

July 24, 2020

Chesapeake Haven,

I just received word that DNR has finished reviewing the many applications for this year's outcome #3 grant and your application has been denied the funding award.

I want to thank you for your patience, willingness, and enthusiasm for making an attempt at this grant application this year. You have a worthy project, the letters of support think so too. Remember, this year was your first year attempting a very large grant application, which normally begins many months, sometimes years before the actual time of the application deadline. You're competing with other communities and organizations who have been planning their projects years in advance. I encourage Chesapeake Haven to apply for this particular grant again, as well as seek out other grants.

It's a highly competitive grant application as mentioned before and an application does not guarantee an award. I have a phone call setup with the DNR reviewer of your application to collect feedback notes on reasons why this application wasn't selected for this year.

I have a few courses of action for you all to consider:

1. Apply for Outcome #3 again in February 2021 – As a Community Association, you are eligible as an applicant to apply yourself.
2. Hire Unity to help you apply again – this time, far in advance. Fortunately, there is a lot of groundwork, concept drawings, and community engagement established as a head start. Start planning your next grant application well in advance, whether you hire Unity or a Non-profit to assist you, start early, start now.
3. Engage Shore Rivers (Non-profit) to take the reigns and apply for this grant and other grants on your behalf.
4. Engage Elk & North East Rivers Watershed Association (ENERWA) (Non-profit) to take the reigns and apply for this grant and other grants on your behalf.

I have already made contact with both Shore Rivers and ENERWA about helping Chesapeake Haven. Shore Rivers has already given a verbal agreeing to consider taking over this project on behalf of Chesapeake Haven. ENERWA was interested in helping too, but they needed a lot more time in advance. I can call them on your behalf to setup a meeting to begin the process again.

I will reach back out after my conversation with DNR with feedback notes, which will help in improving your next application.

I would like to help set you up for the next round of applications and planning, but my time is limited at this point without another contract to assist in another application. I can help setup introductions between Chesapeake Haven and these non-profits mentioned, at no charge, that's no problem.

Don't give up, apply again. You needed this groundwork to happen whether you won or not, and now you have to keep up the momentum and plan ahead. I believe you can win this.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chris Schoenster, MLA, CBLP
Environmental Design & Sales
Unity Landscape Design/Build
3621 Church Hill Road
Church Hill, MD 21623
Office: 410-556-6010
www.unitylandscape.com