

## State TMDL Plan for Bay accepted by EPA

Joan Salvati, Division Director with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR, pictured to the right), told the Commonwealth Regional Council Board on April 7 that the State of Virginia's plan to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The state submitted its Plan to the EPA for approval in November 2010. The Plan includes a number of measures to reduce pollutants released into the Bay as per EPA set Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) guidelines. Some of those methods are an expansion of the current nutrient credit exchange, market-based incentives to achieve reduction targets, tax credits or other financial incentives, and stream buffers and/or livestock exclusion. Salvati acknowledged that some proposals would require legislative action, at the state and/or local level.



**Photo by Todd Fortune**

The Plan has three phases – Develop the Plan (which has been done), extend it to the local level (expected to occur in 2011), and evaluate the Plan (set for 2017). There is expected to be approximately \$36.4 million available from the EPA's Water Quality Improvement Fund this year for implementation of activities to reduce pollutants that flow into the Bay. Of that, 90% would be targeted to addressing non-point source pollution and 10% would be targeted to point source pollution. During the second phase of the Plan, the state will subdivide allocations and establish local targets. DCR will work with localities and local stakeholders to identify practices for implementation.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Virginia covers five major river basins, 40 sub-basins, 16 Planning District Commissions, 32 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and 96 localities. DCR plans to contact localities in the future, and urged CRC members located within the Bay Watershed to start thinking about how to be involved.