



Rivanna River Basin Commission
A CONFLUENCE OF INTERESTS

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December 15, 2010

Albemarle Board of Supervisors
Albemarle County
401 McIntire Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Re: Chesapeake Bay TMDL

Dear Albemarle County Board of Supervisors,

As you know, the Rivanna River Basin Commission (“the Commission”) has been playing an active role informing local jurisdictions about the proposed Chesapeake Bay Total Daily Maximum Load (“Bay TMDL”). The Bay TMDL is a result of a federal court decision that will set pollution limits for nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment entering the Chesapeake Bay from all sources within the Bay watershed including the Rivanna River.

The Commission provides guidance for the stewardship of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River Basin. Being fully aware of the challenges the Bay TMDL presents to local governments in the Rivanna watershed, the Commission has been working with area partners to develop a dialogue with and between all “source sectors” (i.e., builders, farmers, waste treatment plant operators, local government officials) since April 2010 as part of the Piedmont Regional Pilot Project for the Bay TMDL. In these discussions, we have heard repeatedly the desire to craft a “local program” that will achieve the goals of this watershed community without unduly burdening the economic health of our region.

In 2011, localities in the Commonwealth will be given “target loads” of these pollutants and asked to outline how they will achieve the pollution reductions. The Commission believes that localities have a unique opportunity to develop technically sound, watershed-based plans that clearly outline local strategies to achieve these targets and also to identify the resources needed to bridge the gap between present conditions and target load reductions.

The Rivanna River Basin Commission plans to work closely with Albemarle County and our partners, including the Thomas Jefferson and Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, to identify cost-effective and practical strategies for implementing the Bay TMDL in the Rivanna watershed while ensuring protection and enhancement of local water quality. We hope to do this in a manner that will minimize the impact on Albemarle County and on your budget.

Sincerely,

David Brown, Chair of the Rivanna River Basin Commission

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