Pooling Our Resources: Linking Land Use Planning and Sustainable Water Quality

Part 3

Presented by:
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• Introduction
• Who is DRCOG
• Information DRCOG Provides
• Water Quality and Land Use
• Other Plans
Supporting Regionalism

Mission statement

- DRCOG is a place where local officials can work together to solve the region's problems
What is Metro Vision?

Goal: Protect the quality of life that makes our region such an attractive place to live, work, play and raise a family.
The Regional Vision

- Metro Vision provides integration that affects sustainability

- Balancing multiple objectives of local communities is key to achieving sustainable water resources
Key Elements

- Growth & Development
- Environment
- Transportation
- Implementation
DRCOG’s Role in Water Quality and Land Use

Clean Water Plan: designated 208 agency

- Regional wastewater utility planning
  - wastewater reuse in new facility design

- Point Sources

- Storm Water
- Non Point
- Source Water
  - becoming part of our update in the CWP
Decision Process

Clean Water Act
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Standards
Permits
Regulation

Water Quality Control Commission
State Health Department

Governor

Regional Water Quality Management Plan
[Clean Water Plan]

Coalition of Local Governments
DRCOG

DRCOG is link between State and local government
Available Data and Information

- Natural hazards
- Open space
- Impaired streams
- Demographics
- Wastewater utility service areas
- Watershed boundaries

Impaired Stream Segments
Implications of Transportation

- Population: 58%
- VMT: 72%
- Congestion: 203%
- Hours of Delay: 353%
- Lane Miles: 18%
Information DRCOG Provides

- Encourage smart growth
- Special projects
  - Regional land use data acquisition
- Workshops
  - TOD
  - Storm water
  - Water quality short course
- Documents
  - Clean Water Plan
  - Utility Plan Guidance
  - Transportation Plan
Consistency of Forecasts

- Connection to Metro Vision
- Linkage to air quality planning (CDPHE)
- Flexible provisions

**Wastewater Flow**

- **Graph:**
  - Y-axis: mgd
  - Data points for DRCOG and Local

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**Legend:**
- DRCOG
- Local
Water and Environment Planning Committee

- DRCOG communities and special districts
- Prepares materials for Board consideration
  - Testimony at WQCC hearings
  - Amendments to CWP
- Accepts utility plans via UPRT subcommittee

The Board sets policy
How are DRCOG’s plans implemented?

• Prioritization of projects based on:
  - Policy goals (e.g., consistency with Metro Vision)
  - Technical concerns (e.g., safety)

• State-mandated DRCOG review of:
  - Proposed wastewater treatment facilities
Watershed Approach
Water Quality Issues

- Quantity versus quality
- Refinement of standards
- Stormwater regulation
- Funding for planning
- Future role
Stormwater Permits

- Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4)
  - Phase 1 (over 100,000 population)
  - Phase 2
- Construction over 1 acre
Phase 2 Requirements

- Public education and outreach
- Public involvement
- Detection and elimination of illicit connections
- Construction site control
- Post-construction management
- Municipal operations
Impaired Streams

- Monitoring identifies segments with water quality problems
- WQCC publishes list (303d) of impaired streams every other year
- Also lists streams that require more monitoring
Cherry Creek Development

Cherry Creek Watershed

South Platte Urban Watershed

Chautauqua Watershed

8150 Pikes Peak Watershed

Cherry Creek Watershed Map

Cherry Creek Development

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Growth in Watershed

Population/Employment

Year

Population

Employment
Other Clean Water Plans
Plans Reviewed to date:

1. Dane County, WI plan (Madison)
2. Southeast Michigan (SEMCOG)
3. Pima Council of Governments (Tucson, AZ)
4. Minneapolis, MN (Urban Growth Boundary)
5. Portland, OR
6. Puget Sound (Seattle)
Common Themes

- Most areas experiencing growth and development pressures
- Goal to move from regulatory-type document to a plan that is more policy-oriented
- Move to coordinate clean water plans with regional or local development/land use plans
- Reduced funding for planning activities
What can you do?

- You have a role
  - state
  - regional
  - local
  - site planning
Thank You

Further information
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