

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
WATERSHED ASSESSMENT & PROTECTION
DIVISION

STRATEGIC PLAN
2009-2013



Mission Statement

The Watershed Assessment and Protection Division shall coordinate and assist efforts of federal, state, and local governments and private entities to manage and protect the physical, chemical, and biological quality of the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Background

The purpose of this strategic plan is to guide the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's (SRBC's) Division of Watershed Assessment and Protection (WAP Division) through the next five years. The strategy considers the WAP Division's mission as it relates to the overall mission of SRBC, the mandates of the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, and goals of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan revisions. The plan also considers and promotes the SRBC values of teamwork, professionalism, and quality.

Progress on this plan will be evaluated annually, prior to the development of SRBC's annual budget and work program for the following fiscal year. The plan will serve as a guidepost in establishing priorities, pursuing new initiatives, devoting staff time and resources to specific work assignments, and seeking appropriate training to further the growth and development of the WAP Division.

Goal 1 ~ Monitor and Assess

Collect and analyze physical, chemical, and biological data to assess the condition of water resources in the basin.

- ❖ *Maintain and improve core SRBC monitoring programs to assess interstate consistency and basinwide conditions, and support Chesapeake Bay restoration activities.*
- ❖ *Support and assist federal and state water quality monitoring efforts to meet SRBC and member jurisdiction program objectives.*
- ❖ *Provide technical assistance to local entities for projects meeting SRBC program objectives and goals.*



Goal 2 ~ Restore

Encourage and support plans for the remediation and enhancement of the Susquehanna River Basin's water resources.

- ❖ *Support and assist with the development of plans to mitigate the negative impacts associated with various sources of degradation.*
- ❖ *Implement restoration projects based on priorities identified by SRBC programs and member state jurisdictions.*
- ❖ *Use monitoring and assessment data to identify priority areas for implementing restoration activities.*



Goal 3 ~ Protect

Promote consistent, sound water quality and watershed management practices to protect the water resources of the basin.

- ❖ *Develop and enhance protection for source water supplies.*
- ❖ *Conduct and encourage studies to determine water quality and ecological relationships associated with varying flow regimes.*
- ❖ *Identify and promote protection of high quality waterbodies.*
- ❖ *Use monitoring and assessment data to identify and prioritize areas vulnerable to degradation.*



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Goal 4 ~ Manage Data

Organize, maintain, and distribute data and information for effective water resource management.

- ❖ *Maintain and enhance the necessary infrastructure to support an efficient and user-friendly SRBC database.*
- ❖ *Provide guidance and support for the content and organization of WAP portion of the SRBC web site.*
- ❖ *Work with member jurisdictions to integrate data systems and develop consistent basinwide datasets.*
- ❖ *Provide data to government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the general public.*

Goal 5 ~ Coordinate



Coordinate and build partnerships to better serve the water resource interests of the basin.

- ❖ *Participate on internal and external committees, workgroups, and task forces related to WAP Division and SRBC initiatives.*
- ❖ *Assist SRBC efforts to update the Comprehensive Plan and Annual Water Resources Program.*
- ❖ *Coordinate program activities and build partnerships with member jurisdictions, as well as appropriate regional and local entities, both inside and outside the basin.*
- ❖ *Provide appropriate input regarding water resource regulations, initiatives, and issues pertinent to SRBC activities.*
- ❖ *Encourage others to incorporate sound water quality practices in county and municipal planning efforts.*

Goal 6 ~ Develop Staff

Improve and diversify staff capability to implement established goals.

- ❖ *Seek external sources of training for each WAP Division member at least annually to enhance staff expertise and efficiency in performing work assignments, as well as encourage certification in appropriate fields.*
- ❖ *Continue to provide internal training pertinent to major job responsibilities.*
- ❖ *Attend conferences related to program activities and encourage membership in professional societies and organizations.*
- ❖ *Promote teamwork to effectively utilize staff expertise to accomplish program objectives. Provide additional staff support when needed.*
- ❖ *Continue to hold monthly WAP Division meetings to update staff, review projects, and share ideas and information.*



WAP Staff Members on Annual Field Training Day

Watershed Assessment & Protection Division Staff

David W. Heicher, Chief

Hilary D. Hollier, Administrative Specialist

Monitoring and Assessment Section

Jennifer L.R. Hoffman, Section Chief

Susan L. Buda, Aquatic Ecologist

Leigh Ann T. Kemmerer, Intern

Kevin H. McGonigal, Water Quality Program Specialist

Matthew K. Shank, Biologist

Tyler E. Shenk, Water Quality Specialist

Luanne Y. Steffy, Aquatic Ecologist

John T. Terry, Intern

Restoration and Protection Section

Andrew J. Gavin, Section Chief

Thomas J. Clark, Program Coordinator, AMD

Heather R. Hardeman, Water Quality Specialist

Dawn R. Hintz, Water Quality Specialist

Yvonne L. Jumper, Biologist

Jacob M. Wilson, Water Quality Specialist