



Source Water Protection Program Wisconsin Rural Water Association



Questions and Answers on WRWA's Source Water Protection Plans

What is a Source Water Protection Plan?

A Source Water Protection Plan is a planning document developed by a community, or group of communities, that outlines a strategy on how to protect the participant's drinking water supplies.

What does the plan include?

The plan generally includes an inventory and description of the public water systems in the area, an inventory of potential contaminant sources, strategies for each community to protect their drinking water, information on the source (i.e. aquifers, geology, groundwater movement and depths), a contingency plan for alternate water supplies, and the establishment of a steering committee. Some communities choose to include other information that would be beneficial to the protection of their drinking water.

How is a Source Water Protection Plan different from a Wellhead Protection Plan?

Both plans strive to protect drinking water supplies. Wellhead plans generally only focus efforts within the boundary of one municipality or well, while source water plans look beyond the boundaries to protect drinking water supplies. Source water plans can focus on a smaller area around a municipality or a more expansive regional area that includes several towns and municipalities.

My DNR field representative is asking our community to complete a wellhead protection plan, can this program help and complete this plan?

Yes. Plans completed under the Source Water Protection Program will satisfy all wellhead protection requirements from the DNR for existing and *new* wells.

What is the cost for the Source Water Protection Plan?

The Source Water Protection Program is funded by monies received from the USDA Farm Service Agency and is provided to any community in Wisconsin at *no cost*.

Do I have to be a WRWA member to request or participate in a plan?

No. This is a program that is open to all communities in Wisconsin.

Does my community or other communities have to be under 10,000 in population to participate?

No. This program is open to all communities in Wisconsin.

Do I have to be a public water system to request a plan in my area?

No. While the plan will include any public water systems in the area who choose to participate, request for a plan can come from any entity, including a town, regional plan commission, citizens group, county agency or others.