

Considerations for WBP Development Proposals

Clean Water Act Sections 604(b) and 319 Grants

MassDEP Pre-RFP Informational Meeting

July 23, 2026

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NPS Management Section

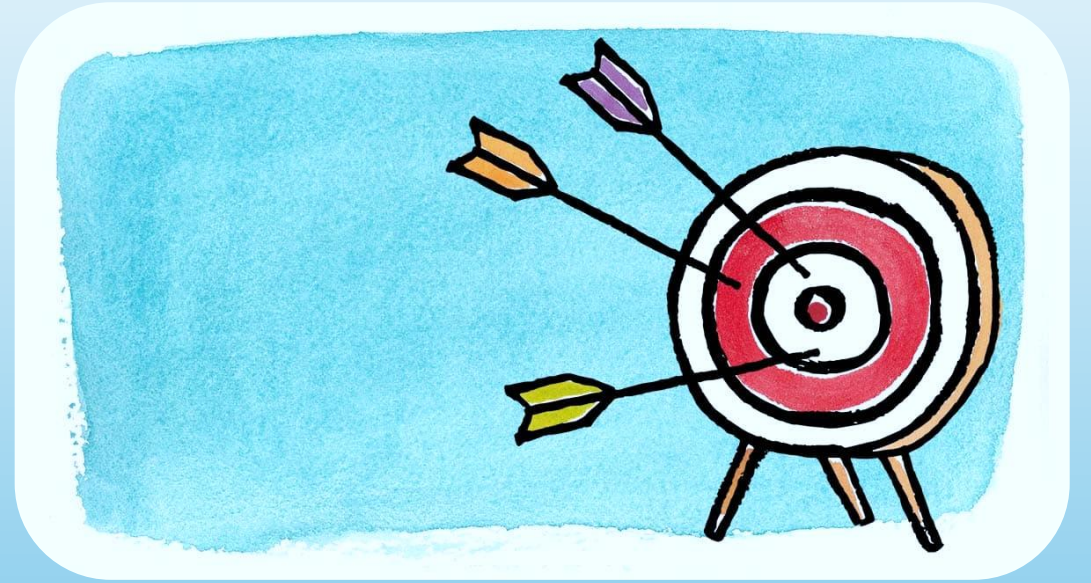
Watershed Planning Program

MassDEP



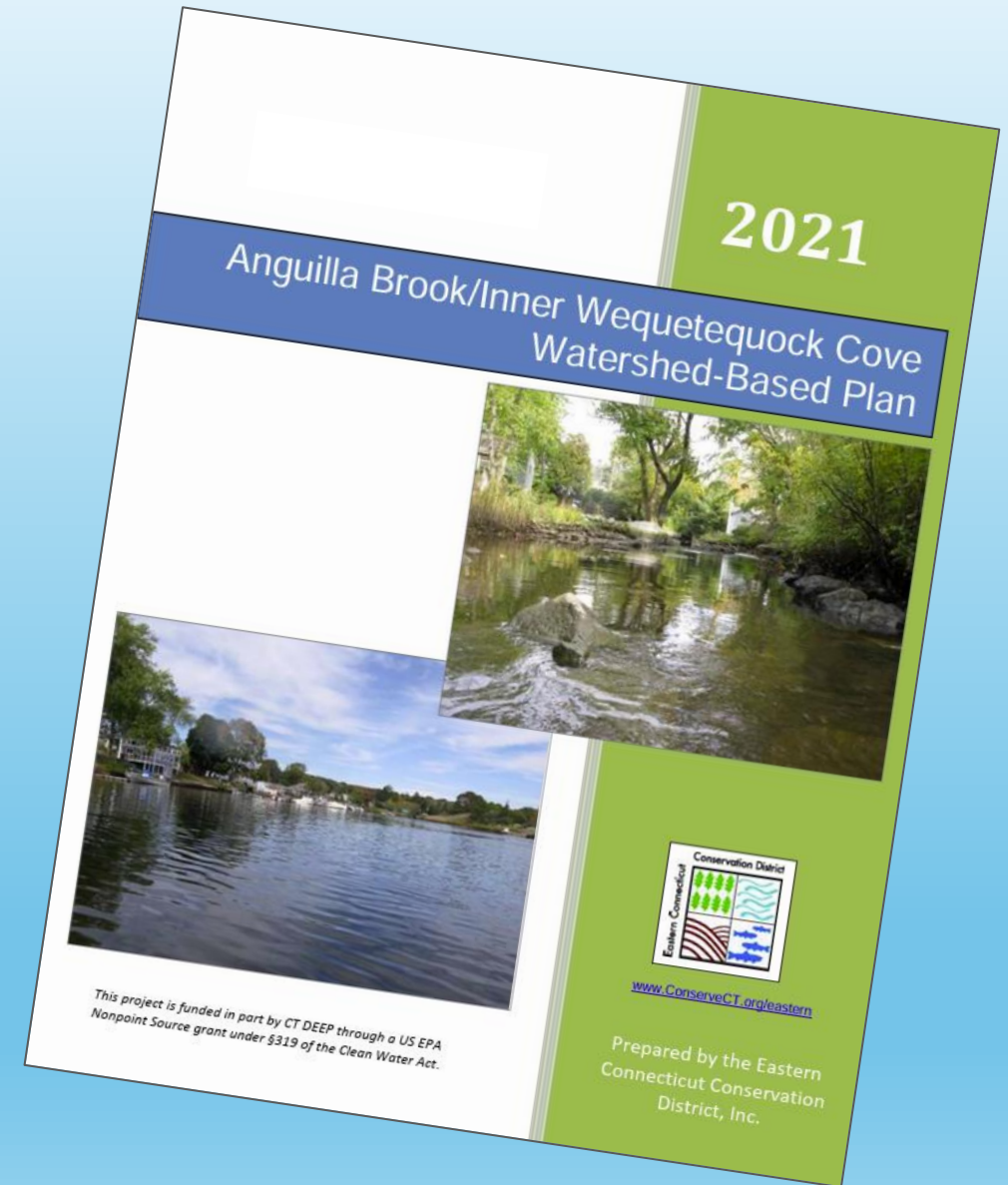
Goals:

