction goals.





HRSD's Integrated Plan with SWIFT saves localities from independently spending significant funds

Total Compliance Cost = \$7.8 B

1.4D



\$3.7 B

Clean Water Act Compliance

- Each Locality builds wet weather capacity = \$2.7B
- HRSD builds wet weather capacity

Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Discharge Reduction

- Each Locality builds stormwater retrofits = \$2.2 B
- HRSD builds treatment upgrades
 = \$1.5 B

HRSD's Integrated = \$2.8 B Plan ~ dual compliance benefits ~



Saves the

region

\$5.0B

MML



