2011 Erchul Environmental Leadership Award Nominees

Nominees and Rationale:

Carol Anderson

Fort Lee would like to nominate Ms. Carol Anderson, Chief, Environmental Management Office, for the 2011 Erchul Environmental Leadership Award. Ms Anderson has served the Federal Government for almost 30 years and is considered one of the Army's finest Environmental Stewards, credited with many "Army firsts". She demonstrates daily the ability to be a leader; communicating her environmental vision at the Army level, within the Fort Lee Community, and to the individual Soldier that she is honored to serve. As the lead environmental voice presiding over $1.2B of construction on 4.7 million sq. ft. of facility space in the BRAC process for Fort Lee, she ensured that:

- The NEPA process was completed in a record 12 months.
- Less than .25 acres of wetlands were impacted from a 600 acre habitat loss.
- All new construction was registered and met LEED Silver Standards; two were certified by the US Green Building Council (1 Silver/1 Gold) and ten more are pursuing certification.
- Construction and Demolition Diversion Rate for BRAC reached 96%.

In addition to managing the environmental impact of one of the Army's largest BRAC growth projects, Ms. Anderson concurrently completed Fort Lee's E4 Certification process. Additionally, Fort Lee was the Governor's Silver award recipient for the past two years for their Pollution Prevention program.

Sharon Baxter

Sharon Baxter has been the Manager of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Office of Pollution Prevention for over 15 years. In that time she has been an effective liaison between the DEQ, the EPA and Virginia businesses and local government. She has helped to create, coordinate and promote many voluntary non-regulatory programs with the goal of improving overall environmental performance in Virginia. Sharon also uses her expertise to contribute to similar national efforts.

Sharon's ability to listen and communicate has been valuable in developing programs that motivate facilities to go beyond environmental regulatory compliance. For the past ten years she has been the driving force behind DEQ's very successful Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP). Membership in the program has grown steadily since its implementation and now includes over 450 participants representing all sectors of Virginia facilities. Most recently the program has reported successes including water conservation of 994.4 million gallons, GHG emissions reductions of 3,900 tons and energy savings of 145,400 MMBtus. Facilities also reported a cost savings through conservation and waste avoidance of $24.6 million dollars.

Sharon is currently coordinating stakeholder input to develop programs that will help guide Virginia facilities toward environmental sustainability.

Cindy Berndt

It is hard to imagine how environmental regulations could be effectively developed in Virginia without the expertise and leadership of Cindy Berndt. For 40 years, she has worked tirelessly at DEQ to help ensure that air, water, waste, and now renewable energy regulations are accurate, consistent, and legally sufficient. At any time of day (and often night as well), Cindy can be found advising and collaborating with her fellow DEQ staff members; members of the Air, Water, and Waste Boards; citizens from all different stakeholder groups; and even colleagues in other agencies and states. Her knowledge is encyclopedic; her generosity in sharing her expertise, limitless; her integrity and fairness, unquestionable; and her kindness and sense of humor, unequaled. Cindy has often been an "unsung hero" working expertly in the background. This award would help recognize her vital and inestimable contributions to environmental protection in our state. Thank you.

Karl Bren

Rationale #1

Karl Bren was one of the founders of the green building movement in Virginia and known nationally for his work with green building and sustainable design.

He is the founder of the Virginia Sustainable Building Network serving as Board Chair for ten years. He was co-founder of the EarthCraft Residential Green Builder Program in Virginia, the most widely used green builder program in Virginia. He is a founder of the James River Green Builder Council serving on the board for five years.

He was the founder of the Sustainable Virginia Conference in 1999 and has continued to serve as a consultant for sucessive conferences. He served on the Governor's Energy Policy Council under Gov. Tim Kaine. He was also founder of the Richmond Region Energy Alliance.

Rationale #2

Karl E. Bren is President of GreenVisions Consulting, which provides services relating to green building and sustainable design, especially in single and multifamily affordable housing. A nationally known conference speaker who conducts workshops on green building and sustainable design, Karl played a leading role in many sustainable design and green building efforts. He also is the founder and past President of the Virginia Sustainable Building Network (formerly the Virginia Housing and the Environment Network).

