

Water Quality Management Implementation Plan

Objective: Water Quality: Promote efforts to protect and enhance surface and groundwater quality for the benefit of people and the environment.

Lead Partners:

Coordinators: To be determined, with assistance from IRWA

Watershed Associations: Parker River Clean Water Association, Chebacco Lake Watershed Association and Ipswich River Watershed Association, CZM (Adrienne, check with KG))

Town Reps

Supporting Partners:

State: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Institutional/ Research: Plum Island Estuary Long Term Ecological Restoration (PIE LTER)

Municipal Departments of Public Health and Public Works and Staff tasked with MS4 work

MassBays Circuit Rider

This implementation plan will support the following actions identified in the [2019 Action Plan Update](#):

Action 14: Identify Water Quality Problems

Expand water quality assessments to unmonitored areas (DEP unassessed areas) and identify areas where water quality threatens important aquatic ecosystems using existing information and new research as necessary. Consider ecological and public health effects of emerging threats that end up in surface and groundwater systems. Develop a list and proposed timeline to address high priority "Hot Spots" for degraded water quality in both the freshwater and estuarine zone.

Action 29: Address Estuarine Pollution Sources

Work with coastal communities to identify and address high priority pollution sources for the estuarine environment.

Action 33: Upgrade Stormwater Systems

Upgrade stormwater systems that are identified as high priority.

Progress Metrics: # problems identified, # problems fixed, # storm drains fixed

2021-22 PIE-Rivers Partnership Water Quality Management: Timeline, activities, & tasks:

Project Timeline	Lead Partner	2021	2022 Jan-April	2022 May-August	2022 Sept- Dec
Activity 1: Partner engagement, team & material development					
Task 1: Enlist <i>Watershed Associations</i> to be involved in the implementation plan	Coordinators				
Task 2: Summarize state, non-profit and federal partners capable of providing technical and/ or financial assistance	Coordinators				
Task 3: Develop online survey to gather general information about water quality issues in PIE-Rivers Towns; specifically MS4 permit compliance and Health Agents	Coordinators, Watershed Associations, Working Group				
Task 4. Engage DPW directors on status of their MS4 outfall monitoring and health agents on status of their bathing beach monitoring programs.					
Task 5: QA/QC'ed data uploaded to EPA WQX to generate 'How's my Waterway' output	Watershed Associations, MassBays Circuit Rider				
Activity 2: Municipal engagement, prioritization					
Task 1: Disseminate survey to PIE-Rivers municipalities (invite municipal staff and present survey at PIE-Rivers annual meeting).	Coordinators, Town Reps, Municipal staff				
Task 2: Compile survey responses to inform effective Water Quality Management approach	Coordinators, Watershed Associations				
Task 3: Develop prioritization strategy to prioritize important water quality projects in the region aid in water quality work in PIE-Rivers Towns (with How's my Waterway as a visual aid).	Coordinators, Watershed Associations, MassBays Circuit Rider, Working Group				
Activity 3: Assist municipalities & partners with funding proposals and technical assistance					
Task 1: Coordinator maintains funding availability page on PIE-Rivers updated website and provides updates to partners & towns through <i>Watershed Association</i> involvement and <i>Town Reps program</i> .	Coordinators, Watershed Associations, Town Reps				
Task 2: <i>Watershed Associations</i> & Town Reps disseminate information on available funding sources to municipal staff.	Watershed Associations, Town Reps				
Task 3: <i>Watershed Associations</i> engage with State and Federal agencies on projects driven by How's my Waterway or other relevant data	Watershed Associations				
Task 4. Provide feedback to Greenscapes coalition to inform municipal workplans.	Coordinators, Greenscapes				

Task 5: Provide public outreach through flyers, enews, website, social media, campaigns, and/or presentations as appropriate.	Watershed Associations, Town Reps				
Activity 4: Implementation progress, metrics and updates.					
Task 1: Watershed Associations consult with municipalities to assess additional/changed priorities	Watershed Associations, Municipal Staff				
Task 2: Watershed Associations receive updates on funding requests, initiated/completed projects	Watershed Associations, Municipal Staff	Yearly at PIE-Rivers meeting & follow-up			
Task 3: Summarize lessons learned from 2020 implementation plan to inform 2021 plan	Watershed Associations	Yearly, after annual meeting			
Task 4: Summarize accomplishment metrics: # problems identified, # problems fixed, # storm drains fixed	Watershed Associations	As projects are implemented			