

December 2020

## 20-YEAR VISION FOR THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE BASIN

The Commission envisions a clean, sustainable, and adequate water supply in the Susquehanna River Basin that supports a range of human, economic, and ecological needs. Through collaborative partnerships and coordinated action, as well as use of the best science, water resources in the Basin will be managed effectively to meet existing and emerging challenges in the face of changes to the landscape and climate extremes. As a result, Basin communities will be able to reliably depend on their water supply for a range of uses, be better prepared and able to mitigate the impacts from floods and droughts, and benefit from healthy aquatic ecosystems and enhanced recreation.



Photo Credit: Aaron Harrington

## OVERVIEW

The Susquehanna River Basin Compact requires the Commission to plan for the immediate and long-range development and use of the water resources of the Basin. The Comprehensive Plan provides an overarching framework for the Commission to manage the Basin's water resources and serves as a guide for all Commission programs and activities. This updated Comprehensive Plan outlines the vision, needs, and strategy for effectively managing the water resources of the Basin during the period from 2021 to 2041.

Fulfilling the Vision means addressing diverse, complex water resources needs, now and in the future. These needs are interconnected and continually evolving, requiring integrated and adaptive water resources management approaches to ensure water demands are met while balancing public health and safety, economic development, and ecosystem stewardship.

They include, for example:

- ensuring adequate water supply for electric generation, public water supply, manufacturing, mining, natural gas, agriculture, and recreation,
- restoring impaired streams impacted by agriculture, abandoned mine drainage, urban runoff, habitat modification, and atmospheric deposition,
- improving flood and drought warning, planning, and mitigation for vulnerable communities and sectors, and
- reducing stormwater runoff and associated sediment, nutrient, and pollutant loadings from developed lands.

*The complete Comprehensive Plan is available at <https://www.srbc.net/our-work/programs/planning-operations/comprehensive-plan.html>.*

There are four Priority Management Areas (PMAs) identified in the Comprehensive Plan:

1. **Water Supply,**
2. **Water Quality,**
3. **Flooding and Drought, and**
4. **Watershed Management.**

Climate change is a cross-cutting challenge that is addressed in the objectives identified within each priority area. Coordination and outreach to partners and the public plays an important role in all four areas. Likewise, technology and data analytics support and enhance efforts planned throughout. Overall, it is also important to ensure management goals meet the needs of

underserved or disadvantaged communities within the context of environmental justice. The PMAs and their associated goals and objectives are shown below.

The Comprehensive Plan includes projects and facilities the Commission has determined to be required for optimum planning, development, conservation, utilization, management, and control of the Basin’s water resources to meet present and future needs. These include Commission regulated projects as well as other projects and facilities that meet specific criteria outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan will be implemented through the Commission’s

annual Water Resources Program (WRP) and the associated budget (<https://www.srbcc.net/our-work/programs/planning-operations/water-resources-program/>). The WRP outlines priority projects and initiatives, key performance measures, and methods for tracking progress. The budget includes all projects proposed to be undertaken or continued during the fiscal year, along with the estimated cost and method of financing for each project. The yearly WRP and budget formulation process will ensure priority projects are adequately planned and funded in order to effectively implement the Comprehensive Plan over the next 20 years and achieve its goals and objectives.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: PRIORITY MANAGEMENT AREAS (PMAs)



WATER SUPPLY	WATER QUALITY	FLOODING AND DROUGHT	WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
<p><b>GOAL</b> <i>Water supply is sufficient to meet diverse demands.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL</b> <i>Waters throughout the Basin exhibit good quality.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL</b> <i>Communities are more resilient to flooding and drought.</i></p>	<p><b>GOAL</b> <i>Watersheds exhibit a healthy and sustainable balance between land and water management.</i></p>
<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve water use and availability forecasting.</li> <li>2. Refine withdrawal, consumptive use, and diversion management.</li> <li>3. Expand water conservation and reuse practices.</li> <li>4. Increase water supply storage and consumptive use mitigation.</li> <li>5. Improve local water resources planning.</li> <li>6. Expand water supply outreach and data access.</li> </ol>	<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve water quality monitoring.</li> <li>2. Increase protection for higher quality waters.</li> <li>3. Restore impaired waters.</li> <li>4. Remediate abandoned mine drainage and lands.</li> <li>5. Enhance recreational opportunities.</li> </ol>	<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand use of climate projection information.</li> <li>2. Improve community flood warning and response.</li> <li>3. Enhance local flood risk assessment.</li> <li>4. Advance drought monitoring and early warning.</li> <li>5. Improve low flow management and drought resiliency.</li> <li>6. Increase flood and drought coordination.</li> </ol>	<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect critical aquifer recharge areas.</li> <li>2. Promote land use practices for improving local waters and the Chesapeake Bay.</li> <li>3. Improve environmental flow management.</li> <li>4. Restore native migratory fish to historic ranges.</li> <li>5. Reduce impacts from aquatic invasive species.</li> <li>6. Improve resiliency of the hydrologic landscape.</li> </ol>

COORDINATION AND OUTREACH

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA ANALYTICS

CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE