

Chesapeake 2000 Agreement

A Watershed Partnership

*Draft for
Public Review
and Comment*



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Comments Due by March 31, 2000

Return to: Chesapeake 2000 Comments, c/o Chesapeake Bay Program, 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403;
or respond online at www.chesapeake.net; or fax to (410) 267-5777

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The Chesapeake Bay Program partners welcome your comments on *Chesapeake 2000*! Please use the enclosed form to write your comments and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same. For more information or more copies of this package, call the Bay Program at 1-800-YOUR-BAY.

Comments are being accepted, in writing only, through March 31, 2000. You may send your response in three ways:

- Mail your comments to the Chesapeake Bay Program Office; 410 Severn Ave., Suite 109; Annapolis, Md. 21403
- Fax your comments to (410) 267-5777
- Complete a response form on the Chesapeake Bay Program website at www.chesapeakebay.net

Due to the volume of comments expected, we will not be able to personally acknowledge receipt of your response.

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Chesapeake 2000 Time Line

January - March 31, 2000: Public review and comment

April - June 2000: Final drafting process

June 2000: Chesapeake Executive Council Signs the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*



The Chesapeake Bay Program is the unique regional partnership that has been directing and conducting the Bay's restoration since 1983. The Bay Program includes the states of Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, representing the federal government; and participating advisory groups representing local governments, the scientific community and the citizens of the watershed.



Introducing *Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership*

You hold in your hands a draft of the document expected to lead Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts into the new century: *Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership*. We hope you will take the time to review it and share your comments and suggestions with the Chesapeake Bay Program. In addition to the draft text of the renewed Bay Agreement, this package includes a Citizen's Guide that examines the draft agreement commitment-by-commitment. More important, there also is a two-page comment form for you to return to us and a postage paid envelope to encourage your participation in this effort.

Chesapeake 2000 will become the third Bay Agreement written by the cooperative, multi-jurisdictional Bay Program. Previous agreements were signed in 1983 and 1987 with the latter amended in 1992. For most of 1999, Bay Program staff and partners have been working with scientists, local officials, conservation leaders and citizens like yourself to develop the draft agreement.

Chesapeake 2000 is designed to build on the Bay Program's accomplishments and commitments as outlined in previous Bay Agreements and its own directives. It's written as a long-range commitment to focus restoration efforts in the new millennium. The primary goal of the new agreement is to improve water quality sufficiently in order to sustain the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries and to maintain that water quality into the future.

This is seen as the most comprehensive and far-reaching goal in the Bay Program's history. It's projected that in some areas of the watershed nutrient reductions will need to be increased beyond the current 40% that has served as the restoration's benchmark. For the first time, comprehensive sediment reduction levels also will be established and implemented.

These are not the only goals set in this ambitious game plan. It sets as its objectives cleaner water in the Bay and its tributaries, thriving estuarine living resources, improved and increased habitat, better management of our resource lands and fully engaged local governments and citizens. Specific restoration commitments include:

- A goal to increase the number of oysters tenfold by 2010
- Improve water quality sufficiently so that the Bay and its tidal rivers will be removed from EPA's list of "impaired waters" by 2010.
- A review of current tax policies to create tax incentives that encourage sound land use and eliminate elements that discourage sustainable development
- New wetlands restoration and protection goals
- Selected "No Discharge" zones for boat waste
- A numerical goal for abandoned industrial site (brownfields) redevelopment — 1,050 sites by 2010
- A goal to expand public access points 30% by 2010
- A recommitment to increase underwater grasses to 114,000 acres
- Enhanced protection for streams and rivers

Dubbed *A Watershed Partnership*, the new agreement also places a priority on reaching the citizens and communities of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. According to the new agreement, "...there can be no greater goal in this recommitment than to engage everyone — individuals, businesses, communities and governments — in our efforts; to commit all citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in a shared vision." Outreach efforts and education are seen as important tools to involve citizens throughout the 64,000 square mile watershed.



Chesapeake 2000

A Watershed Partnership

Preamble

WE COMMIT TO:

The Chesapeake Bay is North America's largest and most biologically diverse estuary, home to more than 3,600 species of plants, fish and animals. For more than 300 years, the Bay and its tributaries have sustained the region's economy and defined its traditions and culture. It is a resource of extraordinary productivity, worthy of the highest levels of protection and restoration.

Accordingly, in 1983 and 1987, the states of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed historic agreements that established the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem.

For almost two decades, we, the signatories to these agreements, have worked together as stewards to ensure the public's right to clean water and a healthy and productive resource. We have sought to protect the health of the public that uses the Bay and consumes its bounty. The initiatives we have pursued have been deliberate and have produced significant results in the health and productivity of the Bay's main stem, the tributaries, and the natural land and water ecosystems that compose the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

While the individual and collective accomplishments of our efforts have been significant, even greater effort will be required to address the enormous challenges that lie ahead. Increased population and expanded development within the watershed have created ever-greater challenges for us in the Bay's restoration. These challenges are further complicated by the dynamic nature of the Bay and the ever-changing global ecosystem within which it interacts.

In order to achieve our existing goals and meet the challenges that lie ahead, we must reaffirm our partnership and recommit to fulfilling the public responsibility we undertook almost two decades ago. We must manage for the future. We must have a vision for our desired destiny and put programs into place that will secure it.

To do this, there can be no greater goal in this recommitment than to engage everyone—individuals, businesses, communities and governments—in our effort; to commit all citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in a shared vision—a system with

abundant, diverse populations of living resources, fed by healthy streams and rivers, sustaining strong local and regional economies, and our unique quality of life.