Karl has served on numerous boards including the James River Green Building Council, the Better Housing Coalition, the Virginia Conservation Network, and the Green Infrastructure Center.

Mr. Bren holds a Master of Urban Affairs degree from Virginia Tech and has served as adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond, where he teaches courses on housing and the built environment with a focus on green building and sustainable design. (from his bio as a Director of the Green Infrastructure Center, Inc. in Charlottesville)

Robert Brickner

Robert H. Brickner has devoted his career to environmental issues since the original Earth Day. In 1980, he co-founded Fairfax Virginia-based consulting firm Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB), to help address the nation's growing waste problems in an environmentally sensitive way. He has helped make GBB one of the leading solid waste consulting firms in the country, assisting clients in over 40 states and five foreign countries on subjects as varied as waste collection systems, composting, recycling, and biomass gasification.

He has helped hundreds of organizations develop practical, customized solutions to complex solid waste challenges. He served as an Expert Witness for the Commonwealth of Virginia and assisted several counties in Virginia, including Rockbridge County. He was also the lead evaluator/negotiator on numerous public sector projects that have been financed and built, including the $4.5 million C&D recycling project operating in Fauquier County.

A sought-after presenter at national solid waste conferences, he has given hundreds of speeches, written over 100 articles, and served as Contributing Editor to a national recycling publication.

His passion for solving solid waste challenges, serving with a high level of ethics, and always showing a genuine interest in treating clients' challenges as his own, has made him a true leader and worthy of this Award.

Rachel Chieppa

Rachel Chieppa is the driving force behind Isle of Wight's Isle Be Green programs. Rachel was primarily responsible for the development of the Isle Be Green Recycling Program, which has been recognized by the National and Virginia Associations of Counties. Under her leadership, Isle Be Green has diverted more than 1 million plastic bags from the County's waste stream. As a result of the successful pilot project, Virginia has mirrored the County's campaign through the Keep Virginia Beautiful initiative called "A Bag's Life." Rachel also develops and directs environmental educational outreach efforts for the County including dissemination of best practice information to local farmers; farm day for the County's second graders; art classes utilizing recycled materials; plastic bag recycling drives at the County's schools; and management of the Isle Be Green website (www.islebegreen.com).

One of Rachel's strengths is building alliances for issues and projects. At the behest of Delegate W. K. Barlow and Senator F. M. Quayle, Rachel was instrumental in creation of the Virginia Plastic Bag Coalition for which Rachel continues to provide administrative support. She has successfully

collaborated with various stakeholders, including those traditionally opposed, to create an implementation strategy and secure grant and sponsorship funding for the County's environmental efforts.

Dr. M. Rupert Cutler

Rationale #1

I'm delighted to nominate Dr. Rupert Cutler for 2011 Erchul Environmental Leadership Award. Dr. Cutler has many accomplishments, nationally, regionally and locally. In 1977, President Carter appointed him assistant secretary of agriculture for conservation, research, and education. From 1977 through 1980 he provided policy direction to the U.S. Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service. Since 1991, Rupert has resided in Roanoke where he served as founding executive director of Virginia's Explore Park and the Western Virginia Land Trust. Since retiring in 1999 he has served on several nonprofit boards and advisory committees and as president of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. He was a member of the board of directors of the Western Virginia Water Authority for five years. He was appointed by Governors Warner and Kaine to two terms on the board of trustees of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. He was elected to a four-year term on Roanoke City Council in 2002 and was appointed to Roanoke City Council in 2009 to complete a term ending in June 2010. Currently, Dr. Cutler serves on the Advisory Board for the Cabell Brand Center.

Rationale #2

Dr. Cutler has devoted his life to saving the wilderness & protecting wildlife habitat. He led campaigns to pass the national Wild Rivers Act, add millions of acres of federal land to the National Wilderness Preservation System & win the return of the gray wolf to the Yellowstone ecosystem. From 1991 to 1997, he served as executive director of Virginia Explore Park, a 1,000-acre outdoor museum & environmental education center on the Roanoke River. In March 1997, he founded the Roanoke-based Western Virginia Land Trust, an association created to help preserve the natural heritage of private land using voluntary conservation easements; he currently serves as a member of the Trust's Board of Directors. Dr. Cutler served 8 years as a trustee of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and 6 years as a Roanoke City Council Member. In 2008, he led the charge to grant two conservation easements to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation & the Western Virginia Land Trust covering approximately 11,363 acres at the Carvins Cove Natural Reserve, the single largest easement donation in the history of the Commonwealth. In 2009, he was instrumental in persuading City officials to execute an easement from the City to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation & the Western Virginia Land Trust, granting a conservation easement covering 537.28 acres on Mill Mountain.