- Purpose of a WBP
- What are the nine elements?
- Factors to consider when:
 - Preparing a WBP
 - Preparing a 604(b) proposal with a WBP component

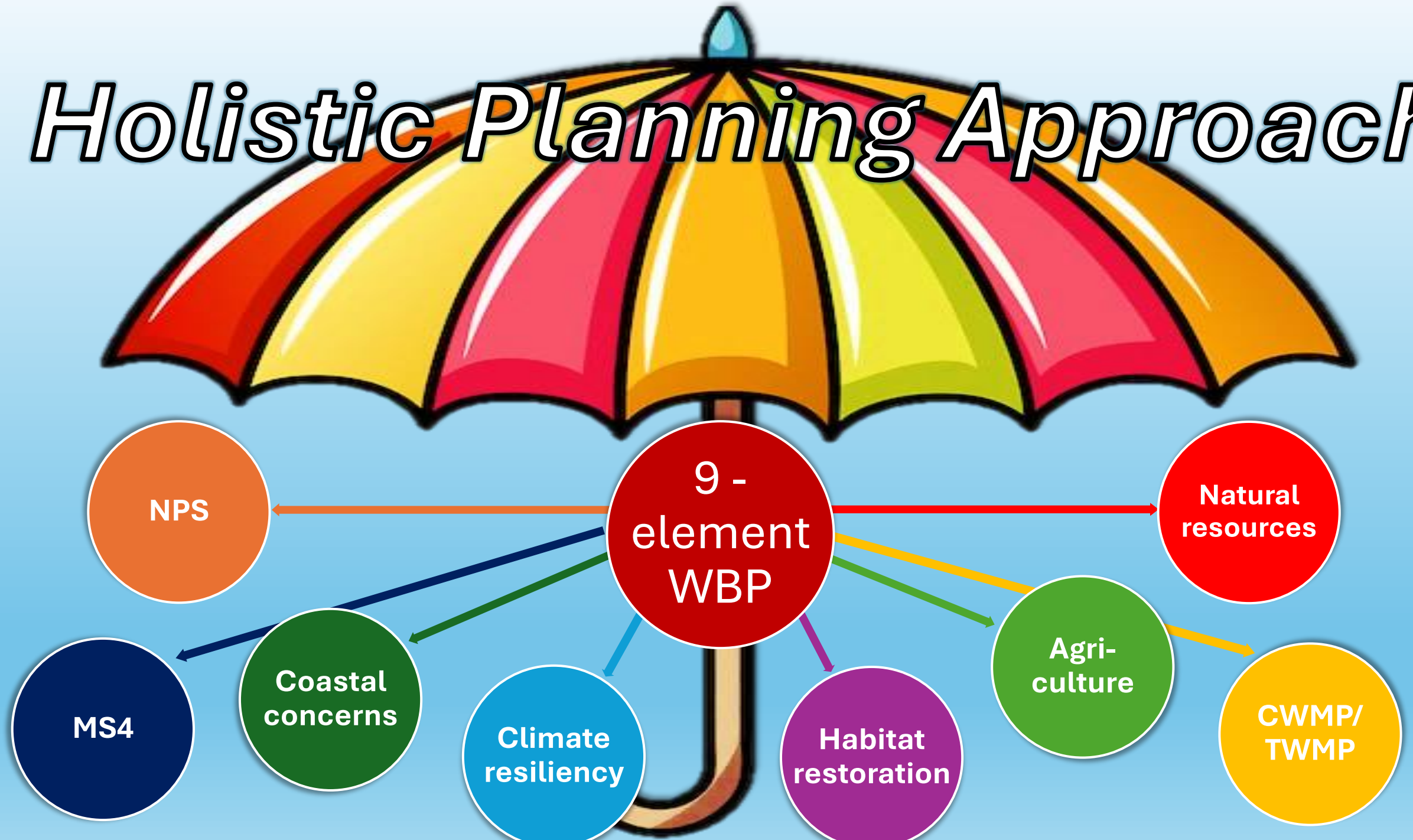


What is a WBP?

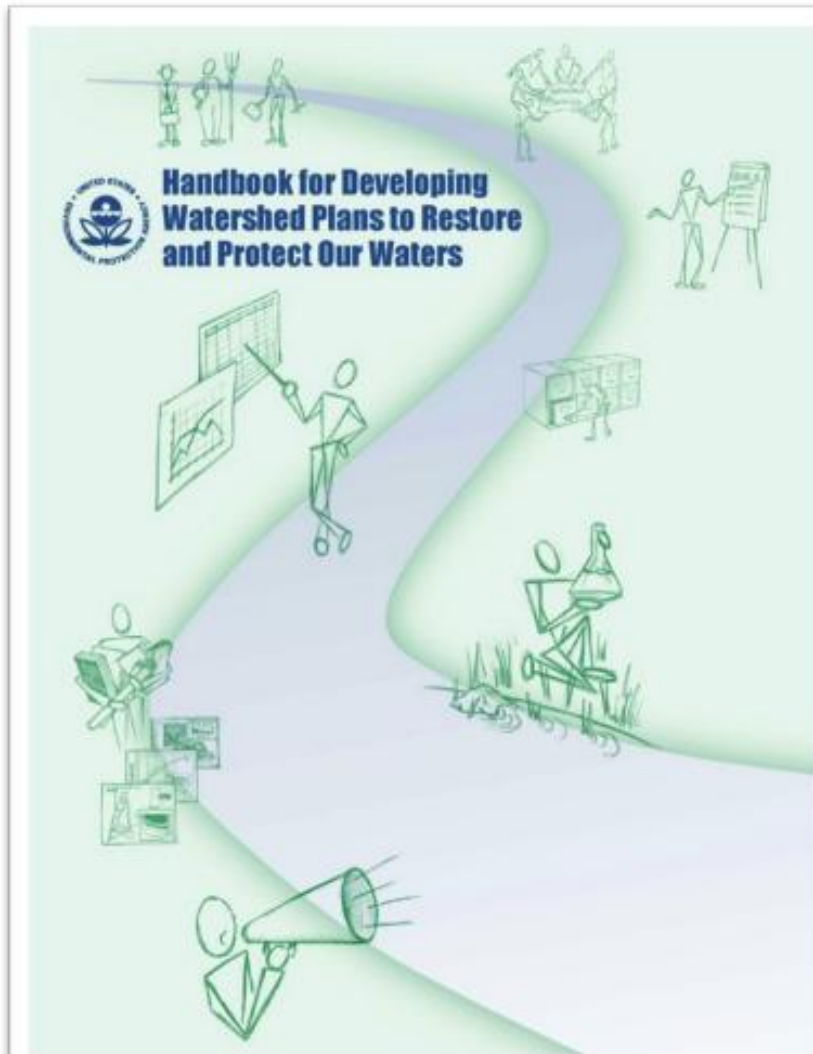
- A robust, comprehensive, community-based strategy designed to restore, protect, and improve the health and ecological function of a watershed.
- A WBP is a roadmap that guides a community through the steps to restore and protect the watershed.
- A WBP should be holistic and address all community resource concerns.



