



# The State of Maryland

## Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2004.53

### Governor's Commission for Protecting the Chesapeake Bay through Sustainable Forestry

WHEREAS, Maryland's forests, vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, help maintain water quality, air quality, watershed health and resilience, living resources, economic productivity, and the region's quality of life;

WHEREAS, The *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement* commits Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and federal agencies to adopt forest landscape policy goals that measurably result in the expansion and connection of contiguous forests in the Bay watershed;

WHEREAS, The Administration recognizes the importance of accomplishing the goals attendant to the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*, but also recognizes the challenges facing Maryland's forestland conservation efforts which are adversely impacted by a burgeoning State population;

WHEREAS, The Administration further recognizes that Maryland's rural communities are dependent upon the sustainability of a healthy, productive forest system in order to maintain the economic viability of Maryland's \$2.2 billion forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's efforts to realize the environmental and economic benefits attendant to the sustainability of a healthy, productive forest system calls for the exploration of creative and financially sensible ways to underwrite Maryland's future forestland conservation efforts that encompass both privately-owned and publicly-owned .

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Established. There is a Governor's Commission for Protecting the Chesapeake Bay through Sustainable Forestry.

B. Membership.

(1) The Commission shall consist of up to 13 members, including:

(a) A member of the Maryland Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(b) A member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(c) The Secretary of Natural Resources, or a designee;

(d) The Secretary of Planning, or a designee; and

(e) Up to nine members with relevant interest and expertise, appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure.

(2) The Governor shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Commission. The Chairperson shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

C. Procedures.

(1) The Commission shall meet at least three times a year, at times and places determined by the Chair.

(2) A majority of Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(3) The Commission may adopt such procedures and bylaws as may be necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

D. Expenses. Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations, and as provided in the State budget.

E. Duties. The Commission shall have the following duties:

(1) Meet and confer with individuals, groups and organizations to gather insight, knowledge and strategies for development of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century public/private partnership-oriented land conservation vision for Maryland;

(2) Undertake research and analyses in the areas of:

(a) The Department of Natural Resources's Strategic Forestlands Assessment efforts;

(b) Land conservation models used in other states which promote the sustainability of a healthy, productive forest system;

(c) Innovative ways to improve the efficient and effective application of limited resources to influence future forest conservation and management; and

(d) Creative ways and means to financially underwrite Maryland's landscape policy goals for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;

(3) Provide guidance and recommendations to Maryland's Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee in the preparation of an updated Forest Legacy Assessment of Need Plan that identifies environmentally important forestlands threatened by present or future conversion to nonforest uses;

(4) Assess State and local land preservation and recreation plans to determine their effectiveness in protecting forestlands consistent with the intent of the Forest Legacy Assessment of Need Plan;

(5) Identify federal partners and programs that could help advance Maryland's future land conservation efforts, with special emphasis on the federal Forest Legacy Program and associated federal funding; and

(6) Pursue other ideas, with due regard to the dictates of fiscal practicality, that could enhance Maryland's compliance with the forest landscape policy goals of the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*.

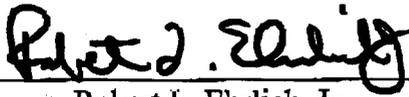
F. Staff. Principal staff support shall be provided by the Department of Natural Resources, with assistance and cooperation, as needed, being furnished by the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Planning.

G. Reports.

(1) The Commission shall make an interim report to the Governor on or before January 1, 2005.

(2) The Commission shall submit its final report and recommendations to the Governor on or before December 1, 2005.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2004



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

ATTEST:



R. Karl Aumann  
Secretary of State