



York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable

Cornerstones for a Sustainable Enterprise

*Promoting community, coordination and collaboration on watershed issues of mutual concern
and interest.*

Roundtable Cornerstones: A Framework of Guiding Principles for a Sustainable Enterprise

The York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable (Roundtable) strives to enhance watershed communities' understanding and stewardship of their local waters through its invaluable forum of information exchange and collaboration. As the only coordinating body established to meet the need for better integration among regional watershed stakeholders, the Roundtable cultivates connections among a diverse network of members and collaborators, fostering regional partnerships, guiding and accelerating priority programs of mutual concern and interest, and serving the watershed through advisory service.

To ensure continuity in Roundtable endeavors over time, participating partners have developed orienting principles in this **Cornerstones for a Sustainable Enterprise** document. This framework reflects the Roundtable's core values and priority issues, the aspects of a desired end state for the watershed that the Roundtable is committed to focusing on beyond the initial, two-year strategic plan timeframe.

Cornerstone Summary

The following four Cornerstones represent the bedrock of future agendas for the York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable. Cornerstones were derived through participatory processes, and selected using the following criteria: communal investment and shared priority; current need and future opportunity to establish and enhance related projects; Roundtable capacity to continue to foster related projects; and York River and small coastal basin specificity and applicability.

- 1) **COMMUNITY: Engage as a community for the community.** The Roundtable will represent a cross-section of the watershed community and leverage that representation in its work championing water quality, conservation and restoration efforts. The experience, perspective and resources of the collective will bolster the capacity of each Roundtable member to make meaningful watershed impacts, inclusive of any advisory services to external (non-member) entities. The Roundtable will make a concerted effort to act as an information conduit to its watershed communities, governing agencies and decision-makers, by sharing messages informed by common priorities and collaborating and/or advising on local efforts and opportunities, with particular emphasis on residents and landowners.
- 2) **LITERACY: Promote environmental literacy.** The Roundtable will leverage its understanding of the natural environment and relevant regulations, tools and solutions, to cultivate watershed literacy. Through digestible and relatable approaches, including experiential opportunities, the Roundtable will translate and transmit information, including that which has been historically difficult to navigate, to motivate behavior change, inspire related action and empower all watershed communities while enhancing the watershed experience and bolstering the watershed's visibility and value.
- 3) **CAPACITY: Build capacity.** The Roundtable will fill internal and external conceptual and programmatic gaps through trainings, workshops and other development opportunities for

watershed professionals, decision-makers and change agents. Development opportunities will leverage the strengths and technical assistance capabilities of member organizations, providing increased awareness of, and access to, internal capacity. This increased intellectual capital will contribute toward the realization of Chesapeake Bay regional goals and outcomes, and bolster the knowledge and implementation of practices peripheral to those detailed in regulation.

- 4) **RESILIENCE: Foster holistic watershed resilience.** The Roundtable will improve the understanding and visibility of the full range of interconnected social, environmental and economic components of resilience and operate at their nexus. Through market and non market-based solutions, it will cultivate resilient watershed communities while enhancing quality of life.