Protecting the Potomac: Looking Forward

Vicky Binetti
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

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Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership

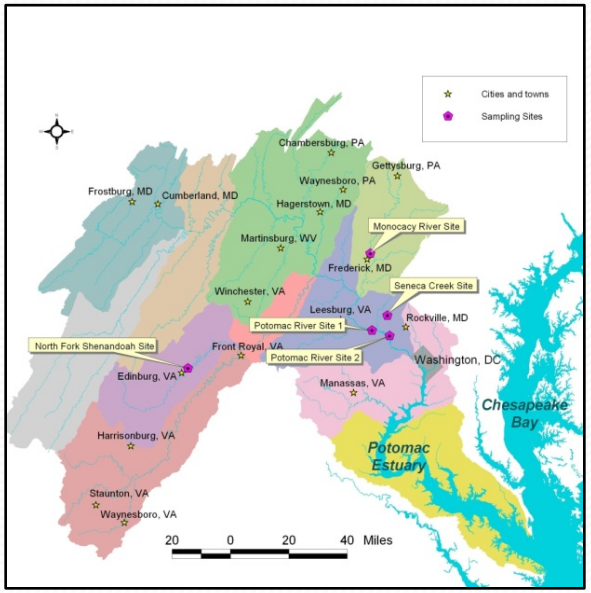
September 24, 2004

- Utility – Government partnership based on common interest in protecting Potomac River as water supply
- Give utilities and government counterparts a stronger voice and more effective position in watershed protection efforts
- Build on Source Water Assessments
- Strategic focus on priority issues of concern
- Work with existing programs, create new programs as needed

Identify regional priorities for source water protection efforts

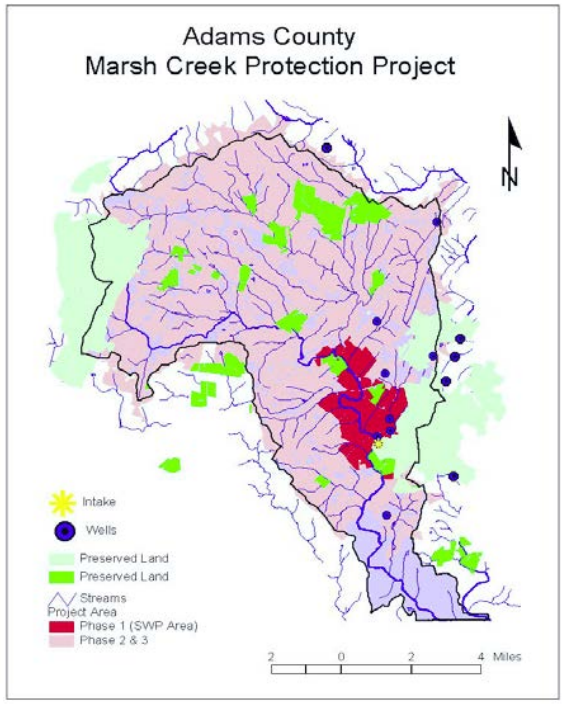
- **Pathogens** (-> Agriculture issues) – *Cryptosporidium*, nutrients
- **Emerging contaminants** – endocrine disrupting chemicals
- **Disinfection byproduct precursors** – organic matter
- **Urban issues** – stormwater management, roadway de-icers
- **Early warning systems & emergency response** – communications, spills, exercises

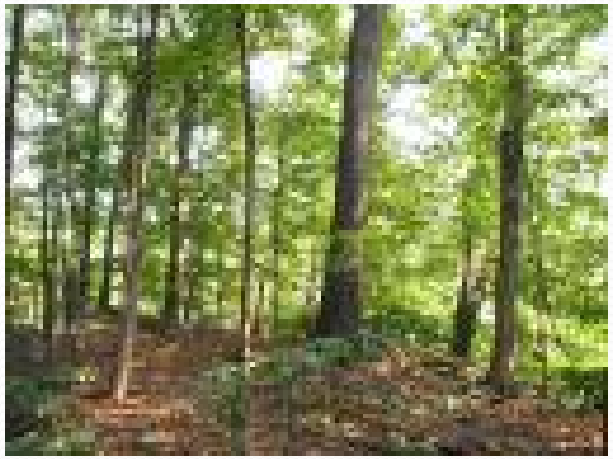
Coordinate, where appropriate, source water and drinking water protection efforts to benefit multiple water systems