George Fitch

I nominate George Fitch, our three term mayor of Warrenton. He has won national and international acclaim for his Green Initiative and model of local energy independence. Other communities including Lexington and Rockbridge County are considering adopting his model to make them more energy

independent and sustainable. His model, which is backed by USDA, DOE and Congress is a public-private partnership to convert non recyclable wastes into electricity for distributed generation to local homes and a biofuel for school buses and public safety vehicles. No fossil fuels will be used because the waste to energy plant at the landfill will be powered by the landfill gas. It will reduce the carbon footprint of the county by nearly 10%. The Washington Post heralded Mayor Fitch as a man of vision (April 2007) for this initiative. Our local paper, Fauquier Times Democrat named him Man of the Year for his Green Initiative (and other reasons). As a former diplomat with the State Department serving in France, Jamaica and Belize he has used these skills to engage our community (and we are a very diverse community) to fully support his initiatives.

Charles Gowan

I nominate Charles (Chas) Gowan for the Erchul Environmental Leadership Award with the highest commendation. His leadership as a stream ecologist, educator, and Environmental Studies Program Director has had numerous direct, positive impacts on Virginia's environment. Moreover, his solution-oriented strategies, and passion for bettering the environment and educating students have led him to: (1) write the Commonwealth's fish protection engineering and design criteria for water withdrawals; (2) develop the only Coastal Plain stream monitoring methods available for citizen's groups; (3) design and install Low Impact Development on the RMC campus as an outreach demonstration program that promotes innovative storm water management approaches; (4) acquire grants to fully restore aquatic habitat in Mechumps Creek in Ashland and to monitor the restoration for a decade; (5) receive the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Urban Forestry Award for restoring the natural setting and improving water quality in Virginia; (6) lead the Environmental Studies Program at R-MC since 1996; and (7) graduate 100s of environmental students who have become highly valued members of the national workforce.

Mark Hanson

I nominate Mark Hanson for the 2011 Erchul Environmental Leadership Award because of his efforts to create and now lead an organization that installs alternative energy systems throughout the greater Roanoke Valley. The Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Association (REEVA) is a Do-It-Yourself club to help members install solar and wind energy applications as well as build electric vehicles. With members providing the labor as part of REEVA's activities, the cost for an installed solar system is reduced by forty to fifty percent. REEVA's effect is not just economic as there is a "barn building" sense of community that occurs at each of the organization's events. REEVA's website http://reevadiy.com/ has a photo gallery that documents the various activities undertaken over the past year. Mark Hanson is also an adjunct faculty member at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College where he teaches wind energy classes for the Wind Turbine Service Technician Program. He is an advocate for solar and wind energy projects and has spoken before an number of county planning commissions and boards of supervisors about the benefits of clean energy as well as dispelling some of the common myths.

Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick, III

Please consider the career long commitment to preserving resources that Dr, Hatrick has made during his tenure as Superintendent of Loudoun County Public Schools. As early as 1993, Dr. Hatrick cultivated a culture of conservation that recently achieved the EPA's "ENERGY STAR PARTNER of the YEAR" designation. This gentleman oversees the fastest growing school system in Virginia and maintains the relationship between the need for growing educational systems along with preserving existing environmental processes.

Through his leadership, not only has LCPS progressively improved the designs of its schools while growing exponentially, LCPS continues to set the bar for achieving maximum reductions in energy use while maintaining high educational, safety, and productivity standards.

Over the last 18 years, Loudoun County Public Schools achieved the following success with regard to the environmental stewardship.

