



STATE RETIREMENT AGENCY  
120 East Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6700

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STATE RETIREMENT  
and PENSION SYSTEM

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December 21, 2020

James J. Moran  
Member, Board of County Commissioners (At Large)  
Queen Anne's County Commission  
107 North Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD 21617

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE  
DEC 29 '20 PM 2:30

Dear Commissioner Moran,

The Maryland State Retirement Agency has engaged CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP to conduct audits of employers participating in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. As an employer with members enrolled in the System, Queen Anne's County Commission is included in this group. We expect that you will be audited between now and February 28, 2021.

The overall objectives of the audit will be to determine if the Commission have:

- Enrolled all eligible employees in the System;
- Enrolled only eligible employees in the System;
- Reported payroll data completely and accurately for all members;
- Reported the salaries used to compute annual employer contributions completely and accurately;
- Reported wages for all employees working at the location during a given calendar year completely and accurately; and
- Reported the unused sick leave for members retiring during the audit period completely and accurately.

A representative of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP will be contacting you, or your staff, to discuss the details and timing of their audit. If you have any questions about the objectives of the review, please contact me at (410) 659-5875, or [lsmith@sra.state.md.us](mailto:lsmith@sra.state.md.us).

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation during the audit process.

Sincerely,

  
Lauren C. Smith, CFE  
Internal Audit Contract Manager

cc: Beverly Churchill, Director of Human Resources



LARRY HOGAN  
Governor  
BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
Lt. Governor  
KENNETH C. HOLT  
Secretary

December 21, 2020

The Honorable James J. Moran  
President  
Board of Commissioners  
Queen Anne's County  
107 North Liberty Street  
Centreville MD 21617

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE  
DEC 29 '20 PM2:30

RE: Request to Waive 180 Day Expenditure Deadline Requirement  
Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program  
Grant No.: CV-1-8

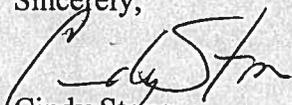
Dear President Moran:

This letter is in response to the December 15, 2020 letter from Mike Clark of your staff in regard to the above referenced grant funded by the Maryland Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Mr. Clark requested a waiver of the 180 day expenditure deadline which requires grantees to expend 25% of grant funds by December 27, 2020.

Per Mr. Clark, the County has drawn funds and is working with a list of 8 applicants for this project but is not able to meet the 25% benchmark due to the process of qualifying applicants in accordance with the federal requirements.

The State has approved the waiver request but urges the County to prioritize the use of the CDBG funds to assist citizens impacted by the COVID crisis.

If you have any questions, please contact your Project Manager, Dona Sorce, at 301/429-7502.

Sincerely,  
  
Cindy Stone  
Director  
Community Development Programs

cc: Mike Clark, County  
Dona Sorce, CDBG



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Application Received for State Permit

and Opportunity for Hearing

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE  
DEC 29 '20 PM2:37

Issue Date: December 18, 2020 in The Record Observer

The Water and Science Administration (Administration) is reviewing the applications for the State Permits listed below. The application and related information are on file at the Administration; arrangements may be made for inspection and copying. Opportunity is afforded individuals to provide written comments, to request a public informational hearing or to be placed on an interested persons list for the listed application. Any further notices about actions on an application will be provided only by mail to those individuals on a mailing list of interested persons. Comments or requests for an informational hearing must be received in writing by the Administration on or before January 4, 2021. All inquiries and requests should include the permit application number; your name, address and telephone number; and should be addressed to John Grace, Chief, Source Protection and Appropriation Division, Water and Science Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230. Telephone: (410) 537-3590.

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY**

QA2020G001/01: Blackdog Farm at Kingsdale, LLC c/o Chris Rhodes, 2041 4H Park Road, Centreville, MD 21617 has applied for a permit to appropriate and use an annual average of 205,600 gallons of groundwater per day (gpd) and an average of 1,222,300 gpd in the month of maximum use. The water will be withdrawn from five wells in the Aquia aquifer and use for crop irrigation and poultry farm operations. The project is located at 210 Kingsdale Farm Lane, approximately 2 miles west of Queen Anne, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