In affirming our recommitment through this new Chesapeake 2000 draft agreement, we recognize the importance of viewing this document in its entirety with no single part taken in isolation of the others. This Agreement reflects the Bay's complexity in that each action we take, like the elements of the Bay itself, is connected to all the others. This Agreement responds to the problems facing this magnificent ecosystem in a comprehensive, multifaceted way.

By this Agreement, we commit ourselves to nurture and sustain a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Partnership and to achieve the goals set forth in the subsequent sections. Without such a partnership, future challenges will not be met. With it, the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay will be ensured for generations to come.

LIVING RESOURCE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

The health and vitality of the Chesapeake Bay's living resources provide the ultimate indicator of our success in the restoration and protection effort. The Bay's fisheries and the other living resources that sustain them and provide habitat for them are central to the initiatives we undertake in this Agreement.

We recognize the interconnectedness of the Bay's living resources and the importance of protecting the entire natural system and therefore, commit to identify the essential elements of habitat and environmental quality necessary to support the living resources of the Bay. In protecting commercially valuable species, we will manage harvest levels through practices that maintain their health and stability and protect the ecosystem as a whole. We will restore passage for migratory fish and work to ensure that suitable water quality conditions exist in the upstream spawning habitats upon which they depend.

Our actions must be conducted in an integrated and coordinated manner. They must be continually monitored, evaluated and revised to adjust to the dynamic nature and complexities of the Chesapeake Bay and changes in global ecosystems. To advance this ecosystem approach, we will broaden our management perspective from single-system to ecosystem functions and will expand our protection efforts from single-species to multi-species management. We will also undertake efforts to determine how future conditions and changes in the chemical, physical and biological attributes of the Bay will affect living resources over time.

GOAL: RESTORE, ENHANCE AND PROTECT THE FISH, SHELLFISH AND OTHER LIVING RESOURCES, THEIR HABITATS AND ECOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS TO SUSTAIN ALL FISHERIES AND PROVIDE FOR A BALANCED ECOSYSTEM.

Oysters

- By 2010, achieve, at a minimum, a tenfold increase in oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, based upon a 1994 baseline. By 2002, develop and implement a strategy to achieve this increase by using sanctuaries sufficient in size and distribution, aquaculture and other management approaches necessary to achieve this objective.

Exotic Species

- By 2002, identify exotic species which are producing significant negative impacts to the Bay's aquatic ecosystem or have the potential to yield such impacts. By 2004, develop and implement management plans for those exotic species that are deemed problematic to the restoration and integrity of the Bay's ecosystem.
- In 2000, establish a Chesapeake Bay Program Task Force to: (1) work cooperatively with the U.S. Coast Guard, the ports, the shipping industry and environmental interests at the national level to help establish and implement a national program designed to substantially reduce and, where possible, eliminate the introduction of exotic species carried in ballast water; and (2) by 2002, develop and implement an interim voluntary ballast water management program for the waters of the Bay and its tributaries.

Fish Passage and Migratory Fish and Resident Fish

- By June 2002, identify the final initiatives necessary to achieve our existing goal of restoring fish passage for migratory fish to more than 1,357 miles of blocked river by 2003.
- By 2004, set a new goal with implementation schedules to achieve restoration of additional passage for migratory and resident fish.
- For priority migratory fish species, by 2002, assess trends in populations, determine tributary-specific target population sizes based on projected fish passage and available habitat, and provide recommendations to achieve those targets.
- By 2003, revise fish management plans to include strategies to achieve tributary-specific migratory fish target population sizes.

Multi-species Management

- By 2005, develop multi-species management plans for targeted species.
- By 2007, revise and implement existing fisheries management plans to incorporate ecological, social and economic considerations, multi-species fisheries management and ecosystem approaches.

Crabs

- Manage the blue crab population to restore a healthy spawning biomass, size and age structure. By 2001, establish a harvest target and implement state fisheries management strategies that are complementary Baywide.

VITAL HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

The Chesapeake Bay's natural infrastructure is an intricate system of terrestrial and aquatic habitats, linked to the landscapes and the environmental quality of the watershed. It is composed of the thousands of miles of river and stream habitat that interconnect the land, water, living resources and human communities of the Bay watershed. These vital habitats—including open water, underwater grasses, marshes, wetlands, streams and forests—support living resource abundance by providing key food and habitat for a variety of species. Submerged aquatic vegetation reduces shoreline erosion while forests and wetlands protect water quality by naturally processing the pollutants before they enter the water. Long-term protection of this natural infrastructure is essential.

In managing the Bay as a whole ecosystem, we recognize the need to focus on the individuality of each river, stream and creek and to secure their protection in concert with the communities and individuals that reside within these small watersheds. We also recognize that we must continue to refine and share information regarding the importance of these vital habitats to the Bay's fish, shellfish and waterfowl. Our efforts to preserve the integrity of this natural infrastructure will protect the Bay's waters and living resources and will ensure the viability of human economies and communities that are dependent upon those resources for sustenance, reverence and posterity.

GOAL: PRESERVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE THOSE HABITATS AND NATURAL AREAS VITAL TO THE SURVIVAL AND DIVERSITY OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE BAY AND ITS RIVERS.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

- ☐ Recommit to the existing SAV Restoration Goal of 114,000 acres.
- ☐ By 2002, revise SAV restoration goals to reflect historic abundance, measured as acreage and density from 1930s to present. The revised goals will include specific levels of water clarity which are to be met in 2010. Strategies to achieve these goals will address water clarity, water quality and bottom disturbance.
- ☐ By 2002, implement a strategy to accelerate restoration of SAV beds in areas of critical importance to the Bay's living resources.