Holistic Planning Approach



EPA Minimum Nine Elements



a. Identify causes and sources of pollution

b. Estimate pollutant loading into the watershed and the expected load reductions

c. Describe management measures that will achieve load reductions and targeted critical areas

d. Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance and the relevant authorities needed to implement the plan

e. Develop an information/education component

f. Develop a project schedule

g. Describe the interim, measurable milestones

h. Identify indicators to measure progress

i. Develop a monitoring component

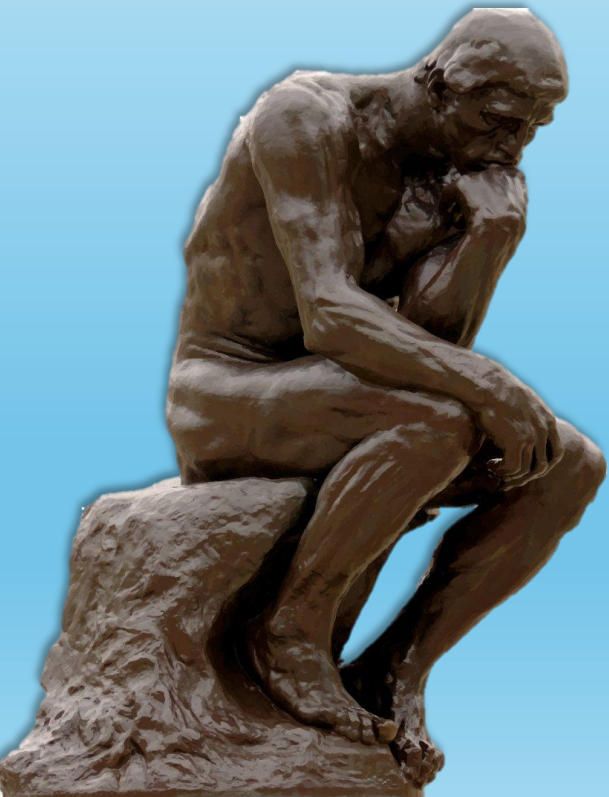
Things to consider when preparing a WBP (1)

- Looking for robust and comprehensive plans
- Include adequate background information to describe purpose and goals of plan, challenges, previous actions and current stakeholders (*element a*)
- Provide general characterization of watershed and include any elements that may inform or impact management actions (*element a*)
- Identify data gaps (consider incorporating watershed assessment actions into proposal to address those gaps) (*element b*) and critical areas where BMPs should be focused (*element c*)



Things to consider when preparing a WBP (2)

- Include array of structural and non-structural practices (*element c*)
 - Identify site specific BMPs with conceptual designs, estimated cost and load reductions
 - Identify short, medium, long-term and ongoing actions
 - Identify a variety of BMPS with varying levels of cost and complexity so all stakeholders have an opportunity to implement according to their abilities and resources
- Make sure information in elements aligns and is covered appropriately in all sections (*elements c - h*)
- Describe how progress will be evaluated (*elements h & i*)
 - Include who will (or is most likely to) implement the plan
 - Describe how plan progress will be evaluated
 - Describe what steps will be taken if no progress is observed





Things to keep in mind when preparing a proposal

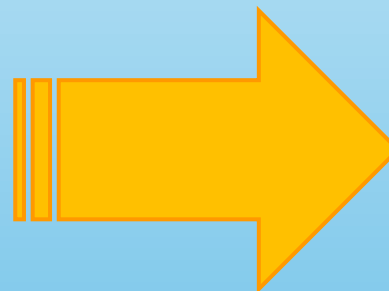
Do you have a good understanding of the problem/source or is watershed assessment needed?