-Early adopter of innovative technologies that preserve natural resources

¨ 2010 Energy Star Partner of the Year

¨ 37 buildings have earned Energy Star Awards

¨ Green Schools Challenge Award winner 2009 & 2010

¨ 2010 Energy Star Leaders Award for 10 % reductions over 2009

¨ Recycled over 1,800 tons of materials

¨ Avoided over 1.4 Billion pounds of CO_2 emissions

(Equivalent to taking 120,171 cars off the road or 17,125,164 seedlings grown for 10 years)

Wesley Jargowsky

Wesley Warren Jargowsky is a longtime resident of Botetourt County. His efforts to better our environment began when he was a biology teacher and public school administrator. Wes is a 20-year volunteer with the Roanoke Valley Public Library System and stresses literacy and education as solutions to our environmental and societal challenges. Since his retirement, Wes has become very active as a volunteer and advocate of natural resource conservation, particularly water quality. He was a committed volunteer at Virginia Explore Park until its closing in 2007. Wes has been actively involved with Virginia Save Our Streams and is now the regional Trainor and Coordinator for the Upper Roanoke River watershed. Wes has trained many volunteers and assisted many school and college groups with biological assessment of local streams. In fact, Wes trained and certified me as a monitor and assisted my high school classes with SOS monitoring several times each year. Wes respects the integrity of the method and never skimps on background and detail. He mesmerizes 4th graders to adults with his

knowledge. Wes is also a member of the Upper Roanoke River Roundtable and Trout Unlimited, assisting with the local Trout in the Classroom program. Wes Jargowsky should be commended for his countless volunteer hours and long standing commitment to environmental education.

Chelsea Jenkins

As Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities, Chelsea Jenkins has shown exceptional dedication to improving the environment. Director Jenkins has more than five years of experience as a Clean Cities Coordinator where she has successfully served as Project Manager for dozens of alternative fuel and advanced technology initiatives. Chelsea directed these projects, and millions of dollars in collaborative efforts to conserve fuel and improve air quality for all of us. In 2009, that effort saved more than 6 million gallons of petroleum, and prevented more than 40,000 tons of greenhouse gasses from entering the atmosphere. In addition, she leveraged a new partnership between VCC and JMU to increase capacity and accomplish more. Her vision and expertise continually support consensus building among more than a thousand VCC stakeholders as well as her efforts to provide public education and advocacy for petroleum reduction. What makes Chelsea unique among her peers is her leadership, partnership, and initiative. As a 2005 Graduate of JMU she is already a Director of a major coalition like Clean Cities. Director Jenkins exemplifies Virginia's next generation of environmental leader - one who will shape the way we champion environmental stewardship for years to come.

John Kalocay

(John Kalocay, Assistant Superintendent, representing VBCPS) VBCPS has been a leader in the Commonwealth in promoting environmental stewardship both in facility design and workplace practices. A recycling program developed in 2008 has diverted more than 2,748 TONS of waste from the waste stream. Energy management practices have significantly reduced overall electrical use; this reduction has more than offset increases in technology dependence and divisional square footage. Four newly constructed buildings earned LEED accreditation, & three additional construction projects are being designed with to high levels of LEED accreditation. Perhaps most importantly, the use of energy-efficient design (incl. cisterns for divert grey water use and geothermal HVAC) and renewable energy (incl. solar panels and wind turbines) in VBCPS buildings are being used as teaching tools in the curriculum to teach students practical lessons involving sustainability; teaching both sustainability itself and incidentally in other required curriculum items (science, business, and math cores). Working at the grass roots level through Sustainable Schools Liaisons at each building, & by promoting sustainable practices in building design, work practices, and lesson plans, VBCPS has become a proven, award-winning environmental example for the leaders of this generation & those to come.

Buck Kline

Buck has performed yeoman work for the Virginia Department of Forestry for many years. A few years back he took it upon himself to investigate the potential of Virginia forest to supply ecosystem services (aka "benefits humans receive from nature") in market-based transactions. Creating markets for ecosystem services holds great promise for the preservation of Virginia's natural resources, as landowners could begin to be compensated for the benefits they're providing to the Commonwealth as a whole. Buck now spearheads VDOF's efforts in this area, and is a tireless cheerleader and spokesperson for this effort. Buck's leadership in this important area is clearly deserving of recognition.