Wetlands

- ☐ Achieve a no-net loss of jurisdictional wetlands acreage and function through regulatory programs.
- ☐ Achieve a net resource gain by restoring 25,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands by 2010. To do this, we commit to achieve and maintain an average restoration rate of 2,500 acres per year basin wide by 2005 and beyond. We will evaluate our success in 2005.
- ☐ Provide information and assistance to local governments and communities groups for the development and implementation of locally generated community or watershed-based wetlands preservation plans. The goal is to have such plans implemented in 25 percent of the land area of each state's Bay watershed by 2010. The plans would preserve key wetlands that are

locally identified and address surrounding land use so as to preserve wetland functions.

- ☐ Continue to evaluate the potential impact of climate change on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, particularly its wetlands.

Forests

- ☐ By 2003, ensure that measures are in place to meet our riparian forest buffer restoration goal of 2,010 miles by 2010 and determine the potential to significantly expand this goal.
- ☐ Promote the expansion and further linking of contiguous forests through conservation easements, greenways, fee simple purchase and other land conservation mechanisms.
- ☐ Work in partnership with local governments and communities to encourage the adoption of local stream corridor protection plans that include provisions for riparian forest conservation and restoration, with a goal of 50 percent local government and community participation by 2010.

Stream Corridors

- ☐ By 2001, each jurisdiction will work with local governments and communities to select pilot projects that promote stream corridor protection, restoration and the maintenance of minimum flows.
- ☐ By 2003, include in the "State of the Bay Report" and make available to the public, local governments and communities information concerning the aquatic health of stream corridors in the watershed, including the minimum freshwater stream flows needed to maintain or restore aquatic health.
- ☐ Work with watershed organizations and local governments to develop a watershed management plan, that addresses, among other things, the protection of forest buffers and local stream corridors with a goal of 50 percent local government participation by 2010.
- ☐ Continually improve monitoring programs for evaluating the aquatic health of stream corridors and the success of protection and restoration efforts. Ensure that the monitoring networks address the critical impact of ground water on surface water flow and quality.

WATER QUALITY RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

Improving water quality is the most critical element in the overall restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In 1987, we committed to achieving a 40 percent reduction in controllable nutrient loads to the Bay. In 1992, we committed to tributary-specific reduction strategies to achieve this reduction and agreed to stay at or below these nutrient loads once attained. We have made measurable reductions in pollution loading despite continuing growth and development. Still, more will have to be done.

Recent actions taken under the Clean Water Act resulted in listing portions of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal

tributaries as "impaired waters." These actions have emphasized the regulatory framework of the Act along with the ongoing cooperative efforts of the Bay Program as the means to address the nutrient enrichment problems within the Bay and its rivers. In response, we have developed, and are implementing, a process for integrating the cooperative and statutory programs of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We have agreed to the goal of improving water quality in the Bay and its tributaries so that these waters may be removed from the impaired waters list prior to the time when regulatory mechanisms under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act would be applied.

We commit to achieve the water quality conditions necessary to support living resources throughout the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. In addition, we will make the prevention of pollution a central theme in the protection of water quality. Where we have failed to achieve established water quality goals, we will take actions necessary to reach and maintain those goals. We will complement these efforts with actions that are protective of freshwater flow regimes for riverine and estuarine habitats. In pursuing the restoration of vital habitats, we will work to improve water clarity in order to meet light requirements necessary to support SAV. We will develop and implement improved plans and strategies necessary to reach and maintain those goals. We will also expand our efforts to reduce sediments and airborne pollution, and ensure that the Bay is free from the effects of toxics on living resources and human health. We will continue our cooperative intergovernmental approach to achieve and maintain water quality goals through cost-effective and equitable means within the framework of federal and state law. We will evaluate the potential impacts of emerging issues, including airborne ammonia and nonpoint sources of chemical contaminants. Finally, we will continue to monitor water quality conditions and adjust our strategies accordingly.

GOAL: ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN THE WATER QUALITY NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE AQUATIC LIVING RESOURCES OF THE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES AND TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH.

Nutrients

- ☐ Continue efforts to achieve and maintain the 40 percent nutrient reduction goal agreed to in 1987, as well as the goals being adopted for the tributaries south of the Potomac River.
- ☐ By 2010, correct all nutrient-related problems in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries sufficient to remove the Bay and the tidal portions of its tributaries from the list of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act. In order to achieve this:
 - 1) By 2001, define the water quality conditions necessary to protect aquatic living resources; and then, assign load reductions for nitrogen and phosphorus to each major tributary;
 - 2) By 2002, complete a public process to develop and begin implementation of revised Tributary Strategies to achieve and maintain the assigned loading goals; and,
 - 3) By 2003, the jurisdictions with tidal waters will use their best efforts to adopt new or revised water quality standards consistent with the defined water quality conditions. Once adopted by the jurisdictions, EPA

will work expeditiously to review the new or revised standards, which will then be used as the basis for removing the Bay and its tidal rivers from the list of impaired waters.

Sediment

- ☐ By 2010, correct all sediment-related problems in the Chesapeake Bay and the tidal portion of its tributaries sufficient to remove the Bay and the tidal portions of its tributaries from the list of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act. In order to achieve this:
 - 1) Using a process parallel to that established for nutrients, determine the load reductions to achieve the water quality conditions necessary to protect aquatic living resources and assign load reductions for sediment to each major tributary by 2001; complete tributary strategies to achieve the reductions by 2002; integrate sediment reductions in order to develop water quality standards for tidal waters by 2003, based upon the defined water quality conditions; and
 - 2) By 2003, work with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and others to adopt and begin implementing strategies that prevent the loss of the sediment retention capabilities of the lower Susquehanna River dams.

