PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
BETWEEN THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (Civil Works)
AND THE
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (Office of Water)

Purpose: To establish a collaborative watershed partnership between the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (OASA(CW)) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water (EPA/OW) to promote watershed health, economic sustainability, and community vitality. We recognize that the watershed approach provides the mechanism for collaborative, integrated and holistic water resources problem solving. Within this context, watershed partners can address multiple objectives, giving consideration to the balance of interests and viewpoints at the local, regional, State, Tribal, and Federal levels.

Missions: The Department of the Army (DA) Civil Works mission through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is to provide quality, responsive engineering and environmental services to the Nation emphasizing balanced collaborative solutions. The USACE plays a critical role in our Nation's continued efforts to address competing demands on scarce water resources. The U.S. EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment. To help achieve this mission, EPA/OW's water goals are to ensure drinking water is safe, and to restore and maintain oceans, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitat for fish, plants, and wildlife.

Goals and Objectives: OASA(CW) and EPA/OW acknowledge our responsibilities to serve as models for watershed stewardship and management while carrying out our agencies' missions and promoting watershed health. The agencies will facilitate and support national, regional, and local watershed development, protection and restoration efforts in a public, inclusive, and collaborative process by:

- Promoting ecosystem health and sustainable economic development
- Providing facilitation and support where non-Federal entities are in conflict
- Supporting public efforts to make infrastructure systems reliable
- Encouraging advancements, new approaches, and innovations in research, technology and the development and use of best management practices, as appropriate
- Promoting the use of the best available science to inform decision making
- Promoting the sharing and availability of appropriate watershed data among agencies, watershed stakeholders, and the public
- Promoting the use, development, and sharing of comprehensive, integrated watershed data
- Encouraging monitoring efforts and approaches that enhance understanding of the integrated effects of activities within a watershed system
- Promoting watershed solutions through partnerships among interested stakeholders
- Promoting opportunities for the safe and appropriate beneficial use of dredged material

Scope: OASA(CW) and EPA/OW acknowledge the importance of local participation in the Federal decision making process and will continue to implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources consistent with the objectives in the President's August 26, 2004, Executive Order on

Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation. This watershed management partnership agreement builds upon collaborative efforts already underway within and between OASA(CW) and EPA/OW. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), acting through USACE, and EPA/OW strive to incorporate these goals and objectives within a watershed context through partnerships that are community based, results-oriented, and involve interested stakeholders.

In order to begin effective application of the goals and objectives of this watershed management partnership agreement, the two agencies will collaboratively identify initiatives or pilot projects that will support watershed restoration, stewardship, and management efforts. Efforts may include pilot projects and the development of interagency guidance on the use of best management practices and innovative market-based approaches, such as nutrient and sediment trading.

This partnership agreement establishes a mechanism for cooperation and coordination, and expresses the intent of the signatory agencies to work together to resolve conflicts among watershed partners using, as appropriate, consensus building and collaborative decision-making to find common ground and identify practical solutions.

Interagency Communications: The two agencies will establish a framework for coordination and communication pertaining to this agreement between officials and staff at every level of OASA(CW), USACE, and EPA/OW. In addition, OASA(CW) and EPA/OW will promote staff exchange, where appropriate, for improved interagency communications.

To provide for consistent and effective communications between the USACE and EPA/OW, each agency will appoint a Headquarters Representative to serve as its central point of contact on matters relating to this Partnership Agreement and participate in regular meetings to facilitate this agreement. National points of contact will be established by each agency to coordinate on research and technology issues to ensure that reliable and defendable models are utilized and to avoid duplication of efforts and to increase efficiency.

Qualifications and Limitations: This Partnership Agreement is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document, nor does it supplement either agency's existing statutory authorities. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this Partnership Agreement will be set forth in an Interagency Agreement (IAG). The activities, initiatives, or pilot projects contemplated in this agreement will be carried out in accordance with the existing statutory authorities and nothing in this agreement will, in any way, alter the specific statutory or regulatory authorities, rights, requirements, or responsibilities assigned to the USACE, EPA/OW, or other agencies. This partnership agreement does not create any rights in third parties.

Termination: Either party may terminate this Partnership Agreement by providing written notice to the other party. The termination will be effective upon the sixtieth calendar day following notice, unless a later date is set forth.

Effective Date: This Partnership Agreement will become effective when approved by the indicated signatories for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water.

Ben H Grumbles

BENJAMIN H. GRUMBLES
Acting Assistant Administrator for Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

November 19, 2004
Date

John Paul Woodley, Jr.

JOHN PAUL WOODLEY, J.R.
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)
U.S. Department of the Army

November 19, 2004
Date