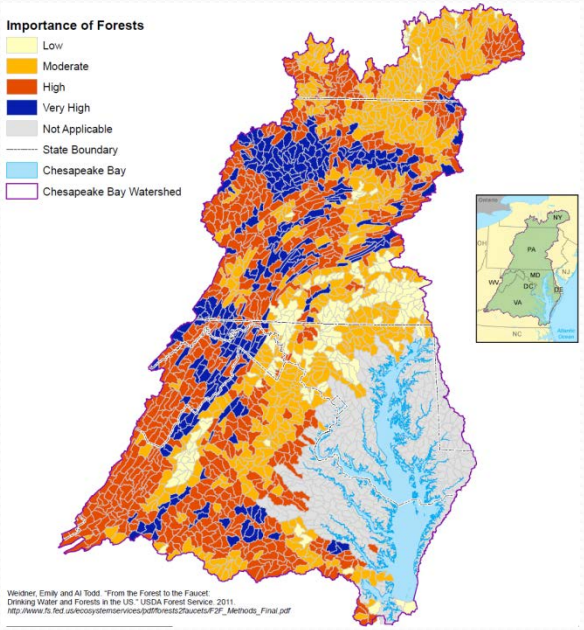


Establish and maintain coordinated dialogue between water suppliers and government agencies involved in drinking water source protection

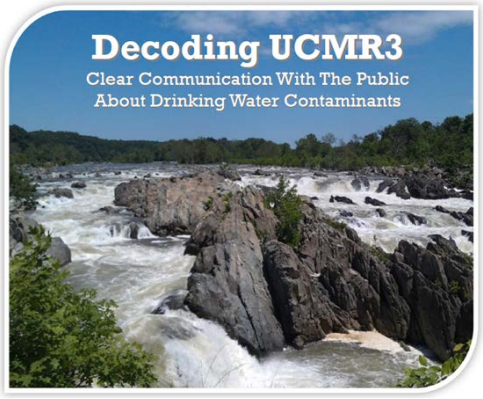
Establish and maintain a coordinated dialogue between the Partnership agencies and other groups working towards watershed protection within the Potomac River watershed



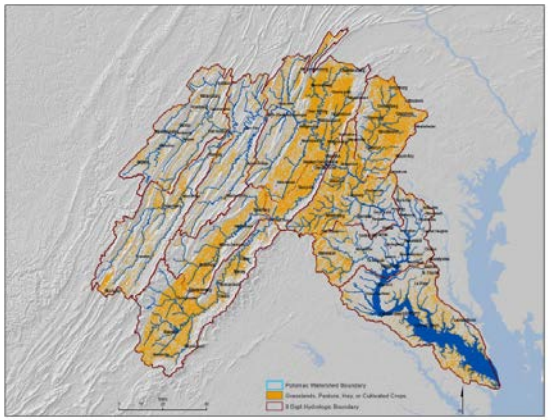


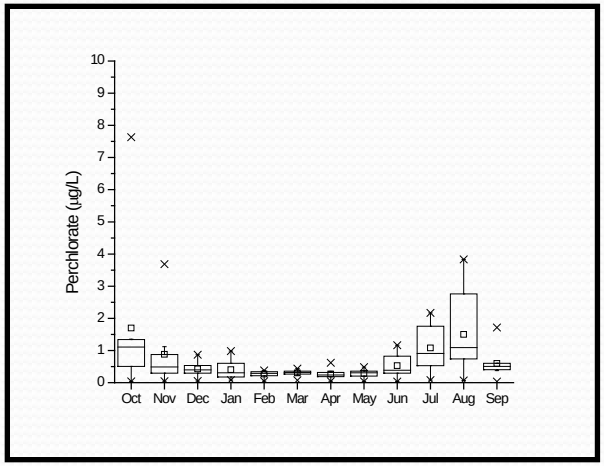


Promote information sharing among groups working on, and affected by, safe drinking water issues