The irrigation well is going to account for approximately 96% of the water use at the farm. It will be constructed to an estimated depth of 600 feet in the Aquia aquifer. Impacts on the resource and nearby users were evaluated using data from geological reports and investigations available to the Administration. The results indicate that pumping during periods of maximum water use (1,222,300 gpd) may lower the water about 52 feet at a distance of about 1500 feet away from the pumping well. The model is based on a single well pumping at the maximum withdrawal rate of 1,222,300 gpd for 60 days with no recharge to the aquifer. The nearest well in the Aquia aquifer is about 4,650 feet away and the drawdown could be about 33 feet at that distance. An evaluation of Aquia wells on other properties within a mile of the withdrawal indicates that a few well pumps would need to be lowered at the drawdown projected from the maximum proposed pumping rates. MDE policy is to hold permittees responsible for adverse impacts to wells whenever it is established that water withdrawal from a permittee's well causing excessive drawdown in the aquifer in the area.

Dear Property Owner or Local Official:

Eldridge Cronshaw has applied for a Permit to Appropriate and Use Waters of the State, which has been assigned permit application numbers **QA2020G002/01** and **QA2020S003/01**. The applicant seeks to appropriate and use a total annual average allocation of 55,300 gallons of water per day (gpd) for crop irrigation at the Pinder Farm that will be split between two permits. Application QA2020S003/01 requests to withdraw water from an intake on German Branch. The allocation under this application is proposed to be an annual average of 36,900 gpd and a maximum daily withdrawal of 216,000 gallons. Application QA2020G002/01 requests to withdraw water from two new wells in the Columbia aquifer. The allocation under this application is proposed to be an annual average of 18,400 gpd and an average during the month of maximum use of 336,000 gpd. The project is located at 210 Murphy Road, Centreville, Queen's Anne County, Maryland.

Since you are a contiguous property owner or an appropriate local official, you are being notified of this application, as required by the Maryland Annotated Code Environment Article §5-506. The Water and Science Administration (Administration) has placed your name on the "List of Interested Persons" for the above referenced-project. At a later date, you will be notified when the proposed project is being published, any projected impacts, and be offered an opportunity to comment and request a public hearing on the matter before a decision is rendered by the State to issue or deny the permit.

The Administration has created a file for this proposed project. If you wish to review the Administration's application file or make comments on the application at this time, you may contact the Administration by mail at Water Supply Program, Source Protection and Appropriation Division, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 or by phone at 410-537-3590. If you have any questions concerning the application, please contact me by phone at 410-310-8444 (applicant's phone number) or by mail at the address listed below.

Sincerely,

Eldridge Cronshaw  
310 Beaver Dam Farm Lane  
Ingleside MD 21644

Water Appropriation and Use Permit Application Nos. **QA2020G002/01** and **QA2020S003/01**  
for Eldridge Cronshaw Certification of Notification Form cont'd

(Provide the name(s) and complete mailing address of all persons notified of this project)

- David L. Usilton, 2312 Price-Station Rd., Centreville, MD 21617-1971
- John Wilson Clough, Jr./Justin Clough, 330 Hall Rd, Sudlersville, MD 21668
- Silas Karl Noecker, 807 Petros Pl., Stevensville, MD 21666
- William H. Kellum III/Rebecca L. Kellum, 403 Murphy Rd., Centreville, MD 21617
- Kathi Lynn Coombes, 3008 SE Notts Dairy St., Arcadia, FL 34266
- Steven E. Shorts, 102 Murphy Rd., Centreville, MD 21617
- Christopher J. Rosendale, 337 N. Liberty St., Centreville, MD 21617
- Jerimi Frazer Schwartz, 1000 Clark Corners Rd., Centreville, MD 21617
- David Usilton/Linda Usilton, 2320 Price Station Rd, Centreville, MD 21617-1971
- Queen Anne's County Commissioners, 107 N. Liberty St., Centreville, MD 21617

**Board of County Commissioners**

**Edward C. Rothstein**  
**Vice President**  
**District 5**



**Carroll County Government**  
225 North Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978  
fax 410-386-2485  
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

December 17, 2020

James J. Moran, President  
Liberty Building  
107 North Liberty St.  
Centreville, MD 21617

Re: Introduction to Maryland County Commissioners and Executives

**ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**  
**DEC 21 '20 PM 1:33**

Dear Commissioner James J. Moran,

Greetings from Carroll County! On Monday, December 14, 2020 the Board of Carroll County Commissioners announced new board officers for 2021. Effective Monday, January 4, 2021, I will move from 1st Vice President to President and Commissioner C. Richard Weaver will serve as Vice President. The last two years gave me the opportunity to meet most of you in my capacity as Carroll County Commissioner for District 5. As Board President, I look forward to many future opportunities to increase our engagement.

On behalf of the entire board, I want to thank Commissioner Stephen A. Wantz for his leadership as Board President over the past two years. His commitment, energy and devotion to Carroll County are commendable. We especially appreciate his dedication and hard work this year as the county sought to manage the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working collaboratively with our board, Commissioner Wantz demonstrated his dedication as a public servant, protective of Carroll County and its residents and passionate about advocating for the best for the community.

Our focus will continue to be safety, security, and quality of life for all Carroll Countians along with keeping in good standing within the region and state. As shared before, our overall success comes from the continued partnerships and communication we all embraced, especially during these crazy times. Carroll County will continue our strong representation on boards and commissions where I look forward to the increased opportunities to make Maryland the place to live, work and play. After 31+ years of wearing the uniform, I sincerely believe we are all in this together as "One Team; One Fight", especially as we continue to get through this pandemic.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time at [erothstein@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:erothstein@carrollcountymd.gov) and phone numbers 410-386-2043 (O) and 443-569-9861 (C). I look forward to working with you and finding new opportunities to collaborate to make a stronger region and a stronger Maryland. Wishing you a happy, safe and healthy holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Rothstein (COL, Ret.)  
Vice President



**Queen  
Anne's  
County**

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING**

110 Vincit St., Suite 104  
Centreville, MD 21617

Telephone Planning: (410) 758-1255  
Fax Planning: (410) 758-2905  
Telephone Permits: (410) 758-4088  
Fax Permits: (410) 758-3972

**County Commissioners:**

James J. Moran, At Large  
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1  
Stephen Wilson, District 2  
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3  
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** County Commissioners  
Todd Mohn, County Administrator

**CC:** Planning Commission  
Economic Development Commission

**FROM:** Amy G. Moredock, CFM, Director

**DATE:** December 22, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Department Report – November 2020

**Information Item**

The following information is compiled by the staff of the Department of Planning and Zoning. The information provided is current as of November 30, 2020.

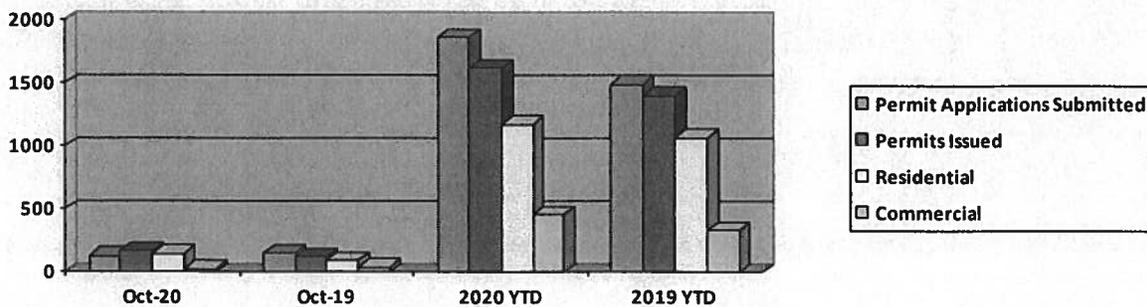
**Planning:**

- **Long-Range Planning/Community Planning/Text Amendments/ Environmental/Critical Area Planning:**
  - Text Amendments
    - TA/CO #20-04 – Sponsored by William F. Reed: § 14:1-39(2). Development standards in resource conservation (reserved). Addition of Accessory Dwelling Unit provisions in the Resource Conservation Area. Legislation became effective as of 28 November.
    - TA/CO #20-11 updates Chapter 10 Construction Code to bring all codes in line with the most current state and federal editions and to add some administrative updates. Legislation became effective as of 28 November.
    - TA/CO #20-13 updates §18 App-1 (definitions) and §18:1-36 (Planned Residential Development Standards), by adding a section which will establish standards for cottage home planned residential development in the zoning districts that permit major or minor multifamily uses. Upon consideration and review at the 12 November meeting the Planning Commission made a favorable recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to introduce and schedule a public hearing in accordance with Chapter 18.
  - Comprehensive Plan Update – The Plan QAC 2021 website was launched on 30 November and can be accessed at [www.qacplan2021.com](http://www.qacplan2021.com).
  - Critical Area Project Reviews
    - Reviewing several site plans, subdivisions, and variances for compliance with Critical Area requirements; working with property owners to correct several violations.
  - Heritage Area Project Reviews

