WATER RESOURCES PLANNING (ACT 220) and the STATE WATER PLAN



The Need for Water Planning



Water Plan Vision

- Pennsylvania has abundant and magnificent water resources, which should provide:
 - the basis for an exceptional quality of life for Pennsylvania's residents
 - ✓ an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts
 - ✓ an attraction for visitors
 - ✓ unparalleled natural beauty
 - ✓ thriving ecosystems
 - agricultural prominence
 - economic prosperity throughout the Commonwealth



Vision - Cont'd

- All those with an interest in Pennsylvania have a stake in the use, enhancement, and stewardship of the Commonwealth's water resources
- The Pennsylvania Constitution vests a right to pure water and the values of the natural environment in all Pennsylvanians, and imposes a duty to conserve and to maintain public natural resources for this generation and generations yet to come



Achieving the Vision

- 1. The State Water Plan will offer tools and guidance for all those who make decisions that affect the Commonwealth's water resources or who make decisions based upon the availability of water of adequate quantity and quality
- 2. The Plan should be useful to:
 - those who wish to locate and to design their projects so that the availability of water resources does not constrain them
 - those who wish to preserve high environmental quality where it exists and to achieve it where it does not
 - local governments with planning, conservation, and economic development responsibilities
 - Commonwealth and Interstate Compact agencies



Achieving – Cont'd

- 3. The Plan should serve their needs by providing:
 - a qualitative and quantitative description of water resources in Pennsylvania based upon accurate, transparent, and readily accessible data
 - ✓ guidance on the use of that description and those data in the decisions that face the Plan's users
- 4. The Plan is a starting point for considering the opportunities available to Pennsylvanians for managing the state's water resources



Act 220 of 2002 Water Resources Planning Act

- 1. Update the State Water Plan by 2008
- 2. Register and Report Certain Water Withdrawals
- 3. Identify Critical Water Planning Areas
- 4. Create Critical Area Resource Plans
- 5. Regional Priorities



1. Update the State Water Plan

Water Planning Regions





Water Planning

- 6 Regional Committees and 1 Statewide Committee to develop Plan for DEP approval and adoption
- Plan to be developed by March 2008
- Plan is to include a number of components, or "chapters," including:
 - ✓ Surface and groundwater resources
 - Assessment and projection of withdrawal and nonwithdrawal uses
 - ✓ Identification of potential problems and CWPAs
 - Assessment of public water supplies
 - Assessment of floodplain and storm water management problems



Water Planning – Cont'd

- Assessment of water resources required to serve areas with important or unique natural, scenic, environmental, or recreational values
- ✓ Process for identifying water conservation practices
- ✓ Identification of practical alternatives for adequate supply of water
- Assessment of structural and nonstructural alternatives to address identified problems
- Review and evaluation of existing legal and regulatory authorities
- Review and evaluation of water resources management alternatives and recommended provisions to meet needs
- Proposed methods of implementing recommended actions and activities

2. Registration and Reporting

User Registration

- Act 220 establishes interim registration requirements by March 2004 for:
 - All public water supply agencies
 - ✓ All hydropower facilities
 - ✓ All other users whose total withdrawal within a watershed exceeds an average rate of 10,000 gallons/day in a 30-day period
 - EQB to adopt regulations addressing
 - ✓ Registration
 - ✓ Periodic reporting
 - Recordkeeping of withdrawals
- NO metering of homeowner wells



Registration – Cont'd

- Paper forms
- Web registration through GreenPort
- Forms and registration available on the DEP website



http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/DEPUTATE/watermgt/wc/Act220/Registration/Default.htm



3. Critical Water Planning Areas

Critical Water Planning Area

- "Critical Water Planning Area" is a "significant hydrologic unit where existing or future demands exceed or threaten to exceed safe yield of available water resources"
- CWPAs may be designated:
 - ✓ In the Statewide Plan
 - ✓ In advance of the Statewide Plan by the Statewide Committee and DEP, upon recommendation of a Regional Committee, if justified by evidence developed during the planning process
- DEP and the Statewide Committee to adopt CWPA "criteria" and "process" in 2005

