

STRATEGIC PLAN
Water Resources Agency, Institute for Public Administration
College of Human Services, Education & Public Policy, University of Delaware
January 28, 2004

Mission Statement

The mission of the Water Resources Agency (WRA) at the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) is to provide regional water resources planning and watershed policy assistance to state and local governments in Delaware and the Delaware River Basin through the service, education, and research role at the University. WRA is the water policy, planning, and management arm of IPA.

Staff

The Water Resources Agency employs the following staff at the University of Delaware to carry out its service, education, and research mission:

Faculty/staff:

Bernard L. Dworsky	Senior Advisor
Ruth C. Fallis	Administrative Assistant
Andrew R. Homsey	Geospatial Information Scientist
Gerald J. Kauffman, PE	Director of Watershed Policy
Nicole M. Minni	GIS and Graphic Specialist
Vern C. Svatos	GIS Services Manager
Martin W. Wollaston	Senior Planner/Planning Group Manager

Student Research Assistants:

Kathleen L. Cormier	Undergraduate Research Assistant
Amy Dolan	Graduate Research Assistant
Kristen Sentoff	Undergraduate Research Assistant
Kevin J. Vonck	Senior Graduate Research Assistant
Judith E. Walker	Undergraduate Research Assistant
Marlyse Williams	Undergraduate Research Assistant
Sara Wozniak	Graduate Research Assistant

Funding

WRA receives funding from the following federal, state, and local entities:

Annual FY05 Funding Request:

State of Delaware
New Castle County
City of Newark
City of Wilmington

Grants:

Delaware DNREC, Division of Water Resources
Delaware Water Resources Center
University of Delaware
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. National Park Service

Strategic Goal # 1 - Sharpen the Focus of Public Service

Sharpen the focus of public service and continue to provide policy assistance regarding water issues to the State of Delaware, New Castle County, and the Cities of Newark and Wilmington.

Significance

The Water Resources Agency receives funding from governments to provide water resources service and assistance to the public and the taxpayers. This public service role of IPA/WRA is significant to CHEP, the home of the public policy school at the land grant institution of the University of Delaware.

Challenges

Continue the funding and staffing level needed to provide water resources service to the state government, New Castle County, and the Cities of Newark and Wilmington while perhaps expanding service downstate to governments in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Progress - Years 1 and 2

- a. Continue to serve the State of Delaware with water resources and watershed planning:
 - Delaware Water Supply Coordinating Council - Serve as State Water Coordinator/Advisor to WSCC as per state law. Commence Southern New Castle County Water Supply/Demand Analysis.
 - Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership - Serve as Delaware's local coordinator in effort with PA.
 - Source Water Protection Program - Develop Recharge BMP manual for Phase III of SWAPP.
 - Town Comprehensive Planning - Develop plans as per Livable Delaware effort for towns such as Cheswold, Wyoming, Elsmere, Townsend, others.
- b. Continue to serve New Castle County government in the following capacity:
 - Water Resource Protection Area - Serve on the RPATAC as appointed by the NCC CEO.
 - Land Development and Planning - Review subdivision/development plans for H2O impacts.
 - White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River - serve as local coordinator on W & S watershed committee
 - Southern New Castle County Wastewater Plan - provide technical assistance/implement sewer plan.
- c. Continue to serve the City of Newark with water supply planning assistance:
 - Water Supply Projects - Newark Reservoir and South Wellfield Iron Treatment plant
 - Water Rate Survey
 - Stormwater Outfall GIS Mapping
- d. Continue to serve the City of Wilmington with water resources technical assistance
 - Combined Sewer Overflow
 - Riverfront development revitalization
 - Brandywine/Hoopes Reservoir/Red Clay Operating Plan

Progress - Year 3 to Year 5

- a. Expand the role of the WRA to provide water resources policy assistance to a greater number of local governments in Kent and Sussex Counties.
- b. Hire a new staff member to assist with the water resources mission.
- c. Merge the offices of the WRA and IPA in the same building.

Strategic Goal #2 - Enhance the Quality of Education Programs

Enhance the quality of the educational role of the Water Resources Agency at the University by offering additional courses, seminars, forums, and programs with a water policy focus and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students with funded fellowships in the MPA and MA program.

Significance

The goal to provide more water resources education opportunities at the University is significant to CHEP as the home of the education school on campus. Education is a basic role of the University of Delaware.

Challenge

The challenge is to increase water resources education opportunities on-campus by coordinating with faculty in colleges and departments that have a water resources focus, yet not step into redundancy or turf issues.

Progress - Years 1 and 2

- a. Continue to teach UAPP 611-011 (Regional Watershed Management) in the School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy during the fall semester.
- b. Continue to teach UAPP 667-010 (GIS and Public Policy) in the School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy during the spring and fall semesters for the MPA mid-career program.
- c. Continue to teach CIEG 440-010 (Water Resources Engineering) in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering during the fall semester.
- d. Teach CIEG 466 (Watershed Engineering) Planning and Design, during the spring semester.
- e. Serve as invited lecturers for courses in the public policy, geography, agriculture, marine studies, and engineering schools.
- f. Continue to offer an annual water policy forum in cooperation with the Delaware DNREC, the Delaware Water Resources Center, and the Delaware Geological Survey in the fall semester.
- g. Assist teachers in developing a GIS education module for K–12 classrooms.
- h. Continue to offer funded water resources fellowships to two to four graduate students in the MPA or MA program and fund two undergraduate research assistants.
- i. Serve as public speakers at on- and off-campus water resources seminars, forums, and meetings.
- j. Serve on the committees or as readers of student analytical papers, theses, and dissertations.

Progress - Year 3 to Year 5

- a. Develop and teach two or three more courses to serve with the existing watershed course as a water resources policy focus or specialization in the MPA/MA program in the School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy and/or in the College of Engineering.
- b. Collaborate with other colleges and departments at UD to form an interdisciplinary water resources major (or minor) at the undergraduate level.
- c. Develop a Capstone course in water resources for seniors to expand the undergraduate education role.

- d. Develop a Pathways course in water resources offered to freshmen.
- e. Develop a course in GIS and Watershed Modeling.

Strategic Goal #3 - Strengthen Programs of Research

Strengthen programs of research by seeking new opportunities to collaborate with University faculty, staff, and students to conduct and publish funded water resources technical and policy research.

Significance

Research, the search and quest for new knowledge, is a central tenet in the mission of CHEP at the University of Delaware.

Challenge

The challenge will be to plan sufficient time to search for funding and carry out water-related research while maintaining a focus on the public service and education role of the WRA.

Progress - Years 1 and 2

Continue to develop the University of Delaware experimental watershed as an on-campus education and research laboratory through grants from the Delaware Water Resources Center, governments, and foundations.

- a. Continue to seek opportunities to publish and present peer-reviewed research on topics such as water policy, watershed management, water rates, public-private water management, and other water resources topics.
- b. Continue to maintain a central repository of GIS data for use by CHEP, IPA, and university-wide staff and faculty.
- c. Continue to collaborate with faculty and staff with other colleges and departments to conduct water resources research through private and publicly funded grants.
- d. Continue to fund the SUAPP Excellence in Water Resources Scholarship Medal at Honors Day.

Progress - Year 3 to Year 5

- a. UD Experimental Watershed - Seeking funding to staff and expand the Experimental Watershed as part of a nationwide network of research sites at land grant institutions of higher learning.
- b. Seek new opportunities for published water resources research in professional journals and books.
- c. Conduct research into new and better ways to utilize GIS as a water resources and environmental management and planning tool.
- d. Work with UD landscape staff to plant an experimental SMARTYARD native landscape garden in front of the WRA building.
- e. Winter Session in Watershed Management - Participate with peers in New Zealand to develop a Winter Session abroad course in Watershed Management.