Nick Liedel

Nick has bee an advocate for the environment and sustainability for years. He is a double major in International Business and Marketing at Old Dominion University. Nick works as the Advertising Director for the school newspaper, the Mace and Crown. He has used his knowledge about business and marketing to promote environmental stewardship on campus. He has started a weekly recycling campaign on campus. The goal of this campaign is to promote recycling on campus which will be counted towards ODU's efforts to RecycleMainia. He is the chair of a new student organization called ECO Reps. ECO Reps is a student organization focused on promoting recycling efforts and sustainability to students. He interns as an undergraduate researcher for the S.T.A.R.S program about sustainability initiatives at ODU. He is a member of Team Tidewater for the Solar Decathlon.

Nick would be a good candidate for the Environmental Leadership Award. Environmental sustainability is a global concern that needs to be addressed both for human beings as well as the ecosystems around the world. Protecting the Earth in which we live and interact with is not only a concern for the people of today, but also for future generations. Nick is that future. Nick is part of a group that creates children's cartoons. They travel to different school in VA and DC to promote their cartoons. Current projects include Fits Adventures, www.FitsAdventures.com, and ECO Force. Fits Adventures is about promoting a healthy lifestyle including exercise, sports, and eating healthy. ECO Force is about promoting recycling and other environmental sustainable ideas.

Douglas Phillips

Doug Phillips, a native Virginian, graduated from Virginia Tech with a Civil Engineering Degree in 1970 and went on to become an officer in the US Marine Corps. Now Phillips is a Small Systems Specialist for Southeast RCAP where he provides technical assistance as a "Circuit Rider" for water/wastewater programs throughout Virginia. He assists low-to-medium income rural communities by performing wastewater design and state permitting. He also uses his licensed Water and Wastewater Operator experience to help small and medium public systems attain compliance with state public health regulations.

Phillips played a pivotal role in the Morton Lane Cluster project. SERCAP was asked by state, county and CAA representatives to intervene with an environmental health problem in Greene County, Virginia. Eleven residents were using a pit-privy, without modern sewage facilities, for their cluster of mobile homes. Skyline CAP began work with the families and asked SERCAP to provide technical assistance in order to meet the state program's housing rehabilitation funding requirements for water and wastewater services. Phillips designed a specialized Pumped Mass Drain Field sewage system and with the assistance of a neighboring land owner installed the system providing easement to an area of suitable soil.

Trip Pollard

I am pleased to nominate Trip Pollard for the 2011 Erchul Environmental Leadership Award.

Trip is a national expert and state-wide leader on transportation and land use reform. A Senior Attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, he is the director of the Land & Community Program and runs SELC's Richmond office. Trip holds a B.A. with high honors, M.A., and J.D. from the University of Virginia. He has written dozens of influential reports and articles on transportation, land use, energy, and environmental issues.

Trip's vision for healthier, stronger communities has helped inspire the founding of non-profits and the careers of many future environmental leaders. His diplomacy is demonstrated by his willingness to partner in meaningful ways with other non-profits, business groups, and governmental agencies, and by his ability to be candid yet sensitive when weighing in on controversial issues. He juggles complex projects with skill and a reserved but effective communication style. His integrity, innovation, and insight are valued on numerous commissions, advisory bodies, and boards. He is heavily relied upon and highly regarded by both colleagues and every day citizens as a speaker, advisor, and spokesman. Distinguished by deep knowledge and decades of unwavering dedication, Trip is a pillar of the environmental community in Virginia.

Jeffery Rezin

Jeffery Rezin, project manager consultant to the Wallcovering Association, completed the ANSI approved sustainability standard for the wallcovering industry titled ANSI/NSF 342 -2010 Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products. This innovative standard includes product distribution in its scope, something that has never been attempted before. Through 3rd party auditing,certification for products confirm that these companies have established a consistent approach to evaluate environmentally preferable and sustainable manufacturing and distribution processes.The standard includes relevant criteria across product life cycle, from raw material extraction through manufacturing,distribution,use, and end-of-life management. Design communities,building owners,government procurement and corporations now have one standard to identify certified wallcoverings that have documented reduced environmental impact. Rezin coordinated the efforts of multi-stakeholder groups to provide the industry and customers with a non proprietary,multi attributes

criteria standard which can provide an easy comparison and promotes a consistent sustainability benchmark. This comprehensive assessment offers the greatest possible opportunity to improve the industry's environmental footprint–and is the core of certification as this allows for greater transparency into the performance of individual products.

