Memo: Recommendations for Alliance Environmental Leadership and Watershed Champion Awards for recognition at the 2014 Taste of the Chesapeake

To: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Board of Directors

From: Environmental Leadership Award Committee
(Members: Dan Cornell, Jack Detweiler, Bill Matuszeski, Steve Pattison, Al Todd, Margaret Enloe, Drew Siglin, and Jessica Blackburn)

Date: June 23, 2014

On behalf of the Environmental Leadership Award Committee please accept the following nomination for the 2014 Alliance Environmental Leadership Award:

**Luke Brubaker**  
**Conservation and Innovation in Agriculture**

The Brubaker farm is a multi-generational 900-cow dairy operation in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The farm ethic promotes the economic value of conservation practices, utilizing manure digestion, no-till farming, cover crops, and stream bank fencing.

The Awards Committee recognizes that leadership in the agricultural community is essential in our efforts to restore the Bay and believes that the Brubaker Farm exemplifies a farmer who is a model for collaboration and innovation in agriculture. The Brubaker family cares for their fields and streams with a commitment to protecting water quality and ensuring agricultural landscapes are healthy and sustainable for future farm use. Luke Brubaker offers tours and has hosted the Citizens Advisory Committee for a tour of his farm operations.

A quote from Luke Brubaker, From the Field article by the Chesapeake Bay Program, “It’s an economic value to keep the water on the field, and keep the nutrients on the field, so it only makes sense to do good conservation practices,” explains Luke. “This is what’s so important: that farmers realize the economic value of conservation practices, rather than doing it because they have to do it. And sometimes over the years, it has taken me time to realize that some of the old ways that we used to have aren’t the best ways.”

To view the video and article on Like Brubaker, visit: http://www.chesapeakebay.net/blog/post/from_the_field_farming_for_the_future_in_lancaster_county_pa
Additionally, the Environmental Award Committee recommends that the Alliance honor three Watershed Champions who represent excellence in local leadership:

**Maryland: Charlie Conklin, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy**

*Grassroots Environmental Stewardship*

Since 1989 Charlie has worked tirelessly as a volunteer on stream and land preservation and tree planting in the Gunpowder Valley Watershed. Charlie oversaw tree plantings in the Gunpowder watershed for 15 years planting more than 17,000 trees on 80 acres of land. Charlie has personally planted and maintained over 5,000 trees. Charlie is skilled at making connections and mobilizing people for collaborative projects. He works with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (served as Board Chair), Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, Towson Presbyterian Church serving on the Earth Corps committee and the Care of Creation Task Force encouraging Maryland churches’ adoption of environmental stewardship. By educating, motivating and inspiring other people to take action he is able to multiply his efforts.

**District of Columbia: Harriet Tregoning**

*Fostering Polices for Responsible Growth and Land Use*

Harriet is the former Secretary of the Department of Planning under former Maryland Governor Glendening where she pioneered a variety of leadership efforts in smart growth. She also served as the Director of the DC Department of Planning where she was a strong proponent of smart growth and sustainability initiatives and helped to make the District a more pedestrian-friendly and environmentally sustainable city. In February 2014 she left DC to begin work at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Sensible approaches to land use planning, sustainable design, and local resource conservation are essential to the future restoration of the Chesapeake. Harriet is honored for her role as an urban watershed champion.

**Virginia: John Tippett**

*Watershed Education and Citizen Engagement*

John recently retired as Executive Director of the Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) where he worked since 1995. Under his leadership, the organization expanded their reach to the entire Rappahannock River watershed. John and FOR were instrumental in the removal of the Embrey Dam in 2004 to benefit migratory fish, and in the creation of a conservation easement that protects more than 4,200 acres of land along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers. He has worked with local governments and developers on low-impact development ordinances that were among the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia. FOR’s education programs connect with more than 8,000 students in local schools each year. Among other projects: FOR volunteers take water-quality samples and construct and install rain barrels. More recently, FOR began working with homeowners install rain gardens to keep polluted runoff out of the river.