4. Critical Area Resource Plans

Critical Area Resource Plans

- Upon designation of a CWPA, a Critical Area Resource Plan is to be developed
- CARP is to be developed by the Regional Committee and approved by the Statewide Committee and DEP
- CARPs shall include:
 - Identification of existing and future reasonable and beneficial uses
 - Water availability evaluation, including a quantitative comparison of available resources to existing and future uses
 - Identification of anticipated future needs
 - Assessment of water quality issues that have a "direct and substantial" effect on water resource availability

CARPs - Cont'd

- Consideration of storm water and floodplain management within the critical water planning area and their impacts on water quality and quantity
- ✓ Identification of existing and potential user conflicts and alternatives for addressing
- ✓ Identification of practicable supply-side and demand-side alternatives for assuring an adequate water supply



POTOMAC WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Evon Barvinchack

Charlie Bennett – Chairperson

Mark Bream

Phyllis Chant – Vice Chairperson

Michael Christopher

George Fisanich

Andrew Fitz

Thomas Gratto

Joseph Hoffman

Jeffrey Kloss

Ricky A. Leese

Mark Mathews

Donald MacAskill

William McLaughlin

Russell McLucas

Pat Naugle

Brent Ramsey

Robert Reichart

William Reichart

James Richenderfer, Ph.D, P,G.

