

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

Summary

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

December 2008

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMPACT

The Susquehanna River Basin Compact (Compact) was enacted in December 1970 as Public Law 91-575 and went into effect in January 1971. It joined the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland as equal partners for a period of 100 years to manage the Susquehanna basin's water resources through proper planning, development and regulation.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

The Compact created the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) as the single administrative agency to develop, effectuate, coordinate and adopt plans, policies, and programs related to water resources of the basin. As equal partners, the member jurisdictions each appoint a commissioner who serves as the spokesperson for the jurisdiction that he represents. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, technical, administrative, and public information personnel support the daily operations of the Commission, which is headquartered in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The mission of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission is to enhance public welfare through comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the basin's water resources. As a federal-interstate compact body, its jurisdiction is defined by the natural boundaries of the river basin rather than the political boundaries of the member states. As such, the Commission serves as a forum to provide coordinated management, promote communication among its members, and resolve water resource issues and controversies within the basin.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Compact requires the Commission to formulate and adopt a comprehensive plan for the immediate and long-range development and use of the water resources of the basin. This *Comprehensive Plan for the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin* provides an overarching framework for the Commission to manage and develop the basin's water resources and serves as a guide for all Commission programs and activities. The Plan supports the goals set forth in the Compact and provides a basis for achieving desired results, meeting goals, and taking actions. It is further intended to be a useful resource for the Commission's member jurisdictions, water resource managers, private sector interests and others in the basin. This updated Comprehensive Plan replaces the previous plan, adopted in 1987, and is available on the Commission's web site at www.srbc.net/planning/compplanfiles.asp.

Priority Management Areas

For the purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, the Commission grouped its focused management responsibilities into the six key water resource needs and identified them as Priority Management Areas, and they are as follows:

- (1) Water Supply
- (2) Water Quality
- (3) Flooding
- (4) Ecosystems
- (5) Chesapeake Bay
- (6) Coordination, Cooperation, and Public Information

Each of the six Priority Management Areas covers desired results, goals, ongoing Commission activities and the actions needed to meet the goals. In total, 30 goals have been established with 74 actions identified as being necessary to meet the goals (see attached summary). The Commission has lead responsibility for many of the actions. Some of the actions are to be taken by member jurisdictions and other groups and organizations, with the Commission providing support, assistance or encouragement.

Areas of Special Interest

While the Priority Management Areas – with their goals and actions – serve as the primary vehicle for meeting the basin’s water resource needs, the Commission also recognized the benefits of including other long-standing and emerging programs and problems of interest within the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission selected 12 topics and designated them as Areas of Special Interest, and they are:

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| (1) Abandoned Mine Drainage | (7) Energy Production |
| (2) Climate Change | (8) Flood Forecast and Warning |
| (3) Consumptive Use Mitigation | (9) Invasive Species |
| (4) Drought Coordination | (10) Migratory Fish Restoration |
| (5) Economic Development, Recreation
and Other Public Values | (11) Potentially Stressed Areas and
Water Challenged Areas |
| (6) Emerging Contaminants | (12) Water and Wastewater Infrastructure |

Management activities and future direction have been provided for each Area of Special Interest. The Commission believes they need to be addressed by the combined efforts of all levels of government, the private sector and the Commission.

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

The Compact requires the Commission to adopt an annual water resources program, based upon the Comprehensive Plan, and consisting of the projects and facilities to be undertaken by the Commission and others during the ensuing six years or other reasonably foreseeable period (currently defined to be two to three years). Accordingly, the Commission’s annual Water Resources Program (WRP) is to serve as the implementation document for the actions identified in this Comprehensive Plan.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS AND FUTURE UPDATES

The true value of this Comprehensive Plan will be measured by the degree to which its goals are met through the combination of ongoing Commission activities and taking the identified actions. An annual assessment of progress in meeting goals will be made by the Commission when preparing its annual Water Resources Program. Updates to the full Comprehensive Plan will be made every five years and a complete revision will be made every 15 years.