Chemical Contaminants

- ☐ We commit to fulfilling the 1994 goal of a Chesapeake Bay free of toxics by reducing or eliminating the input of chemical contaminants from all controllable sources to levels that result in no toxic or bioaccumulative impact on the living resources that inhabit the Bay or on human health.
- ☐ By Fall of 2000, reevaluate and revise, as necessary, the Chesapeake Bay Basinwide Toxics Reduction and Prevention Strategy, focusing on:
 - 1) Complementing state and federal regulatory programs to go beyond traditional point source controls, including nonpoint sources such as ground-water discharge and atmospheric deposition by using a watershed-based approach.
 - 2) Understanding the effects and impacts of chemical contaminants to increase the effectiveness of management actions.
- ☐ Through continual improvement, strive for zero release of chemical contaminants from point sources (including air sources) using voluntary pollution prevention measures, with particular emphasis on problem chemicals in regions identified to have probable or potential toxic impacts to living resources.
- ☐ Reduce the potential risk of pesticides to the Bay by targeting education, outreach and implementation of Integrated Pest Management and specific Best Management Practices on agricultural, urban, suburban and resource lands that have higher potential for contributing pesticide loads to the Bay.

Priority Urban Waters

- ☐ Support the restoration of the Anacostia River, Baltimore Harbor, and Elizabeth River and their watersheds as models for urban river restoration in the Bay basin.
- 1) By 2010, the District of Columbia, working with its watershed partners, will reduce pollution loads to the Anacostia River in order to eliminate public health concerns and achieve the living resource, water quality and habitat goals of this and past Agreements.

Air Pollution

- ☐ By 2003, assess the effects of airborne nitrogen compounds and chemical contaminants on the Bay ecosystem and develop a plan for strengthening air emission pollution prevention programs throughout the airshed.

Boat Discharge

- ☐ By 2003, establish appropriate areas within the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries as "no discharge zones" for human waste from boats. By 2010, expand by 50 percent the number and availability of waste pump-out facilities.
- ☐ By 2006, reassess our progress in reducing the impact of boat waste on the Bay and its tributaries.

SOUND LAND USE

In 1987, the signatories agreed that "there is a clear correlation between population growth and associated development and environmental degradation in the Chesapeake Bay system." This Agreement reaffirms that concept and recognizes that more must be done.

Enhancing, or even maintaining, the quality of the Bay while accommodating growth will frequently involve difficult choices. It will require a renewed commitment to appropriate development standards. The states and the federal government will assert the full measure of their authority to mitigate the potential adverse effects of continued growth. Local jurisdictions have been delegated authority over many decisions regarding growth and development which have both direct and indirect effects on the Chesapeake Bay system and its living resources. The role of local governments in the Bay's restoration and protection effort will be given proper recognition and support through state and federal resources. States will also engage in active partnerships with local governments in managing growth and development in ways that support the following goal.

We acknowledge that future development will be sustainable only if we protect our natural and rural resource land, limit impervious surfaces and concentrate new growth in existing population centers or suitable areas served by appropriate infrastructure. We will work to integrate environmental, community and economic goals by promoting more concentrated forms of development, consistent with our historic urban, village and rural settlement patterns. We will also strive to coordinate land-use, transportation and infrastructure planning so that funding and policies at all levels of government do not contribute to

poorly planned growth and development or degrade local habitat. We will advance these policies by creating partnerships with local governments to protect our communities and to discharge our duties as trustees in the stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Finally, we will report on our progress in achieving our commitments to promote sound land use every two years.

GOALS: DEVELOP, PROMOTE AND ACHIEVE SOUND LAND USE PRACTICES WHICH PROTECT AND RESTORE WATERSHED RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY, MAINTAIN REDUCED POLLUTANT LOADINGS FOR THE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND RESTORE AND PRESERVE AQUATIC LIVING RESOURCES.

Land Conservation

- ☐ By 2002, expand the use of voluntary and market-based mechanisms such as easements, purchase or transfer of development rights and other approaches to protect and preserve natural resources lands.
- ☐ Strengthen programs for land acquisition and preservation within each state that are supported by funding and target the most valued lands for protection.
- ☐ By 2001, complete an assessment of the Bay's resource lands including forests and farms, emphasizing their role in the protection of water quality and critical habitats, as well as cultural and economic viability.
- ☐ Provide technical and financial assistance to local governments to plan for or revise plans, ordinances and subdivision regulations to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of the forest and agricultural lands.
- ☐ Develop and maintain in each jurisdiction a strong GIS system fully accessible to local governments to promote sound land use practices.
- Public Access**
- ☐ By 2010, expand the system of public access points to the Bay, its tributaries and related resource sites by 30 percent by working with state and federal agencies, local governments and stakeholder organizations.
- ☐ Encourage and support localities in their effort to enhance public access to the Bay and its tributaries.
- ☐ By 2005, increase the number of designated water trails in the Chesapeake Bay region by 500 miles.
- ☐ Enhance outreach materials and opportunities that promote public access to natural, recreational, historical and cultural resources within the Chesapeake Bay while also conveying its value.

