Clean Water
State Revolving Fund

BERKELEY PLANTATION LIVING SHORELINE

STATE PROGRAM: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Malcolm "Jamie" Jameison

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: $626,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Clean Water Financial Assistance Program utilized the state's Agricultural Best Management Program to provide bridge funding for project construction of the Berkeley Plantation Living Shoreline in Charles City, Virginia. A series of loans were provided to the landowner in phases to fit into program guidelines and the credit criteria of the program. After project completion, the principal of the loans was repaid through a combination of grant funds from the James River Association and agricultural cost share from the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program.

The project at Berkeley Plantation on the tidal James River includes the construction of 1,500 linear feet of living shoreline. A living shoreline is a protected, stabilized coastal edge made of natural materials such as plants, sand, or rock. The ecological benefits of living shorelines include improved water quality, increased resilience to erosion, and contributions to carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling, as well as habitat enhancement for wildlife. The project also included the creation of 39,830 square feet of low marsh, 22,300 square feet of upland buffer and the incorporation of 16,570 native plants, such as salt meadow hay, big cordgrass, three-square, broadleaf arrowhead, and pickerelweed, to enhance habitat and stabilize the shoreline.

This closely coordinated partnership of the Virginia DEQ with the James River Association, the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is an exemplary instance of intergovernmental cooperation and how public funds can operate in conjunction with funding from the nonprofit sector to drive positive ecological and environmental outcomes. This project also serves as a model for local farmers, demonstrating that land can be restored without jeopardizing farm viability.

To read more about this case study, please visit PISCES 2025 Recognition Program Compendium.