Roger Steele



POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

Four states contribute to drainage area – 14,679 sq. miles

Virginia – 5,723 sq. miles

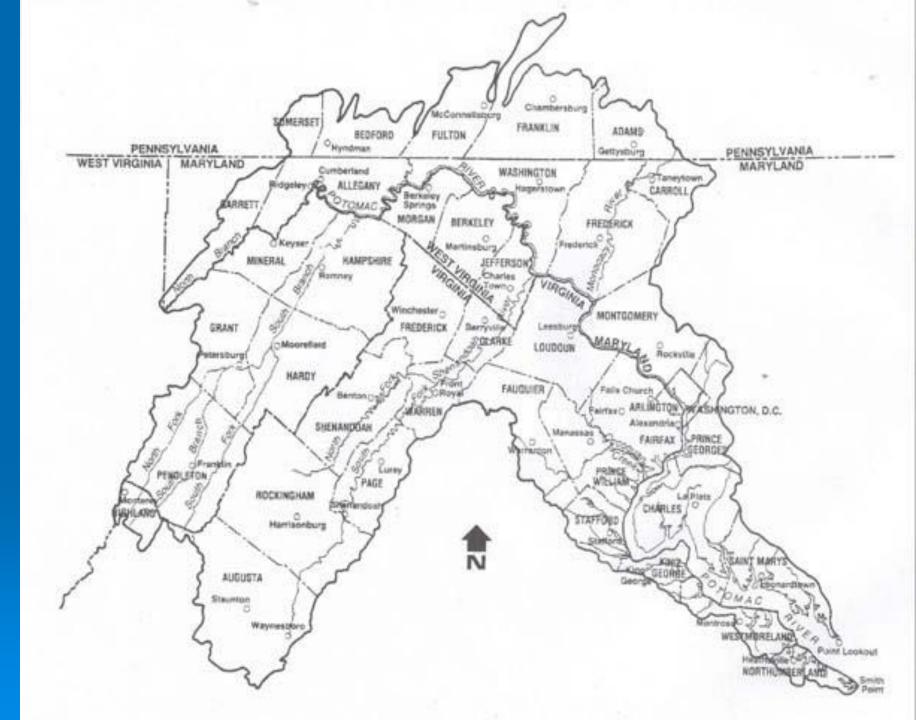
Maryland – 3,818 sq. miles

West Virginia- 3,490 sq miles

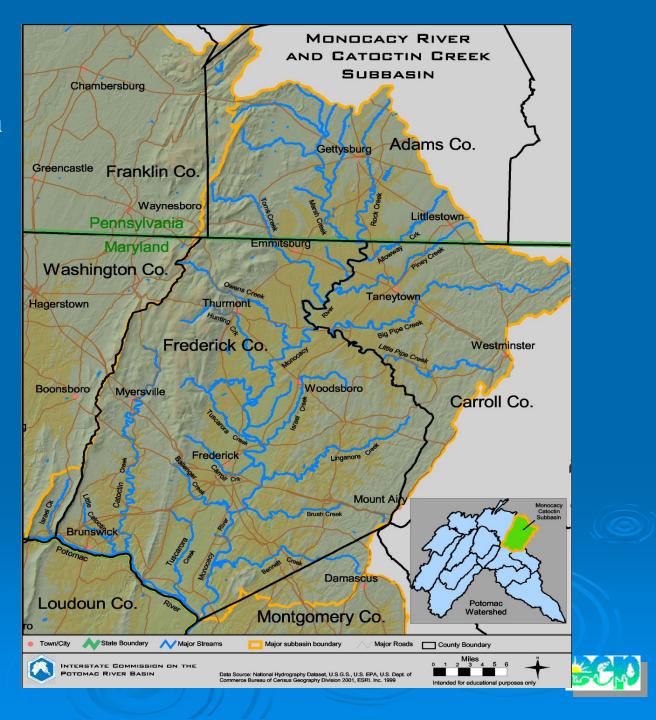
Pennsylvania – 1,570 sq. miles

District of Columbia – 69 sq. miles

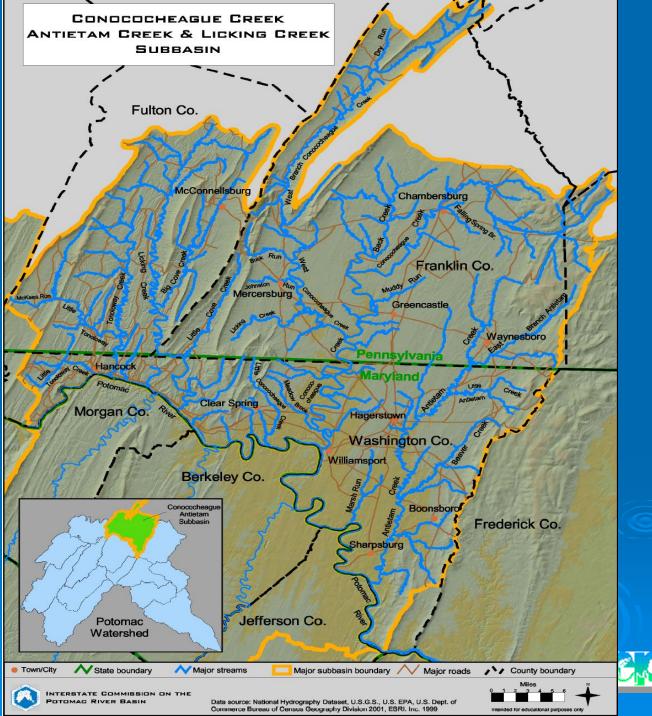




Monocacy/Catoctin Subbasin

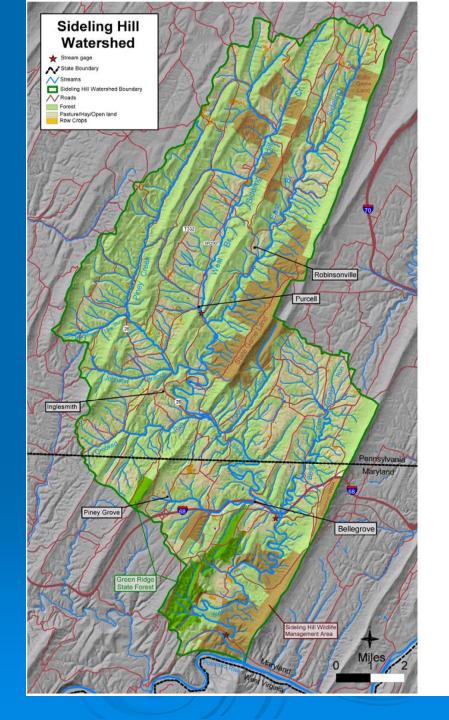


Conococheaque/ Antietam Subbasin



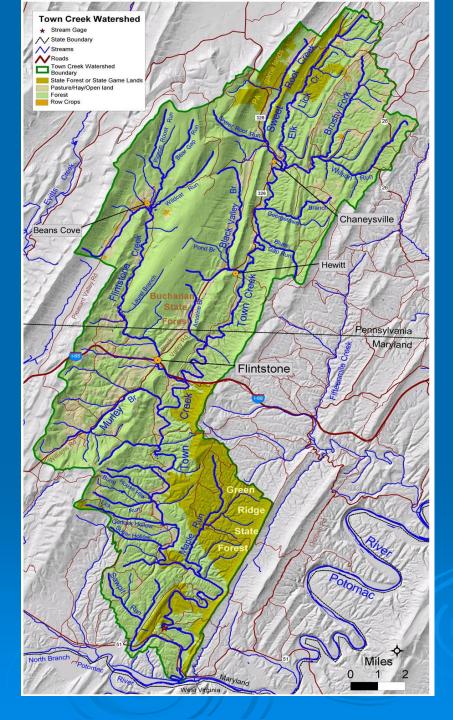


Slideling Hill Watershed





Town Creek Watershed





POPULATION COMPARISON BY COUNTY

County Population Per Sq. Mile

Adams 176

Franklin 168

Fulton 33

Bedford 49

Somerset 74



Potomac Water Resources Committee Regional Priorities

Inventory Supply

- Continuous monitor/update
- Quantity
- Quality
- Location

Inventory Demand

- How much is being used?
- What is the future demand?



Potomac Water Resources Committee Regional Priorities

Balancing Supply And Demand

- Water budgeting
- Land Use
- Conservation and Recharge Technology
- Alternative uses
- Water resource management tools to local Govt
- Upgrading infrastructure
- Comprehensive Regional Planning
- Planning that respects water
- Authority of County Government
- Managing Growth
- Storage Issues



Potomac Water Resources Committee Regional Priorities