Development, Redevelopment and Revitalization

- ☐ *By 2010, reduce in each state the rate of conversion of forest and agricultural lands to development by at least 30 percent, with progress reported regularly to the Chesapeake Executive Council.
- *Five of the six Bay Program Partnership signatories agree that this commitment should be part of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.

- ☐ Identify and remove state and local impediments to low impact development designs to encourage the use of such approaches to minimize water quality impacts.
- ☐ Work with communities and local governments to encourage sound land use planning and practices that address the impacts of growth, development and transportation on the watershed.
- ☐ Review current tax policies to identify elements which discourage sustainable development practices or encourage undesirable growth patterns. Promote the modification of such policies and the creation of new tax incentives which encourage investments consistent with sound growth management principles.
- ☐ The jurisdictions will promote redevelopment and remove barriers to investment in underutilized urban, suburban and rural communities by working with localities and development interests.
- ☐ Provide analytical tools to local governments and communities for watershed-based assessment of the impacts of growth, development and transportation decisions. Make available information to encourage the development community and others to champion the application of sound use practices.
- ☐ By 2002, develop information and guidelines to assist local governments and communities to limit impervious cover on undeveloped and moderately developed watersheds and reduce the impact in highly developed watersheds.
- ☐ By 2003, work with local governments and communities to develop land-use management and water resource protection approaches that encourage the concentration of new residential development in areas supported by adequate water resources and infrastructure to minimize impacts on water quality.
- ☐ The jurisdictions will evaluate local implementation of stormwater, erosion control and other locally-implemented water quality protection programs that affect the Bay system and ensure that these programs are being coordinated and applied effectively in order to minimize the impacts of development.
- ☐ Develop and promote wastewater treatment options, such as nutrient reducing apptic systems, which protect public health and minimize impacts to the Bay's resources.
- ☐ Strengthen brownfield redevelopment. By 2010, rehabilitate and restore 1,050 brownfield sites to productive use.

Transportation

- ☐ By 2002, the signatory jurisdictions will promote coordination of transportation and land use planning to encourage compact development patterns, revitalization in existing communities and transportation strategies that minimize adverse effects on the Bay and its tributaries.
- ☐ By 2002, each state will coordinate its transportation policies and programs to reduce the dependence on

automobiles by incorporating travel alternatives such as telework, pedestrian, bicycle and transit options, as appropriate, in the design of projects so as to increase the availability of alternative modes of travel as measured by increased use of those alternatives.

- ☐ Establish policies and incentives which encourage the use of clean vehicle technologies.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Chesapeake Bay is dependent upon the actions of every citizen in the watershed, both today and in the future. We recognize that the cumulative benefit derived from community-based watershed programs is essential for continued progress toward a healthier Chesapeake Bay. Therefore, we commit ourselves to engage our citizens by promoting a broad conservation ethic throughout the fabric of community life, and foster within all citizens a deeper understanding of their roles as trustees of their own local environments. Through their actions, each individual can contribute to the health and well-being of their neighborhood streams, rivers and the land that surrounds them, not only as ecological stewards of the Bay but also as members of watershed-wide communities. By focusing individuals on local resources, we will advance Baywide restoration as well.

We recognize that the future of the Bay also depends on the actions of generations to follow. Therefore, we commit to provide opportunities for cooperative learning and action so that communities can promote local environmental quality for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and visitors. We will assist communities throughout the watershed in improving quality of life, thereby strengthening local economies and connecting individuals to the Bay through their shared sense of responsibility. We will seek to increase the financial and human resources available to localities to meet the challenges of restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

GOAL: PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL STEWARDSHIP AND ASSIST INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOLS TO UNDERTAKE INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND COMMITMENTS OF THIS AGREEMENT

Public Outreach and Education

- ☐ Make public outreach and citizen interaction a priority in order to achieve public awareness and personal involvement on behalf of the Bay and local watersheds.
- ☐ Use the latest communications technologies to provide a comprehensive and interactive source of information on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed for use by public and technical audiences.
- ☐ Continue to forge a partnership with the Departments of Education in each jurisdiction to integrate core messages about the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed into school curricula.

- ☐ Provide students and teachers alike with opportunities to directly participate in local restoration and protection projects, and to recognize stewardship efforts in schools and on school property.

- ☐ By 2002, expand citizen outreach efforts to incorporate minority populations by highlighting their cultural and historical ties to the Bay. Emphasis will be placed on providing multi-lingual educational materials on stewardship activities and Bay information.

Community Engagement

- ☐ Jurisdictions will identify small watersheds where community-based actions are essential to meeting Bay restoration goals—in particular wetlands, forested buffers, stream corridors and public access and work with local governments and community organizations to bring the appropriate range of Bay Program resources to these communities.
- ☐ Seek to enhance funding for community-based programs that pursue restoration and protection projects that will assist in the achievement of the goals of this and past agreements.
- ☐ By 2001, develop and maintain a clearing house for information on local watershed restoration efforts, including financial and technical assistance.
- ☐ By 2002, each signatory jurisdiction will offer easily-accessible information suitable for analyzing environmental conditions at a small watershed scale.
- ☐ By 2002, complete a reevaluation of the Local Government Participation Action Plan and make necessary changes in Bay Program and jurisdictional functions based upon the reevaluation.
- ☐ Improve methods of communications with and among local governments on Bay issues and provide adequate opportunities for discussion of key issues.