Linwood Rose

President Linwood Rose has changed the physical, educational, and ethical landscape of James Madison University by weaving environmental stewardship into the institutional framework. A Defining Characteristic of the University reads, "The university will be an environmentally literate community whose members think critically and act, individually and collectively, as model stewards of the natural world." In 2006, Dr. Rose created an administrative office to guide environmental stewardship efforts across divisions. He is a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, a group of over 600 higher education institutions dedicated to developing solutions to environmental issues. Under his direction, JMU has completed an emission inventory, energy assessment, comprehensive environmental policy adoption, and renewable energy pathway.

When leading a large state organization, implementing swift and significant change is challenging and rare. Evidence of enduring change at JMU includes receipt of a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in 2010, inclusion in The Princeton Review's Guide to 286 Green Colleges, and expansion of environmental academic offerings in business, engineering, and the humanities. These accomplishments were made possible by Dr. Rose's interdivisional approach, visionary leadership, and commitment to public service.

Gaston Rouse

Gaston Rouse has been instrumental in getting more people involved in Virginia State Parks through volunteer service.

The Youth Conservation Corps, based on the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps that built the original Virginia State Parks, was honored with the United States Department of the Interior's Outstanding State Volunteer program award in 2010. The Take Pride in America award cited the YCC's "... outstanding commitment to the stewardship of America's public lands and natural and cultural resource.

In 2011, the DCR Office of Volunteer Services received grants to start two new programs in the parks. Every Virginia State Park will host an AmeriCorps member to assist with interpretive programs. As budgets have been cut, visitation at parks has grown, resulting in increased demand for programs that these members will help meet. Youth Ambassadors will also be hosted at each park and use social media to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors.

Through their stewardship, educational activities, and enthusiasm these volunteers increase environmental awareness for visitors and encourage environmental care by those that are inspired by them. Gaston Rouse's vision in increasing environmental stewardship through volunteerism resulted in hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours performed in the Virginia State Park system each year.

Elise Sheffield

Elise Sheffield has been the Education Director for six years at Boxerwood Education Association, operating as Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden near Lexington. Almost every elementary school student in Rockbridge County has been touched in some way by Elise's vision and commitment to connecting every child with his or her natural environment in Rockbridge County. Boxerwood's mission is to educate and inspire people of all ages toward becoming successful and environmentally responsible stewards of the earth. Under Elise's leadership, Boxerwood has developed an integrated and high-quality environmental education program for students in 3rd-6th grades, much of which has focused on watershed stewardship. To accomplish her vision, she has collaborated gracefully and communicated effectively with a wide range of teachers and administrators in local school districts and with funders and supporters. To help sustain her vision locally, she has also provided extensive professional development to local teachers. In collaboration with Boxerwood colleagues and in partnership with three local school divisions she has developed and implemented a pre-K through grade 7 environmental education field-based program involving more than 2,000 local children under age 12 each year. In another area of adult education, Elise spearheaded and facilitated the development of a new Virginia Master Naturalist Program with a new chapter chartered in Rockbridge County in December 2010. Thanks to Elise's leadership, there is a cadre of professional educators and certified volunteers to help extend her vision of environmental education in Virginia.

Mary Spruill

To Whom it may concern,

I have known Mary Spruill, Executive Director of the NEED Project - a national program focused on informing the population of the United States of America about all forms and sources of energy - since early 2003. She has worked tirelessly to engage teachers, students, business, government and community leaders in a genuine exchange about how a mix of energy sources affect our standard of living and our future.

With her background, education and extensive network of contacts, Mary could be doing anything from working for the State Department to taking a job for any large energy concern. However, she has chosen to take the path less-traveled - spearheading an organization that conducts hundreds of energy-focused workshops, conferences and exhibitions across the country each year. These events present our nation's energy picture from a balanced perspective creating common ground - enabling conversation about how our society can move forward.

