



NYS FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS

(This model plan outline was prepared jointly by the Departments of State and Environmental Conservation*)

INSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT

Preparation of plan is overseen by a watershed management committee made up of local government(s), relevant state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations, such as watershed alliances, that share responsibility in the watershed's protection or restoration. The group establishes clear planning goals that recognize previously completed work. A lead agency or staff person is identified and charged with responsibility for keeping all participants updated on progress of the planning effort, gaining consensus, and ensuring an adequate forum for public participation throughout the process. The planning process consists of four main components:

COMPONENTS OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

A characterization of the watershed study area:

- locates and delineates the watershed study area;
- describes the geographic setting, including topography, hydrography, sub-watersheds; soils, precipitation, land cover/land use and development trends, and habitats;
- describes water quality, quantity and related infrastructure;
- identifies key resource problems and issues including water quality use impairments, threats and their causes, habitat losses and invasive species;
- identifies principal pollutants and their sources by type and geographic extent;
- identifies and describes existing institutional arrangements of local, state and federal agencies, and roles of regional planning boards and non-governmental groups;
- describes existing land and water use controls (regulations, practices and programs); and
- identifies key resources warranting special protection or restoration.

A preventive component:

- assesses existing point and nonpoint source controls to identify gaps and recommend mechanisms to address these gaps, including amendments to local land and water use controls such as subdivision and site plan review regulations and changes in routine roadway, drainage-way and stream maintenance practices; and
- identifies actions that local government(s), relevant state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations need to take to protect water quality and living resources, such as:
 - reflecting watershed management objectives in comprehensive management plans
 - protecting open space parcels currently providing water quality and/or living resources benefits, and those which could provide such benefits after restoration or implementation of stormwater management practices.
 - training local officials regarding appropriate operation road maintenance practices; and
 - providing public education and outreach programs to address potential watershed issues, including education for specific groups such as property owners, farmers, and others.

A corrective component:

- analyzes gathered information and estimates pollutant loading, and
 - targets projects and other priority actions to remove pollutants and restore water quality.
- Tools such as pollution potential models (including the GIS-based model developed by DOS) can help in determining geographic priorities with the goal of reducing water quality and habitat impairments.

An implementation component:

- proposes changes in institutional arrangements to coordinate implementation;
- identifies steps to revise local land and water use controls to protect and restore water quality and living resources;
- specifies actions to achieve compliance with Phase II Stormwater Permits, as necessary;
- provides cost estimates, funding sources and implementation schedule and identifies lead/involved organizations for each preventive and corrective action; and,
- includes a strategy for monitoring pollution reduction performance.

* Habitat restoration and protection can be integrated with these components or developed as a separate management plan

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