Proposed Amendments to the Design Standards Manual (to accommodate the Riparian Buffer Protection Standards Regulations)

1. **Buffer Replacement and Restoration**
   A. Is subject to a plan or narrative approved by the Riparian Buffer Administrator that is in accordance the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Riparian Buffers Modification & Mitigation Guidance Manual.

   B. Buffer plantings must be vegetative species native to Albemarle County. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has identified Piedmont Virginia as the Native Plant region including Albemarle County.

   C. Buffer vegetation must be planted, established and maintained at the 2:1 ratio to the extent that the riparian buffer is fully vegetated, provided that establishing vegetation outside of the riparian buffer is not required in order to satisfy the 2:1 ratio. Where the entire 2:1 mitigation planting ratio requirement cannot be satisfied, removal of invasive vegetation must be completed in an area within the riparian buffer equivalent to the deficit in compliance with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Riparian Buffers Modification & Mitigation Guidance Manual. The Buffer Administrator may modify the planting ratio in a particular case.

2. **Permitted Landcover Change Matrix**

Potential changes to landcover within the Riparian Buffer should be permitted as follows.

P: Permitted
P*: Permitted in compliance with the standards in 4.23.7 (B) (2). Removal of existing buffer vegetation is not permitted for activities such as landscaping or clearing for views. For a list of permitted uses, refer to Section 4.23.7(B).
P**: Permitted by Riparian Buffer Administrator, based on Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Manual and other relevant resources
N: Not permitted

Permitted management of existing vegetation is listed for each vegetation type as follows:

1	Maintenance of native riparian buffer that includes canopy, understory, shrub, and herbaceous layers; invasive-species removal/control.
2	Maintenance of native vegetation; invasive species removal/control
3	Uses permitted in compliance with Sec. 4.23.7 (B)(2); invasive species removal/control
4	Within the riparian buffer, mowing may occur only August 1 through April 15. This limitation does not apply to invasive species removal/control, or to mowing of surface areas directly above existing septic fields or tanks. [b]

		Proposed Landcover Within Riparian Buffer							
		Conservation Management			**Forestry**		**Agriculture**		**Other**
		Hardwood or mixed forest	Native grassland, Piedmont prairie	Wetland	Hardwood or mixed forest	Pine	Pasture	Crop	Land-scaping
	Existing Landcover Within Riparian Buffer								
Conservation Management	Hardwood or Mixed Forest Management: 1, 3	P*	N	P	P*	P*	P	P	N
	Native grassland, Piedmont prairie Management: 2	P	P	P	P*	P*	P	P	N
Forestry	Hardwood or mixed forest Management: 3	P*	P	P	P*	P*	P	P	N
	Pine Management: 3	P	P	P	P*	P*	P	P	N
Agriculture	Pasture	P	P	P	P*	P*	P	P	N
	Crop	P	P	P	P*	P*	P	P	N
Other	Landscaping (lawn, grass, mowed lawn with trees/shrubs, mowed or bush-hogged field, etc.) Management: 4	P	P	P*	P*	P	P	P	P

3. **<u>Stream Crossings</u>**
   A. For crossings of perennial streams: bridges, arch culverts, or box culverts may be used for the stream crossing and must be sized to adequately convey peak flow from the ten-year storm event (or the 25-year storm event if the design standards in either sections 14-410 or 18-32.7.2.1 apply) without backing water onto upstream properties. Bridges or arch culverts must either leave the stream section, consisting of the stream bed and the stream bank, undisturbed or allow the stream to return to a natural stabilized cross-section upon completion of installation. The lowest interior elevation (invert) of a box culvert installation must be a minimum of six inches below

the stream bed. Culvert walls and bridge columns should be located outside the stream banks wherever possible.

B. For crossings of intermittent streams: Bridges or culverts may be used for the stream crossing and must be sized to adequately convey peak flow from the ten-year storm event (or the 25-year storm event if either sections 14-410 or 18-32.7.2.1 apply) without backing water onto upstream properties.

C. Stream crossings must be perpendicular to the stream, or otherwise aligned to minimize impacts to the buffer.

D. Stream stabilization and energy dissipation measures below each bridge or culvert must be provided.

E. Stream crossings must not disturb more than 30 linear feet of stream for driveways or 60 linear feet for roads or streets, provided that the Riparian Buffer Administrator may allow additional length of stream disturbance where fill slopes or special conditions necessitate additional length[i].

F. The stream bed and stream banks must be stabilized within seven days of the start of backfilling for the bridge or culvert.

G. The owner must obtain and demonstrate all applicable State and Federal approvals associated with the stream crossing.