Summary of Desired Results, Goals and Actions

Priority Management Area A – Water Supply		
<p>Desired Result: To meet immediate and future water needs of the people of the basin for domestic, municipal, commercial, agricultural and industrial water supply and recreational activities, in order to maintain sustainable economic viability, protecting instream uses, and ensuring ecological diversity through regulation and planning.</p>		
Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal a. Support and encourage the sustainable use of water for domestic, industrial, municipal, commercial, agricultural, and recreational activities in the basin</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the sustainable use of water through the Commission’s regulatory project review and planning activities, through public education and outreach efforts, and through solicitation of the necessary guidance from the Water Resources Management Advisory Committee. 2. Assess the potential for climate change to impact the hydrology of the basin and the potential implications to the basin’s water availability and the occurrence and severity of floods and droughts. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine water availability through water budget assessments (analysis of demand increases and expected base flow levels) to establish local sustainable limits for water use development. 2. Protect healthy ecosystems and instream flow needs, including recreation. 3. Identify additional Potentially Stressed Areas, address unaccounted-for water in approved projects, and implement the recommendations contained in the 2005 Groundwater Management Plan. 4. Assess potential impacts of increased water use and the potential to temper increases through conservation and water reuse, particularly in Potentially Stressed Areas, and otherwise manage water resources for sustainability. 5. Support efforts by member jurisdictions to safeguard groundwater recharge by preserving recharge contributing areas.
<p>Goal b. Maintain an equitable system for allocating water for various uses, including the protection of instream flows and receiving waters of the Chesapeake Bay.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform periodic evaluation of the Commission’s regulatory program to determine the efficacy and consistency of the program. 2. Evaluate the need for new and amended regulatory requirements and policies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate Potentially Stressed Areas to determine if special protected status is warranted, for the purpose of preventing or addressing water shortages that would conflict with requirements of the Comprehensive Plan, and to allow sustainable development of water resources in the area.
<p>Goal c. Ensure sustainability of water sources by improving systems and managing water resources more efficiently.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and coordinate efforts of member jurisdictions in oversight of public water suppliers to incorporate system improvements, including the use of multiple sources, metering and pricing, recycling, and other conservation practices. 2. Encourage conjunctive use of water sources, where appropriate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and adjust Commission-approved withdrawal rates, as needed and in accordance with existing regulations, to ensure sustainability and protection of water quality. 2. Encourage and incentivize water conservation by water suppliers, industry and the public through education and application of regulatory requirements.

Priority Management Area A – Water Supply (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal d. Mitigate drought impacts through coordination and use of drought emergency powers.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support drought-related actions of the Commission’s member jurisdictions, as appropriate. 2. Implement the Commission’s drought emergency powers under Section 11.4 of the Compact, as appropriate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise the Commission’s Drought Coordination Plan in consultation with the Drought Coordinating Committee.
<p>Goal e. Manage diversions to avoid impacts to the basin’s water resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate potential impacts of out-of-basin diversions and investigate conjunctive use alternatives in Commission actions; include and enforce protective conditions for approved diversions. 2. Assess potential adverse impacts and benefits of proposed diversions into the basin, including their potential to serve as mitigation water for other diversions or consumptive water use. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Periodically review the criteria for review of out-of-basin diversions to ensure that adequately protective standards are in place. 2. Monitor the ecosystem effects of diversions of water to and from the basin and transfers of water from one waterbody to another within the basin, including water quality requirements.
<p>Goal f. Manage consumptive water use to mitigate impacts to the basin’s water resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor consumptive water use in the basin and periodically revise projections for increased needed mitigation. 2. Periodically review consumptive water use fees paid to the Commission to ensure that this mitigation option is commensurate with the real costs of acquiring and managing sources of mitigation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement recommendations of the Commission’s Consumptive Use Mitigation Plan (see Part V-C). Key recommendations include, among others: a) the evaluation of existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other reservoirs for the potential to enhance current release operations; b) the evaluation of the ability of abandoned mines and quarries to supply water for releases during droughts; and c) the assessment of specific needs for instream flows to meet riparian, water supply, water quality, habitat and recreational uses. 2. In the absence of adequate water for local mitigation, restrict new water use to avoid impacts to vulnerable watersheds.

Priority Management Area B – Water Quality

Desired Result:

To support the designated uses of all water bodies by achieving water quality that meets or exceeds standards.