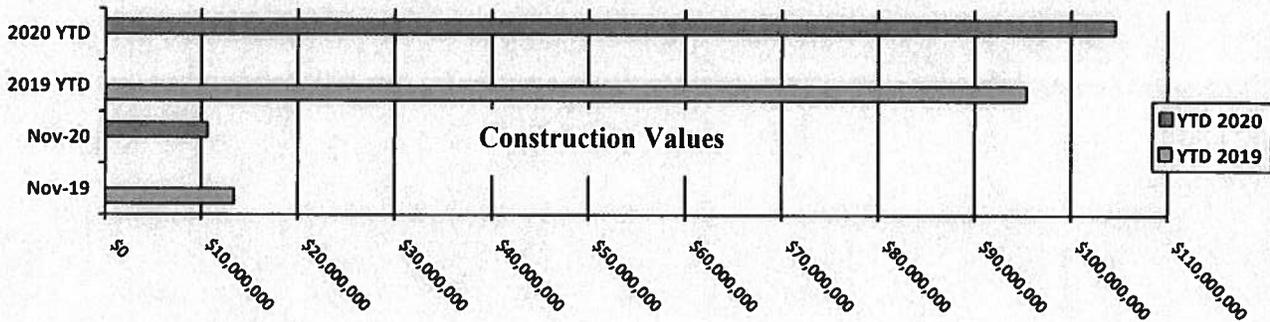
- Reviewing several site plans, subdivisions, and demolition permits for compliance with Historic Structure review provisions.
  - Meetings this month continue to be held via phone conference or webinar, though more meetings are being held in the Vincit Building: Liquor Board; CAC meetings, Economic Development Commission, MAFSM meetings, MACo Planner Meeting; and many project meetings.
- **Development Review/Site Plans/Subdivision Plats/Growth Allocations/Adequate Public Facilities:**
  - **Administrative Subdivision plat reviews**
    - Hickory Ridge, SUB-20-08-0190 – reconfigure lot lines
    - Surrey Real Estate, SUB-20-11-0205 - dissolving 4 lots into 3 lots
    - White’s Heritage, SUB -20-10-0199 - relocate the lot lines
    - Aspen Institute, SUB-19-11-0153 - reconfigure lot lines
    - Living Water Lutheran Church, SUB-20-07-0183 - relocate the lot lines
    - Schmidt Brothers, SUB-20-07-0188 - subdivide into 2 lots
    - Donald Leager, SUB-19-02-0093 - Forest Conservation Plan correction
  - **Concept plan reviews**
    - Kent Island Crossing, SP-20-10-0065 - Mixed Use Commercial
  - **Minor Subdivision plat reviews**
    - Kent Island Consulting, SUB-20-10-0200 - subdivide in 3 lots
    - Graham, Margaret, SUB-20-10-0202 - subdivide into 3 lots
    - Waterfront Marine, SP-20-10-0066 - Waterfront Marine
  - **Minor Site Plan reviews**
    - Narrows Restaurant, SP-18-08-0007 - 725 sq. ft addition
  - **Major Subdivision plat reviews**
    - Hayden Estates, SUB-20-10-0203 - Landscape Amendment
    - Living Water Lutheran Church, SUB-20-02-1060 - subdivide into 10 lots
  - **Planning Commission meeting, November 12, 2020**
    - **Extension Requests:** no requests in November
    - **Projects:**
      - Gibson’s Grant – Petition to Terminate Easement - Unfavorable recommendation for approval by the County Commissioners.
      - Big Truck Wye Farm Brewery – Requesting Minor Site Plan approval – Approved with conditions.

**Zoning:**

- **Building Permit Information (Source: Energov & Sungard):**



Building Permit Tracking 2020				
	November 2020	November 2019	2020 Year to Date	2019 Year to Date
Permit Applications Submitted	125	147	1,861	1493
Permits Issued	162	122	1,625	1403
Residential	140	86	1,174	1068
Commercial	22	36	451	335
Construction Value	\$10,597,956	\$13,385,007	\$104,586,545	\$95,371,500



- **Highlights of Commercial Permits Issued:**

- **Use Permits:** None issued in November.
- **New Commercial:**  
312 Safety Drive, Centreville – Erect 80' x 100' x 17' replacement building for equip storage for the Department of Public Works
- **Commercial Renovations:**  
201 Wells Cove, Grasonville – Construct roof to cover outdoor seating area 20' .5" x 65' 8.75"

- **Inspection and Enforcement Activity:**

- Citations Issued: 1 (YTD Issued: 59)
- Total fines issued: \$250.00 (YTD Issued: \$29,000.00; YTD Paid: \$14,500)
- Nuisance Complaints/Code Violation Inspections Conducted: 21 (8 of which in Critical Area) (YTD: 340/95)
- Zoning Inspections Conducted: 301 (114 of which within Critical Area) (YTD: 3,182/1,374)
- Liquor Law Compliance Inspections: 6 (YTD: 80)

### Zoning Boards:

- **Board of Appeals**
- **NO HEARINGS IN NOVEMBER**
- **License Commission (Liquor Board):**
- **New Class "A" Beer, Wine & Liquor License for Bay Ridge Wine & Spirits – approved for advertising**  
**NOTE: Application was since withdrawn.**

AGM:amj



July 31, 2020

The Honorable, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland, 21401

RE: Addressing Conowingo Reservoir Challenges and Achieving Maryland's Water Quality Goals

Dear Governor Hogan,

Restoration Systems (RS) and Northgate Environmental Management (Northgate) have followed your significant efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay Estuary with great interest. The Northgate-RS team (the "Team," now formalized as Conowingo Systems, LLC) has carefully considered realistic options in mitigating the significant regional water quality impact from the Conowingo Dam (the Dam). Led by our two CEOs, George Howard with RS and Deni Chambers with Northgate, our firms have joined forces to offer our assistance with long-term solutions to address the nutrient and sediment reduction challenges.

In this letter we frame the need for these solutions, provide background on our experience and roles, suggest an approach to address the challenges, and identify a set of specific near-term actions. With your leadership as Chairman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, these actions could become significant achievements in protecting and restoring the Bay.

#### **THE NEED**

The Chesapeake Bay now receives higher loadings of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment from upstream as a result of the lost "sediment trapping capacity" of the reservoir behind the Dam. Scientists from the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (the CBP Partnership)<sup>1</sup> have determined that 6 million additional pounds of nitrogen and 260,000 pounds of phosphorus must be reduced annually to offset the loss of trapping capacity.

A draft Implementation Plan (Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan – CWIP) to address the additional nutrient reductions was recently completed by the Partnership. While we appreciate the tremendous effort the CWIP represents, a clear consensus is emerging that if conventional approaches to this problem are employed (i.e., fully implementing the approved

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/conowingo\\_watershed\\_implementation\\_plan\\_steering\\_committee](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/conowingo_watershed_implementation_plan_steering_committee)

list of Best Management Practices), the CWIP is not only unimplementable but it comes with an unrealistic price tag (more than \$2.5 Billion total cost; \$371,229,801 annualized cost<sup>1</sup>. More recent estimates are lower, but even \$50 million per year will not be achievable). We understand that because of this financial conclusion, there is new and significant interest in dredging as a means to help address regional water quality goals.

## **OUR BACKGROUND**

RS has been a leader in environmental restoration and mitigation since 1998. As one example of our innovative work, in 2015 RS partnered with the nation's largest dredger to build the 247-acre Jesuit Bend Wetland Mitigation Bank in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana<sup>2</sup>. The project entailed dredging 1.32 million cubic yards of material from 90 feet below the Mississippi River south of New Orleans and pumping it nearly five miles to the project footprint. Jesuit Bend was the most complex and expensive "speculative" dredging effort in US history.

In addition to a track-record financing and managing large-scale beneficial dredging, RS is the most experienced water quality banker in the United States. We established one of the first retail water quality facilities in Chesapeake Bay in 2010, (\$14 million in water quality credit sales to over 200 customers from the Cranston's Mill Pond in Virginia's James River Basin) and the first two regulated banks nationwide in 2008, in North Carolina.

As a demonstration of our commitment to playing a role in Chesapeake Bay restoration, several years ago we hired Mr. Jeff Corbin, former Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator for the Chesapeake and prior Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources in Virginia. Jeff has spent more than 20 years focused on Chesapeake restoration efforts and has been an outspoken supporter of using market-based solutions to drive down the costs of environmental restoration.

