



METROPOLITAN CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

September 6, 2007

Dear MCA Colleagues, Supporters, and Friends:

In 1997, I founded the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance under the aegis of the Wildlife Conservation Society. MCA's charge was to address the loss of wildlife and wild lands due to habitat destruction and fragmentation in the northeastern United States. Over the last ten years, we have succeeded in creating a new paradigm of land use understanding which has resulted in meaningful and lasting changes in land use practices in more than ninety towns in the tri-state region surrounding New York City. MCA's reach, through its technical paper series, as well other publications, lectures, and charrettes, has extended into areas as diverse as Charleston, South Carolina and Chicago, Illinois, as well as abroad.

When I embarked upon this venture, I recognized that this was a form of conservation that differed from more traditional conservation practices, i.e., those practices that focused on habitat acquisition and protection, located in spacious and often remote ecosystems. As such, this program was always an outlier within WCS' world-wide conservation portfolio. Over the last two years, the financial sustainability of MCA became a topic of increasing concern to WCS. Early this year, I was informed that as part of the restructuring of its global conservation programs, WCS had opted to close-down the MCA effective June 30, 2008. This transition is being handled in a manner that allows us to complete our commitments in an orderly, professional manner, including the reduction and redeployment of our staff and the close of our Ridgefield, Connecticut office (which occurred in mid-August). The intellectual property rights to MCA and its work products will be transferred by WCS to me at the close of the program.

The final close-down of MCA (at WCS) is being handled by Danielle LaBruna and me. Kevin Ryan left MCA in June and entered graduate school at the University of Maine this fall. Danielle LaBruna will be working for MCA through the end of this calendar year. I will continue to head MCA on a part-time (two-day per week basis) through the end of next June (2008). Effective September 1st, I joined the staff of Scenic Hudson in Poughkeepsie, New York on a part-time basis as their Director for Conservation Science. Although this position draws heavily on the years of work I conducted on behalf of MCA, I would request that all MCA-related inquiries and business continue to be directed to our email address, mca@wcs.org, where either Danielle or I will respond. MCA's current mailing address is POB 517, Salisbury, CT 06068.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the communities, colleagues, and donors who have collaborated with MCA over the last decade. Together, we have made significant, tangible, and lasting progress that has ameliorated the damaging effects of sprawl on the natural systems and ecological communities of the northeastern United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Klemens".

Michael W. Klemens, Ph.D.
Senior Conservationist, Wildlife Conservation Society
Founding Director, Metropolitan Conservation Alliance