Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

AMONG

the State of Delaware, the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of West Virginia, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey and the Chesapeake Bay Commission

REGARDING

Cooperative Efforts for Monitoring and Assessing Water Quality in the Streams and Rivers of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

WHEREAS the Chesapeake Bay is a National Treasure for which we are responsible, due to our stewardship of the 64,000 square miles of land in its watershed, and the 110,000 miles of creeks, streams and rivers which run through our jurisdictions and ultimately into its waters;

WHEREAS the Chesapeake Bay Program partners have made a commitment to, by 2010, correct the nutrient- and sediment-related problems in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries sufficiently to remove the Bay and the tidal portions of its tributaries from the list of impaired water under the Clean Water Act;

WHEREAS, to help meet this commitment, the Chesapeake Bay Program partners have developed or are developing tributary strategies, laying out detailed, on-the-ground plans to further reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment that enter the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries from the watershed;

WHEREAS, the nontidal streams and rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will provide the initial indication of local water quality changes in response to implementation of the jurisdictional tributary strategies through the collective actions of thousands of individual homeowners, farmers, foresters, municipalities, industries and many others;

WHEREAS, the cost of monitoring and assessment of the non-tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay Basin exceeds the capabilities of individual program partners and surpasses current funding for monitoring and assessment related to water quality improvements within their jurisdictions, it is essential for the partners to explore additional sources of funding that are related to their respective missions to implement the non-tidal water quality monitoring network and realize the attainment of its objectives:

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned senior representatives of the District, state, interstate and Federal entities with responsibility for the quality of the waters flowing through the creeks, streams and rivers of the Chesapeake Bay watershed agree that we will:

- Work cooperatively to implement and sustain the nontidal water-quality monitoring network needed to provide the Chesapeake Bay Program partners and local stakeholders with measurements and assessments of the changes in nutrient and sediment concentrations and loads to help assess the effectiveness of the tributary strategy implementation and implications for meeting the water quality standards in the tidal Bay waters.
- Work to integrate existing and planned state, interstate and federal agency nontidal water quality monitoring programs, stream flow gaging stations and citizen monitoring programs throughout the watershed into the nontidal water quality monitoring network.
- Ensure continued implementation of the nontidal water quality network meets three primary objectives: 1) to measure and assess trends in the actual nutrient and sediment concentrations and load reductions within the tributary strategy basins across the watershed; 2) to improve calibration and verification of the partners' watershed models; and 3) to help assess the factors affecting observed nutrient and sediment concentration and load trends.
- Employ field sample collection and laboratory sample analysis methodologies to produce comparable data across all seven watershed jurisdictions.
- Support and actively participate in a basinwide quality assurance program to produce data of known and documented quality.

- Ensure partner and public access to the full array of nontidal water quality monitoring data through the Chesapeake Information Management System.
- Undertake the integrated analysis and interpretation of the resultant water quality data using consistent statistical analysis methodologies to enable direct comparison of current status and long term trends across all the network's individual stations regardless of jurisdiction.
- Support the timely and routine updating of a set of select environmental indicators that can be used to communicate progress towards restoring local stream and river water quality and achieving the nutrient and sediment cap loads allocated to the tributary strategy basins.
- Pursue multiple sources of funding to fully implement and sustain the network.

September 23, 2004

FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND

FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

FOR THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

FOR THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

FOR THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FOR THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FOR THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION