



Chesapeake Bay Program

C H E S A P E A K E E X E C U T I V E C O U N C I L

DIRECTIVE NO. 98-2

"CHESAPEAKE 2000"

In the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement, we committed to managing the Chesapeake Bay as an integrated ecosystem and pledged our best efforts to restore and protect it. That Agreement established the overall vision and the "policy and institutional framework for continued cooperative efforts to restore and protect Chesapeake Bay" and was based on the best science available coupled with substantial public input. Through this historic agreement, we have achieved a higher level of coordination and cooperation among governments, industries, citizens, educators and others to meet the challenges of the twentieth century. These partnerships have yielded incredible progress in many measures of the health of the Bay, its rivers and watersheds.

It is now time to take stock of the progress we have made in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and to renew our commitment to the ultimate goal of restoring the productivity, diversity and abundance of the living resources of the Bay and its rivers. To move into the new millennium, we have committed to building an environmental ethic in our children through enhanced educational initiatives. We have further committed to providing incentives for new technologies to be developed and utilized within the Chesapeake watershed. At the same time, we must protect the progress we have made thus far and be vigilant in ensuring that we can meet the challenges of a recovering system as complex as the Chesapeake watershed. And we must ensure that progress is not overtaken in the long-term by new challenges, such as the impacts of transportation or the loss of wetlands, farms and forests to development.

Therefore, we direct the Chesapeake Bay Program, through its Chesapeake 2000 Planning Committee, to convene and manage an effort that will lead to the adoption of a Year 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

We further direct that the process include:

- ◆ an assessment of the progress to date under the Bay Agreements and directives;
- ◆ a synthesis of new science relevant to the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and the long-term health of the ecosystem;
- ◆ a clear understanding of public interests through engagement of various sectors of the public, local government, private sector, program partners, existing committees and advisory committees, and a full range of stakeholders;
- ◆ an articulation of the emerging challenges to the recovery and health of the ecosystem;
- ◆ consideration of the next generation of measurable goals that will focus our initiatives for the future; and
- ◆ Review and input by experts outside the Bay area so that we make the most impartial judgments for the future of the program.

Finally, we direct that the process yield preliminary options and recommendations by the 1999 meeting of the Executive Council, and a renewed Bay Agreement to be presented for adoption in the year 2000.

Date December 8, 1998

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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