




Plan Update Steering Committee #7

Envisioned Future

April 21, 2026


Work To Date

- #1 – July 24 – Plan Update Introduction, Facilitated Discussion/SWOT Analysis
 - #2 – August 21 – Priority assets, best practices, most important resources
 - #3 – September 18 – Issues Identification/Threats/Concerns
 - #4 – October 16 – Capital Improvement Planning
 - #5 – January 15 – Project prioritization process
 - #6 – March 24 – Regulatory framework
- 

What did we do?

- Introduced the plan update and provided context for discussion each meeting
 - What are the mission, vision, values of the Watershed District
 - What are the statutory requirements and powers of the Watershed District
 - How does the Watershed District pick and plan projects?
- Completed a community survey and reported out on results
- Completed a SWOT analysis
- Collected mappable data on priority assets and examples of good partnerships
- Collected mappable data on changes or issues in the landscape
- Identified projects for partnership and coordination
- Discussed and brainstormed ideas and options for:
 - Improving the CIP process
 - Improving project prioritization process
 - Improving rules
 - Improving procedures and building partnerships
- Got to know each other, built connections

How are we using this input for Plan Update?

1. Report on SWOT and summarize these meeting
 2. Map key assets in Plan
 3. Revise the Project Prioritization Process
 - Utilize the asset mapping in the process
 - Consult City's CIP plans
 - Weight partnerships more heavily
 4. Revise processes and procedures related to permit review
 5. Update rules, using input from this group
 6. Develop Goals, Strategies, and Action Items
- 

Mission, Vision, Values

MISSION

- To protect, manage, and enhance/restore natural resources for ecosystem health and the benefit of all through collaboration for a sustainable future within a resilient watershed.

VISION

- An ecologically rich landscape with a restored hydrologic cycle where people and nature exist in balance.

CORE VALUES

- **SUSTAINABILITY:** The District will work to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **CONNECTION:** The District will facilitate connections between people and the natural world.
- **COLLABORATION:** The District will expand its reach through strategic partnerships and community engagement.
- **INTEGRITY:** The District will employ its mission with efficiency, equitability, and transparency.
- **SCIENCE-BASED:** The District will use an adaptable, science-based approach to projects and programs.
- **EFFICIENCY:** The District will use its resources in an efficient and responsible manner.
- **INNOVATION:** The District will use sound science, adapt when needed, and explore new approaches.
- **EQUITY:** The District will approach watershed management in an equitable way.

Goals and Strategies

1. Sustainable groundwater resources

- a. Establish groundwater well monitoring program to monitor groundwater levels
- b. Facilitate coordination between state agencies and municipalities for the purpose of groundwater conservation
- c. Educate municipalities on emerging pollutants
- d. Expand grant program to offer private well testing; nitrate watch (testing strips)
- e. Develop threshold baseline flows for streams (IBI index low due to low flow)

2. Ecologically healthy waters

- a. Promote healthy upland and aquatic native plant communities
- b. Manage AIS to support healthy aquatic ecosystems
- c. Incentivize BMPs for shoreland health
- d. Increase bluff protection (slope stability rule)
- e. Evaluate Rule C (sedimentation) and refine as necessary
- f. Rule J (stormwater runoff)
- g. Incorporate habitat restoration into all CIPs
- h. Expand the types of pollutants considered in rule establishment

Goals and Strategies

3. **Holistic lake management**
 - a. Develop holistic plans for all lakes
 - b. Implement the plans
4. **Improved infiltration and evapotranspiration**
 - a. Work with cities to improve tree protection ordinances
 - b. Require phased grading plans for construction sites (new rule)
 - c. Require soil management plan for all development (new rule)
 - d. Develop soil specifications (soil composition)
 - e. Increase the tree cover
 - f. Reduce impervious surface
5. **Preserved remaining ecologically sensitive land and habitats**
 - a. Inventory ecologically sensitive land (compile data about undeveloped land)
 - b. Develop program for easement or fee-title acquisition
 - c. Develop prioritization metric for undeveloped land
6. **Restored and protected natural habitats and stream baseflow**
7. **Enriched connection between natural resources and people**
 - a. Evaluate and plan for Spring Road Conservation Project and new WD offices and programs, including options for green infrastructure
 - b. Complete a co-benefits analysis on permitted projects


Goals and Strategies

8. **A well-run organization focused on collaboration and efficient use of resources**
 - a. Align capital projects and development projects to enhance others' plans and projects
 - b. Identify value added "opportunistic" partnerships
 - c. Build awareness about future projects and planning efforts, including land use plan and water resources plan updates
 - d. Identify partners and supporters for capital project and development projects
 - e. Develop staff relationships with land use planning divisions in municipalities

9. **Climate resiliency within the watershed**
 - a. Develop baseline resources for impact of climate change on district; develop models and keep them up to date
 - b. Broaden data collection and knowledge of pollutants of concern (PFAS, mercury, nitrogen, plastics)
 - c. Manage floodplain management model
 - d. Increase flood storage
 - e. Promote and incentivize "above and beyond" practices and green infrastructure
 - f. Learn about tax incentive for green infrastructure

Goals and Strategies

10. Strong Partnerships and Coordination with City Stakeholders

- a. Annual connection with city regulatory team (community development, water resources, and natural resources)
 - b. Operationalize early coordination with city staff (procedure or policy document) (ie DRC meeting attendance, concept plan review attendance)
 - c. Explore overlay districts to cover costs of maintenance and management over time (special tax district)
 - d. Work together with cities to enforce BMP maintenance
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy, semi-transparent shapes in shades of light blue, grey, and light orange, creating a soft, abstract landscape effect.

Goals and Strategies

11. Ecological solutions that are customer focused

- a. Set criteria for deviations from rules. Assessing project based on “progressive” , upstream benefits.
- b. Applicant initiated solutions for how they will meet the rules or do “better”
- c. Implement more administrative approvals
- d. Incorporate life cycle costs in solution development
- e. Develop a technical assistance program or pre-application meeting for applicants up front
- f. Consider establishment of a development fee be established as a carve out/increase to stormwater management fee (or in addition)?
- g. Update rules to coordinate with city rules and evaluate points of similarity and difference
- h. Create a document tabular format and compare and contrast with city rules with watershed district rules.
- i. Evaluate fee in lieu of meeting rules for WD projects?
- j. Evaluate the coordination of rules review, financial assurances, and maintenance agreements through an MOU or a third party agreement
- k. Update options for applicants to meet rules, on site, off site or fee in lieu

Next Steps/Look Ahead

Steering Committee Schedule (topics are tentative)

#1 – July 24 – Plan Update Introduction, Facilitated Discussion/SWOT Analysis

#2 – August 21 – Priority assets, best practices, most important resources

#3 – September 18 – Issues Identification/Threats/Concerns

#4 – October 16 – Capital Improvement Planning

#5 – January 15 – Project prioritization process

#6 – March 24 – Regulatory framework

7 – April 21 – Envisioned Future

8 – May 19 – Forging Partnerships/Final Meeting



Steering Committee hub: rpbcwd.org/plan-steering-committee