DELAWARE ESTUARY RSM WORKGROUP

CHARGE AND TASKS FOR THE RSM WORKGROUP

RSM is the integrated management of upland, riverine, estuarine and coastal sediments to achieve balanced and sustainable solutions to sediment-related processes which consider the current and future vulnerabilities of the system's natural resources.

The Regional Sediment Management Workgroup mission is to develop a Delaware Estuary Regional Sediment Management Plan (RSMP). This is an ad hoc group whose goal is to develop the RSMP by September 30, 2011. In addition to developing the plan, the tasks of the Workgroup will be to develop regionally-targeted goals and objectives, and to provide a management framework, including targets to ensure consistent and fair consideration of Delaware Estuary regional sediment management issues, concerns and opportunities to achieve sustainable ecological and economic considerations. The RSMP will be informed by science and supportive of policy. A RSM Statement for the Delaware Estuary will be developed upon which the RSMP will be founded. The RSMP will be peer reviewed by both technical/scientific and policy entities. The RSMP will be submitted to the Delaware National Estuary Program for review and concurrence and ultimately adoption.

The RSMP will be a comprehensive long-term master plan to address the economic and ecological benefits and long-term needs of sediment quality, sediment quantity, and sediment management and beneficial use in the Delaware Estuary, and will provide

recommendations for the development of new policies, procedures, and management practices. A prime focus will be to develop an implementation mechanism that takes into account existing policy and program mechanisms with a primary goal gaining NEP approval.

One of the products of this effort will be an Implementation Strategy/Action Agenda that leverages RSM with regulatory guidelines and directs authority for improved RSM consideration.

PROPOSED TASKS FOR THE WORKGROUP:

Task 1: Define the 'Region' given different land use planning, port management, coastal development, wetlands protection, and fishery management entities jurisdictions.

Task 2: Benchmark other RSMP efforts and successes and identify lessons learned.

Task 3: Develop an understanding of sediment issues and processes including: sediment transport; sediment mass balance; contaminants; sources, sinks, and pathways; scour, deposition, flow management; upland erosion; and linking sediment availability with sediment utilization.

Task 4: Inventory ongoing sediment management activities and implement a strategy for improved assessments, monitoring, research, and technology developments to enhance sediment management.

Task 5: Develop regional data sharing capability and analytical tools to forecast future sediment conditions under alternative management scenarios.

Task 6: Formulate alternative RSM Plans.

Task 7: Evaluate and compare alternative plans in RSMP Document.

Task 8: Select plan, develop funding strategy, and implement RSM strategy and action plan by section/reach.

Task 9: Craft metrics for assessing progress toward desired outcome.