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal a. Support and coordinate the efforts of the Commission's member jurisdictions in managing the basin's water quality.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and seek interstate compatibility of impaired waterbody listings, TMDL development activities, and point and nonpoint source pollution control activities. 2. Coordinate basinwide water quality activities through the Commission's Water Quality Advisory Committee as well as state and interstate advisory committees and workgroups. 3. Consider physical, chemical, and biological water quality impacts during the regulatory review of applications for water withdrawals and consumptive water uses. 	<p>No new actions recommended under this goal.</p>
<p>Goal b. Monitor and assess the biological, chemical, and physical quality of the basin's waters to support restoration and protection efforts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and improve (a.) core monitoring and assessment activities such as the Commission's subbasin survey, interstate streams, and large river assessment programs; and (b.) monitoring and data analysis to support Chesapeake Bay restoration activities. 2. Perform assessments under Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act, and provide the results to USEPA, the Commission's member states, and the public. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor and assess waters for bacteria, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, and other emerging contaminants of concern. 2. Monitor for zebra mussels and other invasive species. 3. Expand the Commission's Early Warning System for public water suppliers in the basin.
<p>Goal c. Develop, support, and implement plans and projects to remediate and enhance the basin's water quality.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the Commission's member jurisdictions in controlling discharges from point and nonpoint sources, including upland activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop, support, and implement remediation plans for areas of the basin that are impacted by AMD, agricultural, urban, and other sources. 2. Encourage public and private support, maintenance, and upgrades of the infrastructure needed for drinking water withdrawal, treatment, and distribution; wastewater collection and treatment; on-lot septic treatment; stormwater management projects; combined sewer overflows; sanitary septic overflows; and other projects needed for the maintenance and improvement of water quality.

Priority Management Area B – Water Quality (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
Goal c. (cont.)		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Promote the use of green infrastructure and stormwater management approaches that mimic natural hydrologic regimes and promote water use efficiency in combination with Action 2 above. 4. Encourage and support restoration planning as follow-up to the Commission's Year-2 subbasin surveys and TMDL development activities for waterbodies impaired by AMD, urban, agricultural, and other nonpoint sources, with the goal of removing impaired waterbodies from state lists established under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. 5. Seek water quality improvements to complement water quantity mitigation provided for water withdrawal and consumptive water use projects.
Goal d. Protect the quality of the basin's biological resources and sources of public drinking water supply.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the protection of threatened and endangered species and natural biological diversity in the basin. 2. Support further research on the effects of climate change on water quality in the basin, and support efforts to mitigate those effects. (See related climate change ongoing activity under Goal a. for Water Supply priority management area.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify waterbodies with exceptionally high quality water, habitat, and biological resources, based on monitoring results. 2. Provide increased protection for headwater areas and watersheds with existing good water quality. 3. Provide educational materials regarding the spread of aquatic invasive species in the basin and downstream to the Chesapeake Bay. 4. Develop regional source water protection plans for drinking water supply systems. 5. Establish a Susquehanna Source Water Partnership to work with public water suppliers and other stakeholders to protect drinking water supplies.
Goal e. Organize, maintain, and distribute water quality data to facilitate basinwide water quality improvement and protection activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain and enhance the Commission's water quality database and provide data for inclusion in appropriate USEPA databases. 2. Make data available to the public via the Commission's website and other electronic means. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage integration of state and federal data systems, develop consistent basinwide datasets and GIS layers, and enhance existing geospatial and tabular datasets. 2. Enhance and improve the sharing of information contained in water quality databases maintained by the Commission and its member jurisdictions.

Priority Management Area C – Flooding

Desired Result:

To prevent loss of life and significantly reduce future damages from floods within the basin through an integrated system of structural and nonstructural flood damage reduction measures.

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal a. Implement the goals of the strategic plan for the Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System (SFFWS).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate SFFWS committee meetings and activities. 2. Answer media requests for information before, during and after flood events. 3. Compile information on major flood events and damage summaries. 4. Support annual SFFWS funding and a permanent funding source for the gage network. 5. Coordinate ice monitoring. 6. Maintain the SFFWS website and information portal. 7. Work with system partners to maintain a state-of-the-art observation network. 8. Endorse, promote and develop new technologies to increase lead-time and improve forecast accuracy. 9. Conduct education and outreach activities to promote awareness of forecast services and their proper use. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct an annual evaluation and update of the SFFWS Strategic Plan. 2. Develop, in cooperation with SFFWS partners, a high-resolution observational network. 3. Develop the infrastructure necessary to provide high-resolution flash flood forecasts. 4. Develop, in cooperation with SFFWS partners, new forecast points and flood forecast maps for priority damage locations.
<p>Goal b. Promote protective floodplain management practices.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve public understanding of flood risk management. 2. Support FEMA flood insurance map modernization efforts. 3. Maintain and distribute community flood insurance maps. 4. Participate in professional state and national floodplain management organizations. 5. Work cooperatively with municipalities, private interests, and the Commission’s member jurisdictions to encourage and identify potential stormwater management projects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in the evaluation of need and implementation of flood damage reduction alternatives for high-risk communities. 2. Assist local and county flood managers in planning efforts and assessments of floodplain reclamation projects.

Priority Management Area C – Flooding (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
Goal b. (cont.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Support and publicize local community efforts to encourage development practices with low impacts to flood risk and water quality, and to discourage new development in floodplains. 7. Evaluate the effects of climate change on the nature of flooding in the basin. 	
Goal c. Improve community flood preparedness to ensure adequate and appropriate response by emergency managers before, during and after a flood event.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide technical assistance to communities for flood warning or mitigation programs. 2. Advocate participation in the Community Rating System of FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program to incentivize communities to implement flood damage reduction measures and receive discounted flood insurance premiums. 3. Provide technical support to Pennsylvania’s Emergency Operations Center during flood events. 4. Coordinate, encourage and develop basinwide education and training programs regarding importance of flood warnings and offer information on flood insurance programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct post-flood assessments to identify information needs, educational opportunities, lapses in forecast coverage, and other measures that can assist communities in reducing flood damages. 2. Develop a flood inundation mapping program, including a training component, for communities in the basin. These maps delineate areas of flooding corresponding to various river stages, designate evacuation routes, locate major buildings for potential mass evacuation shelters, and list general flood response procedures.
Goal d. Assist the Commission's member jurisdictions, as appropriate, in reducing the introduction of man-made debris into the waters of the Susquehanna River Basin and, ultimately, Chesapeake Bay.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the enforcement of existing laws dealing with the deposit of debris into the basin’s streams and rivers. 2. Encourage public and private land owners to reduce the amount of debris and man-made materials stored adjacent to stream banks and in flood plains where they are vulnerable to removal by flood waters. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During dam relicensing advocate for the continued removal of material from behind power dams on the lower Susquehanna River.

Priority Management Area D – Ecosystems

Desired Result:

To achieve healthy ecosystems that provide groundwater and surface water of sufficient quality and in adequate supply to support abundant and diverse populations of aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial organisms, as well as human use.

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal a. Perform ecosystem monitoring and assessment to provide data needed for effective watershed management.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform water quantity and quality monitoring through the Commission’s watershed assessment and protection activities, and require appropriate monitoring for projects subject to the Commission’s regulatory program. 2. Monitor and assess the health of fish, wildlife, and other biological resources. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the maintenance of critical stream gaging stations in the basin. 2. Plan, implement, and maintain a program to monitor and assess impacts occurring during individual low flow events. 3. Perform additional instream flow studies to provide scientifically-based estimates of the amount of water needed for fish, wildlife, and recreational use.
<p>Goal b. Protect and restore biological resources throughout the basin and in each of the major subbasins.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide protection to wetlands, aquatic life, and downstream water users by requiring aquifer testing, passby flows, wetland monitoring, and conservation releases through the Commission’s regulatory project review and approval process. 2. Participate in activities of the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species and disseminate pertinent information to the public regarding aquatic invasive species. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider the potential spread of invasive species when evaluating project review applications for diversions and transfers of untreated water from one waterbody to another. 2. Disseminate information regarding the effects of PPCPs on the biological resources of the basin. 3. Provide information on the biological resources of the basin and promote fishing, boating, hunting, outdoor photography, eco-tourism, bird watching, and other water-based outdoor recreation through the Commission’s website and appropriate links to other websites.
<p>Goal c. Restore populations of migratory fish throughout the Susquehanna River system.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Serve as a member of the Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Cooperative (SRAFRC) and work with dam owners and operators and others to restore populations of American shad, hickory shad, blueback herring, alewife, striped bass, and other anadromous fish to the Susquehanna River system. 2. Implement and periodically update SRAFRC’s Migratory Fish Management and Restoration Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with SRAFRC, dam owners and operators, sportsmen groups, conservation organizations, and others to produce, by 2025, self-sustaining annual populations of 2 million American shad and 5 million river herring, reproducing in the free-flowing Susquehanna River above York Haven Dam and in suitable tributaries, provide 500,000 angler days annually throughout the basin for these species, and provide effective upstream and downstream passage for American eels arriving at dams in the basin. Note: The numeric goals cited above for shad, herring, and angling were established in SRAFRC’s most recent (May 2002) "Alosid Management and Restoration Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin." SRAFRC is currently revising the plan to re-evaluate goals and include American eel and other migratory species.

