

Water Sector Discussion December 16, 2020.

Missing Feasible & Practical Strategies/Technologies	Pitfalls & Dangers of Identified Actions	Prioritizing Our Actions
<p>Erica Smithwick - How is this aligned with the watershed planning protection process (key alignment and overlap)?</p>	<p>Community engagement beyond our State College community; how do we do this at scale?</p> <p>How to present work to communities that are scenario-based (offer strategies to meet these goals)? --Resilience Developing strategies collaboratively with communities. Putting forth concrete examples of strategies.</p>	<p>Adaptation is critical. Create both short- and long-term strategies.</p>
<p>Andy Cole - coming up with a shared vision is critical (people hearing different stories);</p>		<p>Make sure the story gets out consistently - print and online.</p>
<p>Jason Detar - themes here discussed with the One Water Plan initiative.</p>	<p>How do we convince citizens to embrace a paradigm shift away from our unsustainable norm? Looking ahead to relying on sources other than groundwater. Concerns around increased impervious surface (particularly with increased stormwater).</p>	<p>Increasing groundwater recharge</p> <p>Managing impervious surfaces</p> <p>Improve water conservation</p>
<p>Dave Yoxtheimer - *public education* integral to all of this; tying in all the initiatives ongoing in the region and locally</p>	<p>If we can't convince people that what we do here matters elsewhere. (If my neighbor isn't doing it, why should I?)</p>	<p>Integrating existing efforts to maximize benefits, demonstrate progress. Show people something tangible and measurable.</p>

<p>Jon Duncan - Many ways to convince residents of the varied benefits and local good that can come out of these actions.</p> <p>Thinking about our natural plumbing and the challenges that poses for our emissions and mitigation opportunities. How do we engineer our way out of this?</p>	<p>Will times of drought possibly lead to higher costs for water use? Implications on local emissions variability. Thinking about ecosystem services (both good and bad).</p>	
<p>Ford Stryker - integrating plans is important. Can we <i>reduce</i> flooding? Maybe we should focus instead on managing flooding.</p>		<p>Consider a project management piece - identify necessary projects/activities and estimate what it takes to get them done and develop funding sources.</p>
<p>Jim Baird - key to integrate existing plans. Integrate plans with existing regulations for water utilities.</p>		<p>Getting success stories in the news.</p>
<p>Rob Vierck - coordinating all of the plans; outreach sooner rather than later utilizing network of volunteer organizations (ex. Spring Creek Watershed Atlas)</p>		<p>Expanding monitoring stations (Bald Eagle, Milesburg area)</p> <p>Identifying major project areas (the Duck Pond, South Hills Plaza runoff)</p>
<p>Andy Warner - Dayton Ohio example</p> <p>A lot of our actions are technical or engineering-oriented. Expand to include the utilities and do an institutional</p>		<p>Articulating the co-benefits (road crossings, culverts)</p> <p>Ongoing need for communications with the public</p>

<p>assessment. Should they merge? (One Water concept). Look at decision-making under different scenarios</p> <p>PA Silver Jackets group, Army Corps of Engineers</p>		
<p>Rob Brooks - most (all?) municipalities have riparian buffer ordinances - can we improve on the practices and mechanisms related to those? Reports on nutrient solutions and riparian buffer restorations.</p>		<p>Enhance ordinances to improve nitrogen removal, carbon storage. These flood plains and riparian buffers are where we need to be able to divert flood waters.</p>
<p>Lauren McPhillips - engineering solutions (ex. bioswales) - deals with nuisance level storms. Let's think about the really extreme events and what can be done there. Allowing more space for the flooding that will inevitably be happening. Finding places that are 'safe to fail' - parks doubling as retention areas in big events.</p>		<p>Public engagement and scenarios of options. A sustainable home tour to show off simple to complicated efforts that can be done at the individual home scale. (from rain barrels on up) Might help engage people who are otherwise not aware of water issues locally.</p>
<p>Caitlin Glagola - Section 319 Watershed Management Plan (Halfmoon Creek - sediment impairment); backyard buffer program (conservation program)</p>		<p>- join forces to start some programs in collaboration with Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others</p>
<p>Lara Fowler - soil health and benefits of carbon sequestration; the SRBC is doing an regional management strategic plan - participate with that; financing and funding - funders are investing in ESG; on the</p>		

<p>project side people say there's no money - how do we connect those things?</p>		
<p>Deb Nardone - impact investing component of this work; revolving loan funds, low interest loans</p> <p>Clearwater has two staff members who've gone through the impact investment training</p>		<p>Maintaining resilience - doesn't have to rely on regulation, can be proactive.</p> <p>Access for more funding for conserved acres</p> <p>Local scale projects with positive impact (neighborhood rain gardens, community rain barrel workshops, clean up streams)</p> <p>Equal investment in proactive strategies</p> <p>The role of Pennsylvania on the global scale (migration examples)</p>
<p>Trevor Birkenholtz - scalar aspects of sustainability - new administration opportunity for a Green New Deal. Be in conversation with these broader scales of governance.</p>		<p>How do we get people to think of nature as something beginning in our own homes and yards, not something that happens 'out there'?</p> <p>Ex) education opportunities for what we're doing to our lawns locally; more visible best practices</p> <p>Engaging local news sources to get the word out</p>
<p>Larry Fennessey - We need to look at the information that already exists and make sure we're all telling the same story regardless of politics and bias based on</p>		

the extensive watershed data. Nitrates and chlorides are increasing (lawn care).		
Lexie Buck - importance of bringing together the plans that are already out there - will be very important not just for technical work but for education	Challenges of funding	Reaching the people who aren't already motivated Creating infrastructure to handle really big flooding events

Franklin Egan - integrating planning processes; how does the MS4 process align with this process? Could they be in conflict?

MS4 doesn't cover the entire Centre Region. There's already some piggybacking happening between its efforts and others. Need to keep stormwater a bit separate from MS4.

The role of the agricultural community in the MS4 planning, also look at the Soil Conservation Service, role of state's Act 220 Water Plan; long term thinking about water storage

Engagement in the impacts for the larger CBW

Electrification of the US could triple infrastructure - lots of land use changes that will impact water. How will that utility development impact water resources?

For road culvert re-design/reconstruction and co-benefits of flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration, see:

<https://streamcontinuity.org/>

Under mitigation, see Dayton example of electric aggregation program for residents and businesses to include a renewable energy rate in the program: <https://www.daytonohio.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9796/August-2020-Dayton-Sustainability-Strategy-Plan>

For those that are not familiar with MS4, there is much useful information regarding the local MS4 Partners at www.MS4Partners.org

In terms of education, it's useful to think about who: homeowners? Businesses? As we've been talking about stakeholder engagement at various scales, the "mid level" beyond individuals would also be quite important: fertilizer providers on the ag side, lawn care companies on the backyard side.

SRBC Comprehensive Plan- accepting comments until Feb. 19 2021: <https://www.srbc.net/our->