



## CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*DIRECTIVE NO. 03-02*

# MEETING THE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION GOALS

*I*n the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement, we stated that “improving water quality is the most critical element in the overall protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.” Furthermore, we recognized the importance of integrating cooperative and statutory programs to improve water quality. The agreement committed the signatory jurisdictions to nutrient and sediment reductions that would, “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 waters under the Clean Water Act.”

TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT, the signatories to *Chesapeake 2000* reached out to Delaware, New York and West Virginia. For the first time, through a Memorandum of Understanding, we have formed a Chesapeake Bay water quality partnership in which all seven jurisdictions in the watershed are engaged.

During 2003, notable progress has been made integrating the cooperative and regulatory programs.

In April 2003, water quality criteria driven by living resource needs were established to guide restoration of the Bay and its tidal tributaries. Each of the jurisdictions with tidal waters has initiated its regulatory process to adopt revised water quality standards based on the criteria. Loading allocations for nutrients and sediments in each of the major river basins were established. Accordingly, we hereby endorse the criteria and allocations as agreed to by the Principals’ Staff Committee. The water quality criteria and the allocations of nutrient and sediment reductions serve as the basis for expanded tributary strategies in each jurisdiction. Under the schedule and process we adopted at our October 2002 meeting, we will complete the tributary strategies by April 2004. We remain committed to significant reductions in the nutrient and sediment loadings to the Chesapeake Bay, and direct that the tidal water jurisdictions complete their regulatory processes to revise their Chesapeake Bay and tidal

tributary water quality standards as expeditiously as possible, with the assistance and support of the non-tidal jurisdictions and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

FURTHERMORE, we reaffirm our commitment to complete the tributary strategies by April 2004, and commit to begin implementation immediately thereafter.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will assist the jurisdictions, working with stakeholders, to develop watershed permitting and contractual tools and strategies to control nutrient loadings to the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. These tools and strategies should address cost-effectiveness, including nutrient trading, and promote state-of-the-art technologies wherever possible.

WE FURTHER DIRECT the Chesapeake Bay Program to establish and convene a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Panel to consider funding sources to implement the tributary strategies basin-wide and to make recommendations regarding other actions at the federal, state and local level to the Executive Council. The Panel will convene its first meeting no later than February 2004, and will provide the Executive Council with a detailed report in October of 2004.

December 9, 2003

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



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FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND



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FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



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FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



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FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION



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FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE



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FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK



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FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA



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