

CONNECTICUT SOURCE WATER COLLABORATIVE (CTSWC)

Scope: State

Location: Connecticut

SCOPE:

- » Statewide scope
- » Member-driven scope and initiatives

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- » The CTSWC is an evolution of source water protection efforts in Connecticut. The “Drinking Water Quality Management Plan” (www.dwgmp.com) concept had already worked successfully in Connecticut, as had multiple source water protection workshops.
- » The Collaborative was initiated after studying national (sourcewatercollaborative.org) and regional collaboratives, and following brainstorming discussions between the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH) and EPA Region 1. CTDPH is hosting the CTSWC website.

MEMBERS:

- » The CTSWC is in the forming stage, including determining membership. Initial workshop participants included representatives from state and Federal agencies, non-profits, water systems, Yale University, and others. A list of workshop attendees is available here: http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/pdf/CTSWC_Workshop_attendee_list.pdf

WATER CONCERNS:

Water concerns specific to public water systems, depending on the systems' water source.

STRATEGIES:

- » Education and outreach to individuals, business/industry/agriculture, municipalities, and state and federal agencies
- » Evaluation of land acquisition/protection initiatives and opportunities

Best Practices

When inviting members, reach out in person; give thought to who should be invited and who would actively participate. Having a professional facilitator run the kick off meeting was beneficial to group dynamics. The facilitator was a neutral party that helped a very diverse group to reach a consensus. Be mindful of the time commitment that you are asking from the participants.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

It is anticipated that the membership will soon decide on a model for governing.

Initial Collaborative Leads:

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RESULTS:

The CTSWC held a kickoff workshop in December 2013 with national speakers in attendance. In July 2014, the CTSWC hosted a surface water treatment plant tour and a field tour of forest management practices in a public water supply watershed. The field trip helped to provide context for future actions to be made by the collaborative. The next meeting was held in October 2014 and focused on identifying next steps and developing priorities for the group.