

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carroll County Joins Sister Clean Chesapeake Coalition Counties, Dorchester and Kent, in Coordination Request

Westminster, Thursday, October 23, 2014 – The Board of Carroll County Commissioners signed a letter today joining Clean Chesapeake Coalition sister counties, Dorchester and Kent, requesting coordination with USACE, NOAA, USFWS, USEPA and MDNR. Coordination is the government to government process mandated by Congress in the National Environmental Policy Act, by Presidential Executive Orders 13352 and 13508, and by the Maryland legislature in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act.

Finding it to be in the best interests of our citizens, Carroll joins Kent and Dorchester Counties in invoking coordination to support efforts to persuade appropriate federal and state regulatory agencies to allow veteran watermen to utilize the cultivation process for improving oyster restoration. Oysters cost-effectively and naturally remove sediment, nitrogen, phosphorous and carbon from the water, all of the pollutants targeted by the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load.

Commissioner Robin Bartlett Frazier commented, “We have engaged in a number of costly programs to remove sediment, nitrogen and phosphorous from the water. These programs, however, appear to have little if any positive impact compared to the enormous costs they impose.”

The USEPA has acknowledged that restoration of historic oyster beds is one of the most cost effective ways to remove the pollutants required to meet the 2010 TMDL. Foreseeably, the increase in Bay water quality resulting from oyster restoration will surpass other more expensive forms of TMDL abatement, and allow Carroll County to mitigate the impact of expensive requirements that currently drive existing businesses and citizens out of Maryland.

Commissioner Rothschild asserts, “Carroll County cannot continue on the path of *everything, everywhere at any price* in an effort to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. If we do not begin to use the most cost effective measures of pollution control we will run out of money long before we run out of pollution. Coordination is the first step along a more effective path for Bay clean up.”

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