



Welcome!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PREVIEW – HARRISONBURG WATCH PARTY

DECEMBER 7, 2019 | HARRISONBURG, VA

HOSTED BY THE ALLIANCE FOR THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Each year, in preparation for Virginia's General Assembly session, Virginia Conservation Network and its Network Partners host a special preview of what's in store for our natural landscapes and resources. Volunteers, board members, and staff of Network Partners — as well as those interested in getting more involved in Virginia's conservation community — gather at this annual event to learn about priority environmental topics and discuss our collective approach to advancing policy in the upcoming legislative session.

While the General Assembly Preview is presented in Richmond, in order to better accommodate the majority of advocates who live outside of the region, we have partnered with Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Great Falls Group of Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, Lynnhaven River NOW, Piedmont Environmental Council, Roanoke Group of Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke, Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, and Wild Virginia, to host watch parties in Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, Harrisonburg, Radford, Reston, Roanoke, and Warrenton.

**To ask questions of the presenters during the event,
text (804) 313-9450.**

ABOUT VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK:

VCN is a facilitator of strategic action, a resource for Network Partners statewide, and a constant conservation presence in Virginia's Capitol.

Playing a unique role in Virginia's conservation community, VCN helps the community speak with one coordinated voice. The organization and its staff focus on strengthening the conservation community as a whole and winning environmental victories that benefit all Virginians.

VCN's Network Partners work on a wide range of issues from stream restoration, to transportation reform, to renewable energy advancement, to promoting sustainable community growth, and more. Given the diverse work of our Partners, VCN organizes its programs into four main categories: Healthy Rivers, Clean Energy and Climate, Land Conservation, and Land Use and Transportation.

SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Sign-in + Breakfast/Coffee + Networking

9:00 a.m. Welcome – Virginia Conservation Network's Executive Director, Mary Rafferty

9:10 a.m. Presentations: A Review of Statewide Conservation Priorities

Natural Resources Funding in the Budget

Peggy Sanner (psanner@cbf.org) — Virginia Assistant Director and Senior Attorney, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Zachary Sheldon (zachary.sheldon@tnc.org) — Government Relations Associate, The Nature Conservancy

Bold Action on Climate

Will Cleveland (wcleveland@selc.org) — Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center
Harrison Wallace (harrison@chesapeakeclimate.org) — Virginia Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Protecting Waterways from Plastic Pollution and Toxics

Danielle Simms (dsimms@valcv.org) — Government Relations Manager, Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Zach Huntington (zach@cleanfairfax.org) — Clean Streams Program Manager, Clean Fairfax

10:10 a.m. Panel: Other Statewide Conservation Issues We Expect

Transportation Funding

Trip Pollard (tpollard@selc.org) — Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center

Dominion Energy Accountability

Lizzie Hylton (lizzie@cleanvirginia.org) — Political Director, Clean Virginia

Creating Wildlife Corridors

Susan Holmes (susan@wildlandsnetwork.org) — Policy Director, Wildlands Network

Preventing Offshore Drilling

Caroline Wood (cwood@oceana.org) — Field Campaigns Manager, Oceana

10:40 a.m. Presentation: Tools and Strategies for being an Effective Conservation Advocate in 2020

Mary Rafferty (mary@vcnva.org) – Executive Director, Virginia Conservation Network

11:00 a.m. Regional Discussions

This event marks six weeks until the start of the 2020 legislative session. Now is the time for Virginia's conservation community to strategize and prepare for a strong conservation voice in the General Assembly. We will use this opportunity to discuss concrete actions colleagues and statewide advocates can take prior to session to get the most out of the General Assembly.

Noon Event Concludes

MARK YOUR CALENDAR **Conservation Lobby Day** **January 28, 2020** **Richmond, VA**

VCN organizes Conservation Lobby Day to ensure a strong conservation voice is heard early in the legislative session. Volunteer advocates are invited to join professional staff of our Network Partners as we meet with state legislators and encourage them to support environmental policy advancements.