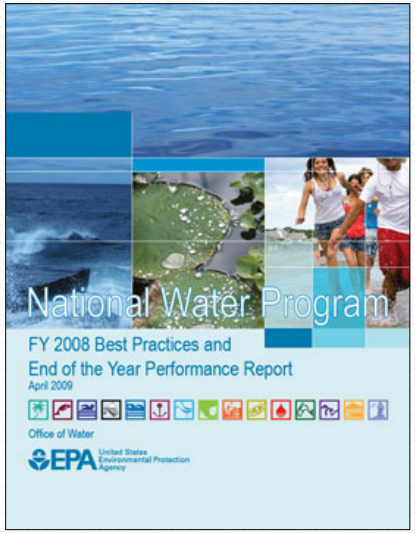


Enhance coordinated approaches to water supply protection measures in the Potomac basin, especially for boundary waters and for project planning that impacts interstate waterways





Develop new initiatives within the drinking water community and with partners that will fill program voids ensuring higher quality drinking water supplies



Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- **Population growth** will increase water demand, alter the watershed (land use, landscapes)
  - Identify critical resources, critical impacts
- Implications of **changing climate** for source water quality and quantity
  - Potential for extreme weather – impacts on water availability and quality
  - Warming air temperatures – implications for water demand, use patterns, energy supply
  - Warming water – impacts on taste and odor, pathogens, water quantity

Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- **Old/new/emerging contaminants – understanding occurrence and addressing sources**
  - Agricultural and urban source-related pollutants (nutrients, sediments, metals, salts)
  - Regulatory developments (e.g., perchlorate, VOCs, unregulated contaminant monitoring and Contaminant Candidate Lists)
  - Pharmaceuticals, household and personal care products, industrial and medical chemicals
  - New pathogens and toxins related to changing climate and water quality (amoebae, cyanotoxins)
  - Energy sector – unconventional gas drilling, uranium mining

Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- **Clean Water Act – Safe Drinking Water Act integration**
  - Be laboratory to promote use of CWA tools to protect drinking water use (water quality standards, monitoring, NPDES permits, nonpoint source control practices, etc.)
- **Broaden the conversation**
  - Seek out new partners among local governments, utilities (surface & ground water), environmental advocacy organizations, professional groups, academia, federal & state agencies
  - Identify common, compatible objectives
  - Expand capacity by leveraging resources, complementing one another's actions

Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- **Raise our voice!**
  - Hone the message:

    protecting the Potomac = protecting drinking water = protecting health, economy, security
  - Speak for the consumer, insist on being heard
  - Engage our communities, especially youth

Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- Assure continued **resources for DWSPP 'maintenance'**
- Secure **new sources of support** for broadened DWSPP activities
  - Public and private grant funding
  - DWSPP-funded projects
  - Leverage other actions/programs (e.g., Chesapeake Bay restoration and Implementation Plans, USDA/NRCS ag programs, Conservation Districts, stormwater MS4 plans, Green Infrastructure)
  - Engage researchers in industry, government, academia
  - Expand 'work force' through broadened partnerships

Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- Evaluate our **watershed intelligence**
  - Source water assessments now more than a decade old
  - Data used in development are older
  - Technology (GIS, data sources) superior to that available in late 1990s/early 2000s
- ***Is it time to refresh our source water assessments?***
  - Opportunity to build potential futures into assessments (e.g., land use changes, climate change)
  - Facilitate critical resource protection, prevention/mitigation of adverse change, adaptation to changing environment

Planning to Meet Challenges of the Future

- **Build on DWSPP strengths**
  - Credibility of partner organizations
  - Access to scientific, technical, professional expertise
  - High value placed on science
  - History of productive collaboration