Sincerely, I ask you to consider Mary Spruill – a champion for knowledge of the energy sector - for the Dr. Ronald A. Erchul, Environmental Leadership Award. Having had the honor of representing the National Energy Education Development Project at Environment Virginia in years past, I am certain that Mary exemplifies the characteristics that you would endeavor to honor with this prestigious award.

Thank you.

Robert C. Steidel

Mr. Steidel is passionately dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the environment through his distinguished professional career spanning 36 years. He is currently interim Director of the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities, President of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies and an active leader in more than seven state and national associations dedicated to environmental protection.

Bob's holistic vision for improving the quality of Virginia's water bodies contributes to preservation of in-stream flows, protection of ecosystems, planning for sustainable water supply and returning clean stormwater and wastewater plant effluent to Virginia's water bodies. Bob's leadership in developing sustainable infrastructure improvements and practices is crucial to advance water quality today and in the future. Bob's vision encompasses sustainable water quality and ecosystems to allow future generations to safely enjoy time outdoors while also having a cleaner more reliable drinking water supply. Bob is sensitive in educating the public on the importance of protecting our water resources and helps people focus on the linkages between the various portions of the water cycle. Bob is a mentor to many professionals in the public and private sectors thus contributing to assure the protection of the environment for generations to come.

John Stewart

John Stewart saw a need for wetlands restoration at a site that was located near his Norfolk, Virginia residence. He decided to undertake this effort by forming an organization that he named the Lafayette Wetlands Partnership (LWP). The LWP developed a mission to restore a wetland at 46th and Colley Avenue in urban Norfolk, Virginia and to serve as a model for other wetland improvements for the entire community. Once that project was accomplished, LWP led by John Stewart, embarked on a program to raise levels of wetlands awareness throughout the community, educate interested parties in the fundamentals of wetlands preservation and restoration, and inspire other members of the community to develop a vision and commitment to wetlands stewardship. The LWP developed partnerships, coordinated with government agencies, ODU University members, Church Groups, Civic Leagues, Private Citizens and business groups to build a model for restoring the health of the Lafayette River watershed. This effort culminated in four groups forming and completing four unique wetlands resotration projects during 2010. These groups plus three new groups are planning new projects for next year which will take place under the mentorship of the John Stewart and the LWP.

Vivian Thomson

Dr. Vivian E. Thomson served for eight years on the Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board. In that time, she spearheaded efforts to comprehensively address mercury, smog, and soot pollution. She was essential in ensuring that the permit for Dominion's Wise County Power Plant, now under construction, included offsets to address global warming and that the permit contained the most stringent mercury limit for any coal plant in the nation. In all matters before the Board, she helped forge a culture of active engagement with affected communities, ensuring that every citizen who came to speak before the Board would be heard.

In addition, Dr. Thomson created and continues to lead the University of Virginia's interdisciplinary BA program on Environmental Thought and Practice. This innovative program teaches undergraduates to think critically about scientific information, economic analysis, and ethical concerns that affect environmental decisions, and teaches students to appreciate the political, social, cultural, and historical factors that shape the way we perceive environmental problems. Dr. Thomson's vision in creating this program is helping to develop future generations of environmental leaders, who have been hired by a wide variety of private and public organizations.

Dr. Thomson's achievements as an academic and a public servant make her an outstanding choice for the Erchul Environmental Leadership Award.

Jeff Turner

Rationale #1

I am nominating Jeff Turner. No one else I know deserves this award. Jeff has spent 40 years patroling the Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers, looking for any activity that is not environmentaly sound. Jeff spends three days and two nights he makes through all four seasons which has earned him the distiction of Riverkeeper. Jeff visits groups and organizations in an effort to better educate watershed residents about our rivers. Jeff keeps the Blackwater Nottoway Riverkeeper Program website up to date and does Eco-Cruises on the rivers in another effort to better educate watershed residence about our rivers. Jeff has come and helped me with the Meherrin River clean up I do for adopt a stream in Virginia. The BNRP would not exist if not for Jeff Turner he is the heart of the program and a true Environmentalist all the way. I admire him for his courage and ability to over come and his love for the rivers. Thank you, Sherri Woodard

