

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Efforts in Virginia

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*VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
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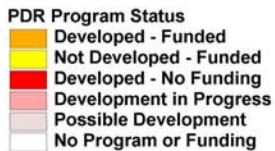
The Commonwealth is Addressing Farmland Preservation

- Established Virginia Agriculture Vitality Program (2000)/Office of Farmland Preservation (2001)
- Office of Farmland Preservation is responsible for the following:
 - Developing model policies, certification criteria, and methods and sources of funding for local PDR programs
 - Creating public education programs about farmland preservation
 - Providing technical assistance on farmland preservation
 - Administering Virginia Farm Link program

Developing a Model PDR Program for Virginia

- VDACS Farmland Preservation Task Force established
 - Diverse group of members
 - Task Force agreed to several fundamental positions at outset
- “Part 1: Suggested Components of Local PDR Programs”
 - Completed June 2004
- “Part 2: A Proposed State-Level Program to Complement Local PDR Programs”
 - Completed November 2005

STATUS OF LOCAL PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) PROGRAMS



Recent Legislative Funding

- General Assembly appropriated funding for the Office of Farmland Preservation (VDACS)
 - \$305,000 for 2006-2008 biennium
- General Assembly appropriated state matching funds for local PDR programs
 - \$4.25 million for 2006-2008 biennium

Allocation of State PDR Matching Funds

- Certification requirements:
 - Certification of local matching funds
 - Certification of local program elements
- Application deadlines:
 - Local matching funds- July 2, 2007
 - PDR program elements- August 31, 2007

Allocation of State PDR Matching Funds (cont.)

- Fund distribution:
 - Available funds divided equally by certified programs
 - Available on a 50 percent match
 - Remaining funds redistributed
- Other program mechanics:
 - Two years to use funds
 - Allocation “drawn down” upon closing of easement
 - 50 percent reimbursement of easement price paid
 - Other state funds cannot be used as local match

Proposed Changes to Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)

- Two categories of eligible entities:
 - Eligible entity
 - Qualified state or local entity (includes land trusts)
- Grants given to qualified entities based on need and on state/local contributions (no pending offers needed)
- Funds not granted to qualified entities available for individual projects by eligible entities

FRPP, cont.

- Secretary establishes process for certifying eligible entities
- Qualified entities can use own criteria, easement, etc.
- No federal contingent right or reversionary interest if easement held by state/local/qualified entity
- Up to \$300 million (currently \$100 million) authorized per year for FRPP

For Additional Information

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