Government by Example

- ☐ Ensure that all properties owned, managed or leased by the signatories are developed and used in a manner consistent with all relevant goals, commitments and guidance of this Agreement.
- ☐ Ensure that the development, redevelopment, lease and use of signatory jurisdictional properties and structures are consistent with this Agreement's goals.
- ☐ Ensure that the design and construction of signatory-funded development and redevelopment projects are consistent with all relevant goals, commitments and guidance of this Agreement.
- ☐ Expand the use of clean vehicle technologies and fuels on the basis of emission reductions, so that a significantly greater percentage of each signatory government's fleet of vehicles use some form of clean technology.
- ☐ Build partnerships with Delaware, New York and West Virginia by promoting communication and by seeking agreements on issues of mutual concern.



Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership **A Citizen's Guide to the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement***

Living Resource Protection and Restoration

It is recognized that the health of the Bay watershed's living resources is the ultimate indicator of the success in all restoration and protection efforts. The focus is on the interconnectedness of the Bay's living resources and the importance of protecting the entire natural system. Likewise, restoration actions must be integrated and coordinated.

Goal: Restore, enhance and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem.

What the Agreement Says

Increase oysters tenfold by 2010.

Identify invasive (exotic) species that have potential to harm the Bay. Develop ways to manage them. Work on national policy regarding ballast water in ships.

Provide fish passage for migratory fish by opening areas blocked by dams, etc. Revise fish management plans to include habitat and target population sizes for migratory fish.

Develop multi-species management plans for targeted species. Revise existing fish management plans to incorporate multi-species approach.

What it Means

Oysters' ability to filter pollutants from water plays a role in water quality. This commitment means that more oyster seeding is needed and that establishing and expanding protected areas for oysters also are needed. Creating more and increasing the size of oyster reefs also are needed.

Invasive species such as nutria, mute swans and Rapa Whelks take over habitat from native species and change the ecosystem. Some exotic species are carried in ships' ballast water from other parts of the world. Until a national policy is established, we will ask ports and shipping lines to voluntarily help manage this threat to the Bay.

Many ocean fish species spawn in freshwater rivers. Providing more habitat for spawning upstream helps sustain the species. This commitment means that we need to bypass barriers, dams, pipes, and other man-made structures that are barriers to passage. Fish management plans are expected to lead to stronger populations of migratory fish and expanded opportunities for recreational anglers.

Multi-species management means developing specific plans/actions to keep all species in balance with one another and with their habitat. This commitment may lead to stronger populations and expanded opportunities for recreational anglers.

Manage the blue crab fishery to include specific harvest targets in order to restore healthy populations, including spawning biomass, size and age structure.

This commitment would set specific harvest targets and would strive for balance, taking proper number of males vs. females, large vs. small, and young vs. old. It's intended to produce stronger populations in the future.

Vital Habitat Protection and Restoration

The Chesapeake Bay's natural infrastructure is an intricate system of terrestrial and aquatic habitats linked to the landscapes and the environmental quality of the watershed. The focus is on preserving the natural infrastructure to protect the Bay's waters and living resources.

Goal: Preserve, protect and restore those habitats and natural areas vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Bay and its rivers.

What the Agreement Says

Recommit to the goal of restoring 114,000 acres of Bay grasses (also known as Submerged Aquatic Vegetation or SAV). Revise goals to address water clarity, water quality and bottom disturbance.

What it Means

Bay grasses provide habitat for living resources and reduce shore erosion. They also are indicators of water quality. Enlarging areas covered by grasses is important to species like crabs, striped bass, etc. This commitment will target restoration efforts to levels shown by aerial photography in the 1930s, focusing on areas important to living resources.

Achieve no-net loss of wetlands. Achieve a net gain by restoring 25,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands. Preserve key wetlands identified by local governments and community groups with specific wetland protection plans that cover 25% of all state lands.

Wetlands provide habitat for many fish, shellfish, waterfowl and animals, and they filter pollutants from the land before they enter streams, rivers and the Bay. Many store water during storms to reduce flooding of nearby lands. This is a commitment to no further loss of wetlands, increasing the total acreage by 25,000 and insuring that these wetlands function as they should.

Plant forest (riparian) buffer strips along 2010 miles of waterways in the Bay watershed by 2010. Link contiguous forests. Work with local governments to adopt local stream corridor protection plans with forest conservation and restoration components.

Buffers filter runoff from the land 70% better than lawns or farmland. Contiguous forest provides habitat for a variety of animals and reduces their conflicts with humans. With this commitment, the Bay Program partners and local governments will undertake a variety of actions to achieve the forest goals.

Work to enlist 50% of the local governments in the Bay region to write watershed management plans. Work with local governments and communities to select pilot projects to promote stream corridor protection, restoration and maintenance of minimum flows. Improve stream monitoring.

Local citizen and government involvement is critical to improving/maintaining the health of streams within local communities. Developing an ethic of stewardship of the local stream is essential to preserve and enhance water quality. With this commitment, the Bay Program partners and local governments would undertake a variety of actions to achieve the goals.

Water Quality Restoration and Protection

Improving water quality is the most critical element in the overall restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The goal to remove the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries from the *Clean Water Act's* "impaired waters" list is the most comprehensive in the restoration's history.

Goal: Achieve and maintain the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the Bay and its tributaries and to protect human health.

What the Agreement Says

Continue efforts to reduce and cap nutrient loadings to meet the 40% reduction goal of the 1987 Bay Agreement.

Correct all nutrient-related problems in the Bay to remove the Chesapeake for the "impaired waters" list (for nutrients).

Reduce the amount of sediment entering the Bay and its tidal rivers sufficiently to remove the Bay from the impaired waters list by 2010.

Develop strategies for loss of sediment storage area behind dams on Susquehanna River.

