

# POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

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## ROUNDTABLE

### OFFICERS

Penelope Gross, Chair  
Fairfax County  
Board of Supervisors

Martin Nohe, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Prince William County  
Board of Supervisors

Harry Atherton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
Chair  
Fauquier County  
Board of Supervisors

### ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

#### Local Governments

Arlington County  
Fairfax County  
Fauquier County  
King George County  
Loudoun County  
Northumberland County  
Prince William County  
Stafford County  
Westmoreland County  
City of Alexandria  
City of Fairfax  
City of Falls Church  
City of Manassas  
City of Manassas Park  
Town of Colonial Beach

#### Soil & Water

##### Conservation Districts

John Marshall  
Loudoun  
Northern Neck  
Northern Virginia  
Prince William  
Tri-County/ City

##### Planning District

##### Commissions

#### Water/Wastewater Utilities

Two members each from  
the following stakeholder  
groups:

##### Environmental

##### Fishing & Boating

##### Agriculture

##### Development

##### Citizens of the Watershed

December 5, 2005

Honorable  
House of Delegates, Commonwealth of Virginia  
Address  
Address

Dear Delegate \_\_\_\_\_:

The Potomac Watershed Roundtable (PWR), a collaborative body which promotes a regional approach to the management of the Virginia portion of the Potomac River and fosters collaboration among watershed stakeholders, was founded in 2000. Its members are drawn from elected officials representing area local governments, the environmental community, and the boating, development, and agriculture industries. The Roundtable makes recommendations on water quality issues that impact the health of the Potomac River watershed, and I am writing to request that you consider the following items for legislation in the coming session.

1) The Roundtable commends Governor Warner for his initiative to increase funding to help upgrade sewage treatment plants to address point-source pollution. A challenge equally as great is addressing non-point source pollution, for which funding is woefully inadequate. We strongly encourage enactment of a **dedicated funding source to finance efficient strategies to reduce non-point source pollution and to help clean up the Bay** to acceptable standards by the 2010 deadline. While Congress has mandated the clean up of the Chesapeake Bay by 2010, it has not provided the funding, estimated at approximately \$28 billion, to accomplish this significant task. Therefore, the primary funding support must be provided by the participating states and jurisdictions. Local jurisdictions cannot provide sufficient funding, so states and the District of Columbia will need to provide essential financial support.

2) The Roundtable supports **labeling ‘specialty’ household packages of fertilizer**. The U.S. Coastal Zone Act of 1990 requires states to develop Coastal Non-point Source programs, prescribing two general methods: (1) reducing runoff and (2) minimizing the use of contaminating pollutants (pesticides and fertilizers). The Roundtable encourages the legislature to enact a requirement that ‘specialty’ household fertilizer packages contain information about recommended dosage, application times, and clean up methods, as well as the detrimental effects of fertilizer on the water quality of Virginia’s waterways, from local streams to the Chesapeake Bay if not used properly, and to strongly advise against over-application.

3) The Roundtable supports an **urban Best Management Practice (BMP) cost-share program**. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has been working during the past year on an urban BMP cost-share program as a corollary to the agricultural BMP cost-share program, as strongly recommended by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. DCR has developed a “Nine Principles for State Support of an Urban BMP Cost-Share Program,” which is attached. The Roundtable urges legislative support when such a bill is introduced.

4) The Roundtable supports legislation **to enable localities in Northern Virginia to encourage the preservation of healthy, heritage and specimen trees during the development process**. Not only does preservation of such trees result in a more aesthetically pleasing development, and therefore, on with higher value, but mature trees more effectively filter the air and cool the ambient air.

Potomac Watershed Roundtable members, who also are your constituents, look forward to further discussions on these issues. Please do not hesitate to call me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Penelope A. Gross  
Chair, Potomac Watershed Roundtable  
Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors