APPLICANT Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

PROJECT Faithful Stewards Restoring Watersheds

GRANT AMOUNT $25,000

PROJECT SUMMARY The Faithful Stewards Restoring Watersheds initiative is a robust educational effort for faith leaders in Prince George’s County. Faith communities can be effective vehicles for disseminating information on the issue of stormwater runoff to Prince George’s County residents, but many do not possess a baseline understanding of the issue or best management practices available to reduce polluted stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff occurs when rain falls on hard surfaces such as parking lots and roofs and becomes polluted with contaminants that have accumulated on these surfaces. Storm drains collect this polluted stormwater and direct it to the nearest river or stream, resulting in poor water quality. Stormwater best management practices can help slow down stormwater runoff during storms and filter the water entering streams.

This initiative delivered three independent workshops to educate faith leaders about stormwater runoff, inspire a call to action with their congregations, and provide parishioners with the technical and financial tips needed to implement projects on the faith-based ground and/or on the resident/business-owner’s property. During these workshops, attendees also learned how to reduce their congregations’ stormwater utility fee by enrolling in the County’s Alternative Compliance Program.

Resource materials produced for these workshops include: Steps to Green Ministry, Scriptures on Trees and Water, and Biblical Principles on Earth Care.

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