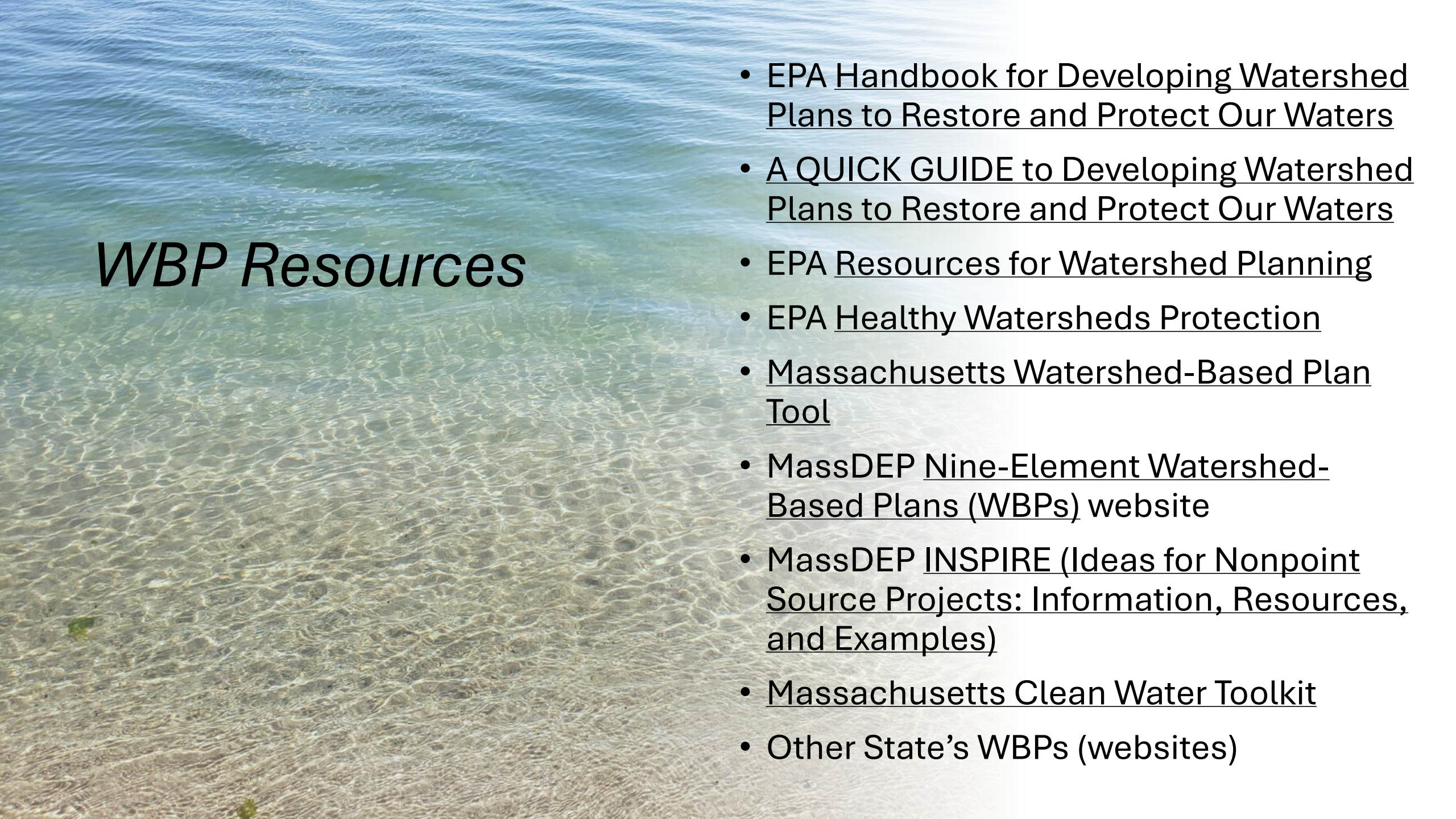
Do you have adequate water quality data or do you need to collect more?

Do you need to budget for site assessments (soil tests, elevation survey, other site evaluation)?

Do you plan to develop conceptual or better than conceptual plans?

Does WBP budget include funding for revisions through delivery of final MassDEP-accepted plan?





WBP Resources

- [EPA Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters](#)
- [A QUICK GUIDE to Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters](#)
- [EPA Resources for Watershed Planning](#)
- [EPA Healthy Watersheds Protection](#)
- [Massachusetts Watershed-Based Plan Tool](#)
- [MassDEP Nine-Element Watershed-Based Plans \(WBPs\) website](#)
- [MassDEP INSPIRE \(Ideas for Nonpoint Source Projects: Information, Resources, and Examples\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Clean Water Toolkit](#)
- Other State's WBPs (websites)

The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach. In the foreground, there is a sandy beach. The water is very shallow and clear, revealing the sandy bottom and some greenish-brown algae or seaweed. The water extends to the top of the frame, with gentle waves visible. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and tans.

Coming Soon!

Watershed-Based Plan
Development Workshop

Fall 2026



Questions?