**AGREEMENT; ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL BEE HIVES ON THE ROOF OF NASA HQ, 300 E STREET SW, WASHINGTON, DC**

**Purpose:**

Linda Wennerberg, Ph.D. (a federal civil servant employed by NASA) will place and maintain one-two (1-2) active bee colonies (housed in approved bee hives) on the unoccupied area of the roof of NASA HQ (300 E Street, SW) for the purposes of education and pollinator protection. This placement of 1-2 bee colonies will be compliant with local Washington, DC regulations (The Sustainable DC Act of 2012, attached) and supports the recent Presidential Memorandum-Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators (attached). Dr. Wennerberg is modeling this Agreement on existing Agreements between private beekeepers and Federal agencies that have promoted small scale beekeeping on Federal installations.

**Scope:**

Dr. Wennerberg retains responsibility for the placing, management, and eventual disposal of the 1-2 bee colonies. Activities include the securing of these hives on pallets to minimize the potential for wind damage or movement, any shielding to minimize visual concerns, active care of the bee colonies, removal of honey or any debris during or at the cessation of this agreement, placement to minimize potential human interaction with the bee colonies, and maintenance of a healthy, compliant bee colony. Dr. Wennerberg requests approval from the building management to place these hives and ready access to maintain the bee colony or colonies over the course of their placement.

She will adhere to all the placement and spacing requirements outlined in the Washington, DC regulations. As bees reach over 10 feet in elevation within 10-15 feet of exiting the hive entrance, Dr. Wennerberg will place the bee colonies to maximize bee movement in and out of the hives. By nature, bees forage for up to 3 miles for pollen and nectar so no local roof sources of food are needed. Best practices in the beekeeping industry encourage access during daylight hours, when weather conditions permit, hence access would be needed primarily during daylight hours. Dr. Wennerberg will occasionally require access before or after normal business hours, as well as weekends, to perform certain critical hive manipulations, including installation, removal and swarm management. If access to the area is secured during these periods, Dr. Wennerberg will either require personal access or an after-hours contact person who can provide this access.

**Duration:**

The bee colonies will be installed in April of 2015 and will continue as long as the bee colonies remain mutually beneficial to the site and the beekeeper. If either party determines that it is no longer feasible, the bee colonies will be removed by Dr. Wennerberg. Notice of termination should be made by either party at least thirty (30) days in advance during the months April to October and at least sixty (60) days in advance during the months November to March to allow selection of an appropriate weather day to allow hive preparation and movement of the colony/ies and to all site administrators to plan programming inclusive of bee keeping.

**Statement of Liability:**

Though gentleness has been bred into honeybees for many centuries – and they are not naturally aggressive – it is possible for site visitors to receive bee stings or to believe that they have been stung by a honeybee resident of the hives on the roof of NASA HQ. The apiary location has been selected and the bee handling activities will be conducted with visitor and bee keeper safety in mind; however the public and those accessing the roof area must accept personal responsibility for such a potential risk. Dr. Wennerberg expressly disclaims responsibility, and shall have no liability for any damages, loss, liability whatsoever suffered as a result of any and all insect stings received on NASA HQ property, including the roof. She will, however, include information on stings and treatments for the discomforts associated with bee stings for use in the NASA walk-in Clinic. The site will post signs indicating the presence of honey bees for the notification of people allergies to bee stings.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

Dr. Wennerberg is responsible for the placement, care, feeding, maintenance and cleanup related to the placement of one-two bee colonies in approved hives on the roof of NASA HQ at 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC. She retains ownership of the bees, bee hives, woodenware, apiary, display and program equipment provided. She will abide by Washington, DC regulations and best practices in the beekeeping industry.

The NASA HQ building management will be responsible to ensure Dr. Wennerberg and her mentor (if necessary) have free access, including elevators to move equipment and other supporting larger items, to the area of the bee colony placement and the ability to work freely to manage the bee colonies. Access should include the ability to bring in and remove equipment, tools and water, as needed to the bee keeping area, as well as escorted bee keeping mentors for assistance.

 **Certifications:**

Dr. Wennerberg is currently completing the Washington, DC certified course for beginning beekeeping, conducted at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The certification course provides the principles of beekeeping, including proper health and safety practices to ensure compliant, safe and healthy beekeeping. In addition to the certification, Dr. Wennerberg will be assisted by an experienced beekeeper as a mentor and advisor, provided by the Washington Beekeepers Alliance.

**Education and Promotion of Sustainable Pollinator Populations:**

Dr. Wennerberg is not a commercial beekeeper and the one to two (1-2) bee colonies are intended for educational purposes. Dr. Wennerberg offers to share information about her experience on beekeeping at NASA, if requested.

Linda Wennerberg, linda.s.wennerberg@nasa.gov, 202/358-4558, (3/11/15)