

The VIRGINIA NATURAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

A Program for All People
Involved with Virginia's Environment

Six 3-Day Workshop Sessions
September – June

12 Continuing Education Units

A Partnership Program Of

University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiation
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Department of Forestry



Virginia Natural Resources
Leadership Institute

104 Emmet Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
Phone: 434/ 924-1970 Fax: 434/ 924-0231
Web Address: www.virginia.edu/ien/vnrli

Why Was The VNRLI Started?

As pressures on Virginia's natural riches mount, our community leaders face the increasingly difficult challenge of protecting and managing resources for multiple uses. The environmental arena invokes passion because the consequences of these issues are so profound to individual and community life. Virginia's communities need to find ways to strengthen community ties and to help conflicting interests find both common ground and *higher* ground where qualities such as fairness, integrity, and responsibility are both expected and rewarded.

Conflict can be resolved productively when stakeholders become more knowledgeable about public issues, communicate in a more meaningful and effective way, open the debate to include all stakeholders, and negotiate in principled ways to settle disagreements. Our hopes for VNRLI, and ways of making these hopes become reality, are described below.

The VNRLI Vision

Virginia's communities will engage in productive dialogue and collaborative problem solving of natural resource issues important to community sustainability and, thus, be able to effectively manage, conserve, and protect Virginia's natural resources.

The VNRLI Mission

To develop leaders in the Commonwealth who can help groups involved in contentious natural resources issues move beyond conflict toward consensus building and collaborative problem solving.

To Achieve This, the VNRLI Objective Is To Create A Leadership Network of People

- Who are engaged in working with Virginia's natural resources at all levels, from the scientific to the policy levels;
- Who are drawn from all sectors of activity – local, state, and federal government, elected officials, industry and private small businesses, academia, civic organizations, nonprofit environmental organizations, and individual citizen activists;
- Who will earn each other's trust while respecting each others different perspectives;
- Who will be able to call on each other for assistance and ideas; and
- Who will have the leadership skills needed to engage in collaborative problem solving around environmental issues, to move beyond conflict, and to find creative solutions.

The VNRLI's Action Strategies

- An admissions policy that actively encourages applications from all sectors and all economic capabilities. We offer scholarships to minimize cost as a barrier.
- A curriculum that challenges people in each of the six three-day workshops to:
 - 1) Gain deeper understanding of key environmental issues in Virginia and opportunities for dialogue and collaborative problem solving;
 - 2) Gain personal skills in leadership and collaborative problem solving. Leadership development is based on the model of *"leaders as principled convenors, facilitators, and stakeholders."*

WHO CAN APPLY?

Anyone who is involved with, or has a stake in, any aspect of Virginia's natural resources may apply.

- **Private Sector:** industries with environmental impacts, businesses involving or relating to environmental issues, private professionals involved in natural resource management, private landowners and managers.
- **Public Sector:** local and regional government, elected officials, state and federal resource management agencies.
- **Community and Non-Profit Sector:** civic and environmental organizations, academia, concerned and active citizens

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Graduation and continuing education credit is contingent upon full attendance and involvement in **all six** workshop sessions. **Please check the dates below and if your schedule will not permit you to commit the necessary time, please consider applying in the future.**

Session 1: Wed-Fri, September 10-12, 2008

Session 2: Wed-Fri, November 12-14, 2008

Session 3: Wed-Fri, January 7-9, 2009

Session 4: Wed-Fri, March 11-13, 2009

Session 5: Wed-Fri, April 29-May 1, 2009

Session 6: Wed-Fri, June 3-5, 2009

SPECIFIC OUTCOMES FOR FELLOWS

ATTENDING THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Upon completion of the full six-session course, VNRLI Fellows will:

- Understand the key elements of teamwork and leadership.
- Understand the nature, sources and dynamics of natural resource conflicts.
- Understand individual conflict management styles, including when each is or is not appropriate.
- Understand their individual conflict management styles, strengths and challenges.
- Have improved skills in communication, listening, facilitation and conflict management.
- Understand the appropriate application of different group processes for conflict resolution, including collaborative problem solving, interest-based negotiation, mediation and consensus building.
- Understand the different roles of natural resource leaders and responsibilities associated with the different roles.
- Be capable of working within existing public policy processes to improve and maximize opportunities for conflict resolution.
- Engage in more informed decision-making that leads to improved management of Virginia's natural resources.

AND HERE'S WHAT GRADUATES SAY...

"The Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute has been one of the most rewarding and beneficial opportunities that I have experienced. In addition to gaining a greater understanding of complex environmental issues I was able to establish deep, personal relationships with other Institute Fellows." S.D. Mallette, Owner of Resource Management Associates

"One leaves the program with an expanded toolbox of dispute resolution and leadership skills and a broader understanding of the environmental issues confronting us at the community and global levels." Ed Daley, Winchester City Manager

"I think people should attend VNRLI because it will help you become more effective in your work as a leader of environmental programs." John Deuel, Director of non-profit and municipal environmental programs, Hampton Roads

"Due to the nature of my work and volunteer activities, I often find myself in situations that require mediation, negotiation, or facilitation skills. The Virginia Natural Resources Leadership course offers education and hands-on experience in all three. I began using techniques learned as a VNRLI Fellow after the very first session!" Mike Roberts, Extension Agent, Farm Business Mgmt. Coordinator

"Best professional development program since the PhD!"
Dr. R. Bruce Hull, Virginia Tech Faculty

