

Potomac Regional Action Agenda Outline

I. Balancing Supply and Demand

Purpose: Managing water supply and demand using scientific principles to grow and develop as the region elects while maintaining adequate quantity and quality of our waters.

Goal 1: Inventory

Objectives:

1. Support a statewide inventory of waters to identify sources and quantity of quality water to meet human and ecological needs and encourage local municipal governments to do an inventory

Goal 2: Land Use Planning and Growth

Objectives:

1. Develop land use plans that preserve the natural hydrologic cycle.
2. Develop land use that promotes sustainability of water resources. Manage growth with programs that will prevent the increase of run-off and flooding, promote groundwater recharge, and that protects soil and vegetation.
3. Identify land development techniques and strategies that protect stream morphology and channel stability
4. Encourage comprehensive regional planning to incorporated watershed and water supply objectives.
5. Provide local government with water resources management tools
6. Develop a line of communication with municipal governments to become informed of proposed and

constructed development with water demand within the water basin

Goal 3: Recreational Water Use

Objectives:

1. Develop, maintain, and protect recreational water use such as fishing, canoeing, boating, swimming, kayaking, golfing, and skiing.
2. Assess the instream flow needs to support recreational water use.

Goal 4: Industrial/Commercial Use

Protect existing commercial agribusiness and industrial uses of water and allow opportunities for growth.

1. Encourage regional growth and development so as to protect the fruit belt and associated businesses.
2. Encourage best management practices of water resources.

II. Protecting, Preserving and Restoring Surface Water and Groundwater Resources

Purpose: To insure adequate quality and quantity of water resources for present and future generations.

Goal 1: Develop land use programs that protect water quality and quantity and preserve the ecological integrity of surface and groundwater, including springs, streams, lakes, wetlands, etc.

Objectives:

1. Encourage municipal programs to include domestic well construction standards, riparian buffers and vegetated systems, and the protection of the natural soil mantle.
2. Implement Best Management Practices in all land development activities in an effort to minimize impacts on aquatic communities.

Goal 2: Protect stream habitat from the loss of native trees, shrubs, and other vegetation along stream banks.

Objectives: Establish criteria for riparian buffers along stream corridors.

Goal 3: Increase compliance with existing regulations that minimize pollution and reduce erosion of stream banks and channels.

Objectives: Enforce existing erosion and sedimentation control program requirements.

Goal 4: Promote nitrogen, phosphorus, etc. removal technologies and strategies at all effluent discharge points.

Objectives:

1. Encourage wastewater treatment plants to implement polices and programs to accept septage and reduce nitrogen loading in plant effluent.

2. Encourage new septic system technologies to minimize N, P, etc. loading in effluent.

Goal 5: Minimize nutrient loading in water resources caused by non-point source pollution, such as septage applications and improper agricultural practices on agricultural fields.

Objectives:

1. Survey watersheds to identify sources of non-point pollution and develop appropriate remedial action.
2. Provide assistance to the agricultural community and general public in the planning and design of nutrient management programs to minimize the impacts of nutrients (especially N-P-K) on water resources.

III. Educating About and Promoting Sound Water Resources Management

Purpose: Public health, safety, and welfare dictate that an educated and informed public and elected officials will make proper water management decisions that will sustain the available water resources.

Goal 1. Develop education programs for the general public and elected officials to present the tools and information that support informed decisions about policies and actions for water resource and land use management.

Objective 1.1: Include water resource and land use management principles within the government and environmental science subject areas of school curriculums throughout the State.

Objective 1.2: Promote the use of best management practices, at the county and municipal level, to conserve storm water and waste water and prevent pollution.

Objective 1.3: Develop and implement a comprehensive water conservation program throughout the watershed.

Objective 1.4: Develop and implement a comprehensive source water protection program throughout the watershed.

Objective 1.5: Develop and implement a public education program that presents the economic, social and ecologic value of water.

Goal 2. Implement programs to train local elected and appointed officials on the use of the community comprehensive planning process as a means to ensure adequate water resources for present and future needs.

Objective 2.1: Provide training opportunities for local elected and appointed officials on the development and implementation of tools that can be used for water resource management that includes, but is not limited to, comprehensive planning, regulatory ordinances, easement programs and local environmental councils.

Objective 2.2: Provide State government funding assistance to support the training of local officials and the development of county and municipal comprehensive plans and ordinances.

VIII. Establish regulatory authority in the Potomac River Basin for reviewing and approving significant water withdrawals, including groundwater.

Goal 1. Review options to provide regulation of water withdrawals in the Potomac River basin and recommend the best option.

Goal 2. Work with the General Assembly to develop and pass legislation establishing regulatory authority of water withdrawals in the Potomac River Basin.