



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Engagement and Integration

Under the Clean Water Act



How do we work together?



Long-Term Vision



Effective integration of implementation efforts to restore and protect the nation's aquatic resources, where:

- ❖ the nation's waters are assessed,
- ❖ restoration and protection objectives are systematically prioritized, and
- ❖ Total Maximum Daily Loads and alternative approaches are adaptively implemented to achieve water quality goals with the collaboration of States, Federal agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the public

Engagement:

- o Gov't **actively engages the public and other stakeholders** to improve and protect water quality, as demonstrated by:
 - o documented, inclusive, transparent, and consistent **communication**;
 - o **requesting and sharing feedback** on proposed approaches; and
 - o **enhanced understanding of program objectives**

Integration:

- o Gov't **identifies and coordinates implementation** of key source control actions that **foster integration across CWA and other programs**, and the water quality efforts of other departments and agencies to achieve the water quality goals

How to Engage and Integrate?

◦ What is MassDEP's path forward?

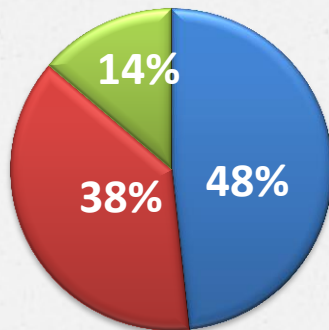




Nov 2016 Workshop Survey:

Degree of Interest in Vision for Engagement and Integration

Engagement

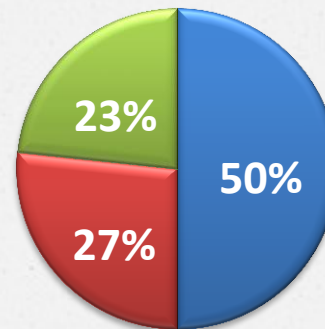


■ High
■ Moderate
■ Low

Response	n
High	14
Moderate	11
Low	4

86% Very Interested

Integration



Response	n
High	15
Moderate	8
Low	7

77% Very Interested

- ✓ 68% of respondents cited that small workgroups and workshops would work best for future collaboration on the long-term vision

April 2017 Workshop

Large group discussion questions:

Successful Outreach Efforts?

Ideas for Collaboration?

Obstacles?

Solutions?

Collaboration
Data Sharing
view of all
Obstacle
DEP - sharing Data
• that's not ours
• difficult to disperse/share data
Eco-Shed - ~~EPA~~ ^{USGS} sharing works
EPA - Data Sharing Portal/Stores
↳ "hand-holding" 1 on 1 Training
Solution → Upload Data to DEP
• DEP uploads group data to Stores
• limits on DEP ability to process data

Data Sharing to facilitate Story telling
Hollistic view of all Data collection needed
① CROSS - group data use
② overall data → DEP/EPA
Obstacle
• Funding for all groups
• competing for groups so collaboration is discouraged
• limits on DEP ability to process data

besides #
Obstacles
Communication
Need to incentivize
Prioritize/Identify
• Common Goals
• ex. NGOs/ask stakeholders what their priorities are.
Opportunity
CA example group effort to decide goals + sampling (water) data collection
WPI - SAP (or other) to be used by multiple towns - stormwater
Issues + Opportunity
Defining Purpose for data collection sharing
Do you want your data used??

Enhance Collaboration?
DER - culvert monitoring DB
ease of use
quick of data goes to National DB
Equipment sharing process needed
Standardization of forms:
• River Prot Act/WPA Data Collection
• DEP Aesthetics assessment
SMART stations → Volunteers assume
CAWA - ArcGIS + templates for data collection
Standard field sheets
I-Pad data collection

Timing + coordination
UBWPAD - Model of collaboration
VT - model for data sharing generic QAPP, training
CA
Cost - Benefit for volunteer coordinator(s) municipal
Need on-going Communication
SWQ - Advisory Com.
Who is responsible?

Successful Outreach

- ❖ From the presentations:

- ❖ Steve Winnett: EPA's 303(d) Program Vision

- ❖ Engage in meaningful ways
 - ❖ Communicate transparently to build partnerships
 - ❖ Emphasize results: restoration and protection
 - ❖ Embrace efficiencies

- ❖ Pam Dibona: MassBays' Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) process

- ❖ **Meaningful external engagement:** Surveys, Stakeholder Mtgs, Focus Groups, Interviews
 - ❖ **Internal assessment:** Documentation, Org Capacity, Partner's Resources
 - ❖ **Action:** Time-Bound Big Plan for Long-term Outcomes (goals, prioritization, restoration actions)

Successful Outreach

- o From the group discussion:
 - o Eco-Shed by USGS
 - o EPA's WQX (formerly STORET)
 - o DER's culvert monitoring database (ease of use, national)
 - o UBWPAD—Model for collaboration
 - o VT—Model for data sharing (generic QAPP, collection training)
 - o CA—Example of group decision on goals and sampling
 - o WPI—Stormwater SAP—used by multiple towns
 - o CRWA—ArcGIS, data-collection templates, standard field sheets

Successful Integration

- o From the presentations:
 - o Marine Fisheries/MassDOT/MassDEP/USEPA--Brad Chase:
 - o Diadromous Fish Restoration Priority List and MassDOT/DMF GIS Data Layer; Habitat criteria based on MassDEP SWQS and EPA Nutrient Criteria.
 - o MassDEP taking steps to integrate prioritization into CWA programs—e.g., Assessments
 - o MassWildlife/MassDEP--Adam Kautza:
 - o Cold Water Fishery Resources.
 - o Common sampling priorities to meet both MassWildlife and MassDEP regulations for cold water. Cold Water protections integrated across regulations: SWQS, DFW, Wetlands and into local level--ConComs

Successful Integration

o Case Studies--Monitoring:

- o **NepRWA's Hotspot Program:** Partners with Local Towns to Find Sources of Pollution and Eliminate Them: Chris Hirsch, Neponset River Watershed Association
- o **Working Collectively to Preserve, Restore, and Reconnect our Cold Water Resources:** Beth Lambert, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER)
- o **Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District's In-stream Water Quality Monitoring Program:** Kristina Masterson, CDM Smith, Consultant UBWPAD

Obstacles



- Lack of funding/resources increases competition & discourages collaboration between groups
- Limits of MassDEP ability to process data discourages its sharing
- Lack of communication
- Lack of common prioritization and goal-setting

Stakeholders' Suggested Actions



- o Communication
 - o Develop on-going communication structure
 - o Create climate of trust
 - o Incentivize communication and collaboration (e.g., in grant process)
- o Foster partnerships
- o Integrate planning and coordination among agencies
- o Find champions
- o Expand awareness and public education activities
- o Gain political support
- o Review regulations regularly across programs
- o Prioritize/Identify common goals
 - o Define purpose for data collection & sharing
 - o Clarify how data will be used
 - o Generate and share stories sourced by WQ data

Suggested Actions (cont.)

- o Watershed approach/planning
- o Data centralization through DEP/EPA
 - o Need holistic view of all data collection
 - o Cross-group data use
 - o Databases that are easy to use
- o Resources
 - o Develop equipment-sharing process
 - o FUNDING, and better tools, databases and scientific resources for watershed groups & municipalities
- o X-Program standardization of forms (QAPPs/SAPs, field sheets)
- o Volunteers assume SMART stations
- o Support water conservation initiatives
- o Form a SWQ Advisory Committee



Takeaways



- o Across all workshops, education, collaboration & communication were consistently among the highest priorities.
- o Collaboration & communication were recognized as part of what works in a WQ program
- o Leverage resources to achieve common goals
- o Technology is allowing us to share info
- o Increase efficiency; “do not re-invent the wheel”
- o Large group discussion focused on data
- o Many ideas for collaboration

Discussion

- Did we capture all the highlights?
- Do you wish to add or clarify anything?

