JOSEPH H. MAROON

Joseph H. Maroon has served as the Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment since May 2013. Maroon has over 40 years of experience working on a wide range of natural resource issues, including Chesapeake Bay restoration, land conservation, nonpoint source pollution, outdoor recreation, etc. His previous leadership experience includes two gubernatorial appointments as the agency director for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (2002-2010), serving as the first Virginia Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for over 16 years (1985-2002) and as a staff member of the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) (1978-1985). From 2010 to 2013, he operated his own environmental consulting practice in which he assisted local governments, businesses, and nonprofit clients on environmental matters. Between 2011 to 2019, Joe served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Virginia, for the Virginia Tech Executive Master's in Natural Resources Program, and at VCU teaching graduate courses on environmental policy.

He has served on numerous boards and commissions and is currently a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Stakeholders Advisory Committee and the Statewide Advisory Board to the Virginia Water Resources Research Center.

Maroon has also received several awards including the 2000 Outstanding Environmental Leader Award in Virginia ("Erchul Award") presented at VMI, the 2009 McCarthy Award for Environmental Conflict Resolution from UVA, and the Virginia Water Resources Leadership Award in 2006 from Virginia Tech, as well as awards for his work in land conservation, stormwater management, and wetlands protection.

In 2010, the Virginia General Assembly passed a commending resolution honoring him for his career and contributions. In 2018, Maroon was honored to be the Virginia inductee to the National Association of Conservation Districts Hall of Fame in recognition of his career and service. In 2022, Virginia Forever honored Maroon with the Bridge Builder Award for his lifetime of work on restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

He has a Bachelors and Master's degree in Political Science (Public Administration) from Virginia Tech. Maroon is active in his local church, has two adult sons and daughters-in-law and eight grandchildren. Having spent his early years in northeastern Ohio, he is a long-suffering Cleveland sports fan along with rooting for the Hokies.