Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Next-generation Focus on Protection
Source Water Assessment & Protection
Background: Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)

1996 Amendments to Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
2017 Clean Water Infrastructure Act

$5 Billion in Overall State Water Funding and Record Funding for Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
Next Generation Focus: Assessment → Protection
State-wide Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Community-Specific Source Water Protection Framework
5-Pronged Approach to Assist Communities

- State-hired Consultant
- Regional NEIWPC Staff
- New York Rural Water Association
- Regional Planning Boards through DEC’s 604(b) Program
- Municipalities can develop plans independently

[Logos and icons]
Make Protection Endure
Community-Specific Protection Plan Framework

1. Stakeholder Group
   1.1 Form a Stakeholder Group
   1.2 Establish Goals and Formulate a Vision

2. Drinking Water Source Assessment
   2.1 Develop an Overview of the Water System
   2.2 Prepare a Drinking Water Source Protection Map
   2.3 Create a Potential Contaminant Source Inventory

3. Protection and Implementation Strategies
   3.1 Identify Protection Methods
   3.2 Develop an Implementation Timeline

4. Progression and Maintenance
   4.1 Designate a Plan Management Team
1.1 Form a Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group will guide the Development and Implementation
- Stakeholder Group may be created from an existing board/commission or an entirely new group
1.2 Establish Goals and Formulate a Vision

- Should aim to guide development and implementation
- The Vision should:
  1. Recognize that drinking water source protection is part of a multi-barrier approach.
  2. Include input from stakeholder group members.
  3. Declare intent to commit sufficient resources to drinking water source protection.
- A “Call to Action” from the community
2.1 Develop an Overview of the Water System

- A general water system overview
  - Water quality summary
  - Water quantity summary
- Used to select appropriate methods to delineate drink water source protection areas
2.2 Prepare the Drinking Water Source Protection Map

- Map the drinking water source
- Framework provides recommended protection areas and information on a variety of tools (simple to sophisticated) to delineate protection areas
- Populate map with potential contaminant sources
- Add the National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD)
2.3 Create a Potential Contaminant Source (PCS) Inventory

- Using the updated map, identify all PCS within the established protection areas
- Identify point and nonpoint sources
- Create inventory table of PCS with relevant information
3.1 Identify Protection Methods

- Use the framework to find specific protection methods for your PCS
- Methods can be used to manage existing and future PCS
3.2 Develop an Implementation Timeline

- Items to consider:
  - Priority Issue
  - Protection Method
  - Targeted Potential Contaminant Source(s)
  - Potential Funding Sources
  - Costs
  - Implementation Timing/Schedule
4.1 Designate a Plan Management Team

• The community should designate a Plan Management Team
• The Plan Management team should:
  • Share progress reports
  • Review and share the plan
  • Create a revision schedule
Framework’s Key Components

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Next Steps
NYSDOH NEIWPCC Staff

Update:
7 out of 11 staff hired
1 Program Manager
2 Program Assistants
2 MARO staff
1 Central staff
1 Western staff

Later this fall: 1 more Western, 1 more Central staff and 2 Capital staff
Regional Planning Assistance

• Funding to assist municipalities with developing and implementing their source water protection program
• Awards made recently and working with Boards to develop their workplans.
NYSARC Assistance for Source Water Protection
Funding for Land Acquisition to Protect Source Water

- DEC’s Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant program provides funding for land acquisition that protect sources of public drinking water.
- Available for purchase of land and conservation easements.
- Two rounds funded so far, totaling 26 projects and awarded more than $28 million.
Support for WQIP Grant Recipients

- WQIP Land Acquisition Toolkit.
  - Includes resources to aid awardees with the development of land acquisition documents.
Buffer Program for Source Water Protection

Source Water Buffer Program – Dept. of Ag & Markets

- Protects active sources of public drinking water through the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands.
- $5,000,000 will be available for awards.
- Applicants: Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Can partner with municipalities or not-for-profits
- Continuous RFA, open for one year.
Thank You

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