What it Means

Reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the Bay's waters is critical to maintaining healthy plants, fish, shellfish, and waterfowl in the Chesapeake. This reconfirms the commitment to achieve the 1987 Agreement's 40% reduction and, equally as important, maintain the reduction or "cap" loads at the reduced level.

The *Clean Water Act* sets specific criteria for declaring water bodies impaired. This commitment establishes the goal of cleaning up the Bay sufficiently to get the Chesapeake off of the EPA list of impaired waters.

While some sedimentation of the Bay is expected, excess sediment reduces water clarity, covers Bay grass beds and oyster reefs with silt, and requires the dredging of channels for boating and shipping. This commitment means that for the first time, actions will be developed to comprehensively address sediment inputs to the Bay.

Dams along the Susquehanna River trap and hold sediments. However, they are becoming filled and losing their capacity as sediment traps. This commitment means that a plan to alleviate this problem would be developed and implemented.

Reduce chemical contaminants from all controllable sources striving for zero release from point sources through voluntary measures. Include nonpoint sources in this strategy.

The current chemical contaminant strategy is being reevaluated. These commitments reaffirm that process and add a goal of zero release and targeting nonpoint sources for reduction. This would broaden the focus to many of the decisions made daily by people that result in water quality degradation.

Focus on the Anacostia River in the District of Columbia, the Patapsco River and Baltimore Harbor in Maryland, and Virginia's Elizabeth River as models for urban river restoration.

These identified Regions of Concern (or "hot spots") for chemical contaminant effects of living resources have experienced improvements due to management efforts by the Bay Program partners. This commitment means that continued support and new approaches are needed to address existing pollution, as well as runoff from developed land.

Assess the effects of airborne nitrogen and chemical contaminants and develop a plan for strengthening air emissions pollution prevention throughout the airshed.

Airborne nitrogen and polluting chemicals enter the waters of the Bay watershed. This would commit the Bay Program jurisdictions and urge state in the airshed (larger than the watershed including states in the Midwest) to enhance their pollution prevention programs.

Establish specific no discharge zones for boat waste; expand number of boat pumpout stations.

Human waste from boats is a human health hazard and its discharge is illegal. This commitment would now prohibit discharge of treated waste from Coast Guard-approved Marine Sanitation Devices in certain identified areas of the Bay deemed of critical ecological importance, fish and shellfish harvest areas, swimming areas or where boats congregate.

Sound Land Use

We've learned that what happens on the land affects water quality, habitat and living resources. Future development will be sustainable only if we protect our natural and rural resource land, limit impervious surfaces and concentrate new growth in existing population centers or suitable areas served by appropriate infrastructure. The focus is on Bay Program partners working with local governments and others to develop the tools necessary to lessen the impact of growth and land development.

Goal: Develop, promote and achieve sound land use practices that protect and restore watershed resources and water quality, maintain reduced pollutant loadings for the Bay and its tributaries, and restore and preserve aquatic living resources.

What the Agreement Says

Protect and preserve natural resource lands through use of easements, purchase of development rights, etc. Inventory Bay watershed's resource lands. Provide assistance to local governments to revise ordinances to protect forest and agricultural lands. Develop GIS system for local government use.

Expand public access points to the Bay, its tributaries and related sites by 30%. Increase number of water trails. Enhance outreach materials.

By 2010, reduce the rate of conversion of forest and agricultural lands to development by 30%.

***Not all of the Bay Program signatories agree to this commitment being a part of this agreement.**

Remove governmental impediments to low impact design. Review tax policies that encourage undesirable growth patterns. Remove barriers to redevelopment. Provide analytical tools to local governments.

Develop guidelines to limit impervious cover. Concentrate new residential development in areas with infrastructure. Evaluate local implementation of stormwater and erosion control.

Develop wastewater treatment options.

What it Means

Forest and agricultural lands are resources that provide economic benefits, sustain agriculture, provide habitat, provide critical ecological functions and enhance our quality of life. These commitments seek to preserve the integrity of our natural resource lands and, in turn, water quality through the preservation of that land.

This commitment recognizes that providing public access is critical to increasing public support for the Bay, as is providing increased opportunities for recreation and learning.

This is one indicator of the rate of development sprawl. This commitment recognizes that by reducing land conversion, the rate of sprawl slows. Land use practices will have to change to meet this goal.

This commitment would give localities incentive to encourage new development and redevelopment designed for environmental protection and for maximum utilization of existing infrastructure. This should minimize sprawl and direct growth to redevelopment opportunities in existing communities.

Too much impervious cover (hard surfaces) in an area can degrade water quality. This commitment will help control the amount of impervious surfaces. Also, concentrating development in places where sewer, water, and other services already are found reduces sprawl, conserves resources and reduces the cost of building new schools, roads, sewer and water lines. Improved stormwater and erosion control ordinances will reduce the impact of building and farming on streams.

Effluent discharged from wastewater treatment plants is a prime source of nutrients in the Bay region. Home septic systems also can pollute surface and groundwater. This commitment recognizes that further reductions in impacts from both will be necessary to offset growth in loads as a result of population increases. Developing and promoting alternative treatment options also will be necessary.

Strengthen brownfield redevelopment.

Redevelopment of brownfield sites (previously used areas with some environmental contamination) into commercial/industrial uses provides the opportunity for community revitalization. This commitment maximizes these opportunities, supports urban revitalization and reduces sprawl.

Coordinate transportation and land use planning. Modify transportation policies to reduce dependence on cars. Encourage use of clean vehicle technologies and travel alternatives such as telecommuting.