**Northgate** has been at the forefront of sediment management innovations on large public projects for significant estuaries in the United States, including our Chesapeake Bay Watershed (the largest in US; 64,000 square miles and includes more than 150 rivers and streams), and the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary.

Northgate is currently assessing a palette of innovative solutions for the Susquehanna and Conowingo sediments on behalf of the State of Maryland (Innovative Reuse/Beneficial Use Pilot Project— 1-18-3-21-8R). Working in close coordination with Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Northgate is characterizing 90 years of accumulated sediment behind the Dam and assessing solutions for cost-effective remedies to reduce sediment and nutrient flux to the upper Chesapeake Bay.

In the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary, Northgate is managing the engineering aspects of the Montezuma Sediment Reuse project in California, a 1,800-acre wetlands tidal and seasonal

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQid4b-N9ZM>

restoration effort, which utilizes dredge sediment from the Port of Oakland maintenance and deepening projects. Completing the initial conceptual planning through design and construction phases, Northgate continues to provide environmental and geotechnical services for sediment quality evaluations, site operations, and project monitoring.

### **OUR APPROACH**

Based on our experience dredging and pioneering environmental credit markets, our Team has identified an efficient, cost-effective, market-based approach to dredge Conowingo that can be established with your leadership and the support of other stakeholders. The key element of our recommended approach would be applying a nutrient reduction value for the removed sediment pounds and allowing sale of the nutrient pounds as credits in water quality markets Bay-wide. The credits would be used by commercial and government purchasers to satisfy non-point source and point source permit requirements and Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) nutrient and sediment reduction goals.

We calculate that dredging Conowingo using private investment, and providing necessary infrastructure to support sediment dewatering and transport, will be very cost-effective per yard of sediment (and nutrient) removed in comparison to implementation of the CWIP. The cost burden could be distributed efficiently to the widest possible range of regulated buyers based on market pricing and each individual buyer's voluntary determination that the credit purchase is cost-effective versus their current compliance plans. It is important to emphasize that if accumulated sediment in the Conowingo reservoir is removed, implementation of the costly CWIP is no longer needed.

### **NEAR TERM ACTIONS**

As Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, Governor Hogan, our Team looks to you for the unique leadership perspective and specific commitment to make a dramatic and permanent difference for the Chesapeake Bay. We would like to meet with you to discuss our Team's recommendations for specific actions to move the initiative forward. We believe this should occur prior to the next-scheduled meeting of the Executive Council (August 18<sup>th</sup>), so that you can use your authority as Council Chair to ensure that full-scale dredging remains a viable and preferred option.

As described in the "The Need" section above, meeting the Conowingo-specific TMDL goals could be achieved by removing 6 million pounds of nitrogen upstream of the Dam. Computer modelers and other scientists in the CBP Partnership have indicated that this could be accomplished via removal of roughly 20 million cubic yards of sediment. For this approach to work, dredging needs to be confirmed and fully authorized as a Best Management Practice for credit generation. Without your prompt assistance this process could take years. We feel strongly that our approach will facilitate private investment and opportunities for large-scale public-private partnerships.

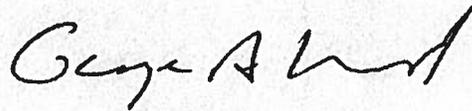
We also believe that planning for potential dredging at the scale required can begin immediately following the Innovative Reuse/Beneficial Use Pilot Project Northgate is conducting for the state of Maryland. In fact, it's likely that many steps to begin such planning can occur in parallel with the Pilot Project. Northgate and RS anticipated this potential credit opportunity and have already been communicating with Ben Grumbles (Secretary of the Environment) and his staff about the potential for this approach.

Finally, our team understands your interest in protecting the Chesapeake Bay, given its economic and ecological importance, and we are dedicated to helping you lead with progressive solutions. We understand the complex issues your Administration faces related to the Conowingo Dam and believe that these complexities can be simplified if ecosystems service markets, private investments, and public-private partnerships are allowed to operate efficiently on behalf of the public and the Bay. To that end, we would like the opportunity to meet with you in the near future discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Deni Chambers, President and CEO  
Northgate Environmental Management, Inc.



George A. Howard, CEO  
Restoration Systems

Cc: Ben Grumbles, Maryland Environment Secretary