Priority Management Area D – Ecosystems (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
Goal c. (cont.)		<p>The revised plan is scheduled for completion in 2009, when SRAFCR will request that it be incorporated into the Commission's Comprehensive Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. With assistance of SRAFCR and others, support studies of eel migration and implement restoration plans to re-establish a fishable population of American eel in the Susquehanna River system and restore adult recruitment from the river to help rebuild spawning stocks for the east coast eel fishery. 3. Support preservation and restoration of tributary streams that provide habitat for migratory fish, including the removal of obstacles to upstream movement and remediation of AMD-impaired streams. 4. Require viable upstream and downstream migratory fish passage as part of relicensing activities for power dams on the lower Susquehanna River.

Priority Management Area E – Chesapeake Bay

Desired Result:

To manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin to assist in restoring and maintaining the Chesapeake Bay so it meets or exceeds applicable water quality standards and supports healthy populations of living resources, including oysters, crabs, fish, waterfowl, shore birds, and underwater grasses.

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal a. Identify the minimum freshwater inflows needed from the Susquehanna River to assist in restoring and maintaining the ecological health of the Chesapeake Bay, while also identifying opportunities for enhancement.</p>	<p>1. Plan and implement low flow water management activities. (Also discussed under Water Supply priority management area).</p>	<p>1. Work with USEPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, the USACE, the State of Maryland, and others to support the process to determine flow regimes under which the ecological health of the Bay can be restored and sustained.</p> <p>2. Plan any additional studies and modeling efforts that are needed and seek appropriate funding and implementation.</p>
<p>Goal b. Develop and implement plans to address the flow requirements in Goal a. above.</p>	<p>1. See Goal a. above.</p>	<p>1. Assess the feasibility of providing recommended flow regimes to the Bay.</p> <p>2. Implement recommendations from the feasibility study through the Commission's regulatory and planning activities, with support from the Commission's member jurisdictions.</p> <p>3. Continue to update and review progress in providing the flows needed for the Bay.</p>
<p>Goal c. Support the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, including sediment and nutrient reduction strategies developed by each of the Commission's member states.</p>	<p>1. Perform sediment and nutrient monitoring in the basin to help refine the Chesapeake Bay watershed model, support restoration activities, identify water quality trends, and document progress in meeting sediment and nutrient reduction goals established for the Susquehanna River.</p> <p>2. Promote adequate funding and support tributary strategies developed by each of the Commission's member states and participate on committees and workgroups to advance restoration and protection efforts.</p>	<p>1. Perform trend analyses for additional sediment and nutrient monitoring sites as sufficient data are accumulated.</p> <p>2. Coordinate, encourage and support efforts to manage sediment within the basin, including legacy sediments from mill dams and sediment that has accumulated behind dams on the lower Susquehanna River.</p> <p>3. Support studies to determine the remaining sediment trapping efficiency of dams on the lower Susquehanna River and determine if and how trapping capability may be retained.</p> <p>4. Promote the installation of best management practices for point and nonpoint sources, including stormwater, and water quality infrastructure improvement for point sources in the Susquehanna River Basin to benefit local water quality improvement and the Bay restoration effort.</p>

Priority Management Area E – Chesapeake Bay (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal d. Provide habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds found in the Chesapeake Bay.</p>	<p>1. Perform restoration and protection planning for water quality and habitat improvement.</p>	<p>1. Work with municipalities, developers, conservation and sportsmen groups, and others to support wetland establishment and enhancement in the basin to provide downstream benefits to water quality and migratory birds using the Bay.</p>

Priority Management Area F – Coordination, Cooperation and Public Information

Desired Result:

To maximize available human resources and achieve common and complementary management objectives by the Commission, its member jurisdictions and others; to promote the planning and management of the basin’s water resources in the most efficient manner possible; to inform the public on the Commission’s water management responsibilities; and to enhance the public’s access to Commission information and decision making procedures.

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal a. Continue use of interagency committees and ad hoc committee mechanisms to gather input from member jurisdictions and to encourage consistent interstate water management policies and actions.</p>	<p>1. Continue to participate in member jurisdiction water resource planning efforts and support the enhanced federal agency coordination activities of the USACE Baltimore District.</p>	<p>1. Consult the Commission’s established advisory committees such as the Water Resources Management Advisory Committee and Water Quality Advisory Committee and, as needed, activate ad hoc committees to address special issues or projects. 2. Facilitate interagency and interstate committees to deal with selected water management topics.</p>
<p>Goal b. Execute, review, and update memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with member jurisdictions to coordinate regulatory or other programs that overlap.</p>	<p>1. Review existing MOUs with federal agencies and evaluate the benefits of executing new MOUs with other federal agencies.</p>	<p>1. Keep the Commission-PADEP MOU current to ensure more effective implementation of Commission regulatory standards, and explore possibilities of executing similar MOUs with Maryland, New York and the federal government or establishing an alternate procedure for coordination and exchange of information on project approvals and other work programs.</p>
<p>Goal c. Support uniform water management policies and standards in areas such as water quality, stream classification, flood plain management, instream flow protection, stream passby requirements and aquifer protection.</p>	<p>1. Continue to participate in national water organizations such as the Interstate Conference on Water Problems and the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators, where common management problems and solutions can be more readily identified.</p>	<p>1. Determine the need for uniform standards in such areas as instream flows, aquifer testing, water conservation, and flood plain management. 2. As appropriate, assemble special interagency and interstate task force committees to address special water management topics and the development of uniform water management policies or standards.</p>