This commitment recognizes that planning for transportation and land use concurrently results in a more coherent travel pattern, reduced travel times, and reduced sprawl. Encouraging use of clean vehicles and travel alternatives would reduce air pollution.

Individual Responsibility and Community Engagement

The focus is on the Bay being dependent upon the actions of every citizen in the watershed -- today and in the future. Focusing individuals on local resources advances Baywide restoration as well.

Goal: Promote individual stewardship and assist individuals, community-based organizations, local governments and schools to undertake initiatives to achieve the goals and commitments of this agreement.

What the Agreement Says

Make public awareness and personal involvement through public outreach and citizen interaction a Bay Program priority. Use the latest communication techniques. Forge partnerships with departments of education and the education community; provide teachers and students with opportunities to participate in projects and activities. Expand outreach efforts to minority populations.

The jurisdictions will identify small watersheds where community-based actions are essential to meet Bay restoration goals and work with local governments to bring additional resources to these efforts. The Bay Program will establish a clearinghouse for local watershed restoration efforts. Each jurisdiction will provide information to local governments to help analyze environmental conditions at a small watershed scale.

What it Means

Alerting individuals to the impacts of their actions on the Bay's natural system and its watershed is essential to efforts to restore and protect the Bay watershed. By involving citizens, it is hoped they will change their behavior to adopt more environmentally aware daily practices. The purpose of this commitment is to increase awareness and actions by individuals to promote an ethic of stewardship of the environment.

Community-based activities are the most effective method of engaging the public in watershed restoration activities. Programs that create ownership/stewardship of local waters create an environmental awareness that individual actions matter to local waters and to the Bay. These commitments focus on bringing new resources to the local level and enhancing action in these areas.

Government by example—ensure that all properties managed by governments are utilized in a manner consistent with Bay Program goals. Expand the use of clean vehicle technologies. Build partnerships with Delaware, New York and West Virginia: the other Bay watershed states.

The commitment recognizes that Bay Program partner governments and agencies should be the best examples of good environmental stewardship in all activities they undertake. Governments should set the example for effective and efficient environmental action.

Your comments and suggestions: Response Form

Return to:

Chesapeake 2000 Comments

c/o Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-267-5700

**NOTE: Deadline is
March 31, 2000.**

This form is also available at www.chesapeakebay.net

Where do you live? MD PA VA DC DE WV NY other _____

Your background?

Agriculture Developer	Business Student	Government General Public	Waterman Nonprofit Organization	Educator
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LIVING RESOURCE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

This section of the Draft Agreement expands the focus of protecting and restoring fisheries from single-species to multi-species management. It calls for identifying essential elements of habitat and environmental quality necessary to support the fisheries of the Bay, and managing harvest levels and practices to maintain their health and stability and protect the ecosystem as a whole.

Identifies specific actions regarding:

Oysters (see page 3)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Exotic Species (see page 3)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Fish Passage and Migratory Fish and Resident Fish (see page 3)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Multi-species Management (see page 3)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Crabs (see page 3)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____



VITAL HABITAT PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

This section of the Draft Agreement articulates a philosophy of preserving the natural infrastructure of each river, stream and creek of the Bay watershed. This would include open water, underwater grasses, marshes, wetlands, streams, and forests.

Identifies specific actions regarding:

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Restoration (see page 4)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Wetlands (see page 4)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Forests (see page 4)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____

Stream Corridors (see page 4)

- ☐ OK as written
☐ Change as follows: _____



WATER QUALITY RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

This section of the Draft Agreement shifts focus from previous Baywide efforts to reduce nutrients by 40% to, instead, meeting the requirements of the Clean Water Act, regardless of the percentage. This new focus is more tributary specific, looking at nutrient loading from each river or stream and determining how to reduce that load to bring it into compliance with Clean Water Act standards.

This approach is designed to remove the Chesapeake Bay from the EPA's list of Impaired Waters prior to the imposition of regulations under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Pollution prevention is a central theme. Other important issues are: protecting fresh water flows, reducing sediment and airborne pollution, and ensuring the Bay is free from the effects of toxics on living resources and human health.

Return to: Chesapeake 2000 Comments, c/o Chesapeake Bay Program, 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403, or respond online at www.chesapeake.net by March 31, 2000 or fax your response to us at (410) 267-5777.

Identifies specific actions regarding:

Nutrients (see page 4)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Sediment (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Chemicals Contaminants (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Priority Urban Waters (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Air Pollution (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Boat Discharge (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____



SOUND LAND USE PRACTICES

This section of the Draft Agreement emphasizes working with local governments that make land use decisions. It calls for engaging them in active partnerships with the states in managing growth and development, and protecting our natural and rural resource lands. It also calls for limiting impervious surfaces, and concentrating new growth in existing population centers or suitable areas served by appropriate infrastructure.

To do this, it will be necessary to coordinate land-use, transportation and infrastructure planning so that government funding and policies do not contribute to poorly planned development or degrade local habitat.

Identifies specific actions regarding:

Land conservation (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Public Access (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Development, Redevelopment and Revitalization (see page 5)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Transportation (see page 6)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____



INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This section of the Draft Agreement calls for engaging our citizens, promoting a conservation ethic, fostering a sense of stewardship, and focusing on individual actions to advance Baywide restoration goals.

Identifies specific actions regarding:

Public Outreach and Education (see page 6)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Community Engagement (see page 6)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

Government by Example (see page 6)

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

THE DRAFT AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE

☐ OK as written

☐ Change as follows: _____

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or fax your response to us at (410) 267-5777.

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