Protecting/preserving Instream and Groundwater needs

- Riparian Buffers
- Habitat issue
- Erosion and Sedimentation issues
- Improving Wastewater discharge Quality
- Non point discharge impacts



Public Participation Opportunities

- May 2005 Public Meetings/Hearings in each region to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to the preparation of the regional component of the state water plan
- Regional and Statewide committee meetings
- Public meetings/hearings in each region to solicit input on the drafts of the initial regional plan components to be used in the development or amendment of the state water plan



2005 Regional Committee Meetings

May

5/9 - Ohio

5/10 - Great Lakes

5/12 - Delaware

5/16 - Lower

Susquehanna

5/19 - Potomac

5/26 – Upper/ Middle

Susquehanna

August

8/8 - Ohio

8/9 - Great Lakes

8/11 - Delaware

8/15 - Lower

Susquehanna

8/18 – Upper/

Middle

Susquehanna

8/19 - Potomac

November

11/7 - Ohio

11/8 - Great Lakes

11/10 - Delaware

11/17 – Upper/

Middle

Susquehanna

11/18 - Potomac

11/21 - Lower

Susquehanna



Act 220 Contact Information

Act 220 Hotline: (888) 457-6653

DEP Water Planning Office (717) 783-4693

Charlie Bennett (717) 677-9115 Ext. 4630

Chairperson, Potomac Regional Committee

Don Bluedorn (412) 394-5400

Chair, Statewide Committee



Questions and Comments