Rationale #2

Jeff Turner, folksy river ranger and river rat, heads the Blackwater-Nottoway Riverkeeper Program, the first "Riverkeeper" program in Virginia of the Waterkeeper Alliance. Since founding BNRP in 2000, he has recruited 146 members. Turner started his decade long adventure as a volunteer, regularly making three day/two night river patrols through all four season. He shares his travels through his column in the Tidewater News and his blog. Volunteerism began as "therapy", going back to the places Turner had

fished with his father and grandfather. In 1977, when he was 17, a senseless automobile accident left his left side paralyzed. Bitterness set in but the rivers proved to be a cure. He noticed abuses – pollution, litter and more. It made him mad. His response came from a television program about the Waterkeeper Alliance. He sent in the paperwork and received a cap with the label "Riverkeeper" on it. Locals know that you don't mess with Turner. While he can't bust you, he's got a direct line to those who can, usually a state or federal agency. His efforts don't stop on the rivers' shores. He educates the community appearing at schools, civic clubs, and public events. His Eco-cruises puts education on the rivers.

Rev. Pat Watkins

Pat Watkins is the Executive Director of Caretakers of God's Creation, a non-profit affiliated with the United Methodist Church of the Virginia Conference. He is an ordained United Methodist minister with a Master of Divinity from Duke University and has taken classes in the Masters of Environmental Science department at Virginia Commonwealth University in an effort to foster a conversation between science and theology in order to shed light on environmental issues from a faith perspective. Pat was the former Director of Virginia Interfaith Power and Light and has long been a leader in promoting incorporating care for the earth and the environment as part of the life and ministry of the church. He speaks nationally on the topic of faith and the environment and has raised the consciousness of congregations and religious organizations throughout Virginia and the nation. He meets all the qualities of the Erchul Environmental Leadership Award. He has truly been a pathmaker in promoting and raising environmental awareness among the religious community in Virginia and beyond. He would be a very worthy recipient.

Jessica Wenger

Vision: "A back of the house champion that makes things happen …one day she's pulling man-hole covers to discover a potential environmental threat, and the next day she's writing a proposal to get an educational permit to compost!" Brent Beringer, Director, UVa Dining./Commitment: Dining, Housing, Parking and Transportation, and Environmental Health and Safety have received awards and recognition from the Virginia DEQ./Communication Skills: "I have seen Jess give engaging, accurate descriptions on how UVa is implementing our Environmental Management System," Ida Lee Wooten, Director of Community Relations./Accomplished: "I am always impressed with her ability to manage parallel work efforts deftly. Each product would suggest a full-time commitment, yet a quick calculation shows that there are not enough hours in the week," Andrew Greene, Sustainability Planner./Integrity: "Jess guides our department in sustainable actions -using constant and positive feedback - to successfully instill a strategic, proactive approach," Rebecca White, Director of Parking and Transportation Services./Expertise: "Jess manages the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer system discharge permit issued by Virginia DEQ; she is instrumental in working with Charlottesville and the County; she has dedication to getting the job done, whatever that entails," Jeffrey Sitler, Environmental Compliance Manager.

Dr. Judson White

Jud White has been a leader on environmental issues in Virginia due to his unique ability to develop practical solutions to complicated issues. Jud retired from Dominion in 2010 after serving the company for 35 years. While at Dominion, he held various positions associated with environmental protection, with a particular focus on water quality issues. He earned respect as someone who worked with stakeholders to achieve the company's business goals while ensuring that environmental impacts were minimized. Jud took the initiative to be involved with outside organizations focused on environmental issues. He held a leadership role with the James River Basin Association and has been an active member of VMA's Water Subcommittee, Mission H2O, and the Utility Water Act Group. Additionally, Jud served on many state advisory committees, participating in the development of water policies and regulations. He has also served as a gubernatorial appointment to the Virginia Water Resources Research Advisory Board.

Currently, Jud is an Affiliate Assistant Professor and Adjunct Instructor at VCU's Center for Environmental Studies where he teaches a Business and Environment graduate class. Jud recently joined Tetra Tech as a Senior Energy Consultant.

Throughout his career, Jud has demonstrated leadership and inspired trust by working openly, cooperatively and effectively with many different stakeholders on resolving environmental issues.