Priority Management Area F – Coordination, Cooperation and Public Information (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
<p>Goal d. Coordinate major interagency efforts such as flood forecasting and warning, drought emergency management, water conservation, and hydro power license renewal.</p>	<p>1. As discussed in Priority Management Areas A, C and F respectively, continue coordination and cooperative activities in the following areas: (1) the Interagency Drought Coordination Committee, (2) the basinwide flood forecast and warning system, and (3) Chesapeake Bay Program committees and related bay organizations.</p>	<p>1. Organize a consortium of resource agencies with jurisdiction over water at the federal and state level to facilitate the coordination of input into federal licensing and relicensing of hydroelectric and nuclear power facilities in the basin, including new facilities and uprates at existing facilities. 2. Develop basinwide water conservation standards in cooperation with member states. 3. Facilitate interagency coordination of post-flood actions for the purpose of improving emergency response, technical information and flood damage reduction. 4. Expand leadership role and advocacy for the collection of water quality and quantity data for science, including the maintenance of an effective and sustainable stream and rain gage network. 5. Evaluate the establishment of a Susquehanna River Basin Monitoring Council.</p>
<p>Goal e. Inform legislators and executive branch policy makers on important issues related to the basin's water resources.</p>	<p>1. Continue informing state and federal legislators on the Commission's work in managing the basin's water resources and related legislative priorities. 2. Maintain contact with policy makers in the executive branches of the member jurisdictions to retain their support for the Commission's work.</p>	<p>No new actions recommended under this goal.</p>
<p>Goal f. Inform the public on matters affecting the basin's water resources and utilize current tools, methods and strategies to effectively reach the public.</p>	<p>1. Continue to rely on the Commission's web site as one of the primary public information tools, produce and disseminate publications, produce and disseminate television and radio public service announcements, and periodically conduct workshops on specific water resource topics. 2. Routinely disseminate information to the media using the full range of available communication options.</p>	<p>1. Periodically evaluate existing and emerging communication technologies and methods to determine their potential application and benefits to the Commission's public information program and strategies.</p>

Priority Management Area F – Coordination, Cooperation and Public Information (cont.)

Goals	Ongoing Commission Activities	Actions Needed
Goal f. (cont.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Incorporate GIS maps and other tools to the greatest extent possible to enhance public information products. 4. Organize and distribute to the public water resource data maintained by the Commission. 	
Goal g. Enhance public access to Commission information and decision making procedures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide timely notice of Commission meetings and hearings via newspapers, legal notice publications and the Commission’s web site, and provide direct notice and other information electronically or by regular mail to individuals and organizations who have expressed an interest in a particular matter before the Commission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize currently available technologies to make information readily available through electronic means, including non-restricted files and records requested by interested parties to eliminate the need to physically visit the Commission’s headquarters building. 2. Identify, assess and consider a range of options for enhancing access to the Commission by the public and stakeholder groups to facilitate input to ongoing and emerging issues and programmatic matters; options for consideration could include holding periodic topical meetings or public forums, forming a general advisory committee, and using the Commission’s web site more effectively for direct public input.
Goal h. Involve and seek the advice of non-governmental organizations on the management of the basin’s water resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue existing communications and contacts with non-governmental organizations on a range of water resource management issues. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand on existing ties to non-governmental organizations to maximize the beneficial use of their resources and expertise in the management of the basin’s water resources. 2. Identify opportunities to collaborate with academic institutions to maximize resources and scientific knowledge. 3. Provide opportunities for non-governmental organizations involvement in Commission activities and, through coordination efforts, encourage communication on activities/issues of mutual interest. 4. Coordinate with trade associations related to the various types of water use in the basin to promote sustainable water use in conjunction with economic development.