



**Rockland County  
Water Quality Strategy**

**Rockland County Water Quality Strategy Committee  
Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District  
23 New Hempstead Road  
New City, New York 10956  
914-638-5084**

**Revised January 1993**

**Rockland County Water Quality Committee**  
**WATER QUALITY STRATEGY**  
**JANUARY 1993**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District - lead agency  
June Groll, Chair and Gary Bochart

Spring Valley Water Company - Richard Henning, Vice Chair

Cornell Cooperative Extension - Jo Ellen Saumier, Secretary and Mary Anderson

Rockland County Planning Department - Arlene Miller, Treasurer

Village of Suffern - Donald Grosso

Rockland County Conservation Association - Betty Hedges

Town of Stony Point - Peter Anderson

Landscape Architect - Robert Torgersen

Rockland County Department of Health - Judi Korchak

Village of Nyack - Jeanne Nelson

West Branch Conservation Association - Martus Granirer

Town of Orangetown - Bert Von Wurmb

Urban Specialist - John Komar

Rockland County Environmental Management Council - Diane Gruskin

Soil Conservation Service - Larry Larsen

NYSDEC, Division of Water - Pat Ferracane

NYSDOS, Division of Coastal Resources, Gary Haight

NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee - James McCardell

**REPORTING**

The Rockland County Water Quality Committee is an *ad hoc* committee of organizations, municipalities and individuals who are interested in improving and protecting the quality of surface water and groundwater in Rockland County. The committee will regularly update the County Executive on the committee's progress.

## OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1: Create a communications network of organizations interested in water quality .**

WORK TASKS	WHO	WHEN
Water Quality Strategy: prepare initial strategy and review annually	Committee	August 1992, '93, '94
Information exchange: update members on participating organizations' activities	Committee	Regular committee meetings
Prepare annual report on committee projects, programs, grants, progress	Officers	July 1993, '94, '95
Coordinate committee meetings and activities	Officers	On-going
Review water quality topics, model ordinances, existing and potential sediment and erosion problems	Committee	Regular committee Meetings
Establish water quality information clearinghouse	Committee/ SWCD	Ongoing
Recruit new Strategy Committee members	Committee/ Officers	As recognized

**Objective 2: Assess existing and potential nonpoint source pollution problems and refer for action**

WORK TASKS	WHO	WHEN
Review Priority Water Documentation Problem list when revised; acquire new or updated information on listed bodies of water	Committee	Annually
Seek new water bodies for inclusion, discuss and refer to NYSDEC for addition to list; water bodies to be considered - aquifers, streams, wetlands, watersheds; monitoring/sampling, research projects, water testing, surveys, video documentation, bacteria studies, ground-water movement and well testing will be used to assess	Documentation Committee	Annually
Use list and new documentation as focus when applying for grants and funding	Budget Committee	Annually

**Objective 3: Increase municipal officials', builders', developers', homeowners' and the general public's awareness of potential water quality problems caused by stormwater and sediment runoff and the lack of erosion control measures and increase their knowledge of best management practices.**

WORK TASKS	WHO	WHEN
Share water quality strategy with the County Executive, County Legislature, and other appropriate officials	Committee /Officers	Annually
Develop a thorough knowledge of best mangement practices through in-house training by way of technical education courses related to stormwater soil and erosion sediment control	Entire Committee	April through September 1993
Develop educational programs for elected and appointed municipal and county officials on how ordinances can control erosion, best management practices (BMP) for maintaining water quality, the importance of clean water and appropriate topics	Education & Technical Committees	October 1993 through September 1995
Create educational seminars for builders, developers, engineers and others involved in construction on: construction activities that lead to a deterioration of local water quality; the financial burden non-point source pollution places on their present and future projects, the municipalities/county and the taxpayers of Rockland; best mangement practices to prevent non-point source pollution; and understanding the erosion control ordinances passed by the municipalities and/or county.	Education & Technical Committees	November 1993 through September 1995
Assist municipalities and/or county officials develop local laws for stormwater management and how to implement the adopted ordinances through a Memorandum of Understanding, site plan reviews and installed BMP's	Technical Committee	April 1994 through March 1995
Prepare news releases and/or work with media on features on water quality and the list in order to reach homowners and the general public	Media Subcommittee	As needed 1992, '93, '94
Develop brochures on the committee, best management practices, and other needed topics	Visual Aids Subcommittee	As needed 1992, '93, '94
Communicate with non-member organization, such as the Greenway Council and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, to share programs and information	Officers or others as appropriate	As needed or at least annually
Assist the County Solid Waste Management Office, with respect to water quality, as it implements the Solid Waste Management plan for the county.	Technical Committee	1992, '93, '94
Publicize the Water Quality Annual Report by developing a mailing list of interested individuals and organizations	Publicity Committee	September 1993. '94, '95

## PRIORITY WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

To begin, the Committee accepted the 1991 Priority Water Problems List compiled by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Water.

WATER BODY	SEGMENT ID	IMPAIRED	PRECLUDED	STRESSED	THREATENED
Lake Lucille	937	X			
Rockland Lake	95	X			
Stony Point Reservoir	891	X			
Lake Bullowa	44-003				X
Lake DeForest	44-005				X
Lake Tappan	44-006				X
Lake Tiorati Brook (Cedar Pond Brook)	44-001				X
Mahwah River	44-009				X
Nauraushaun Brook	44-008				X
Sparkill Creek	44-010			X	
Swartout Lake	44-004			X	
West Branch Hackensack	44-007			X	X
Hudson River	82	X			

The Committee is interested in investigating the status of the following:

Ramapo River (Rockland portion not listed in the priority list)

An unnamed tributary of the Mahwah River

Buttermilk Falls

## MISSION AND GOALS

The Rockland County Water Quality Strategy Committee was formed to create a communications network for organizations interested in water quality.

The goals of the committee are to:

- Identify existing and potential nonpoint source problems, and formulate the procedure for addressing the problems;
- Inform government officials, business representatives, and residents of the impact of activities which result in nonpoint source pollution and best management practices that prevent nonpoint source pollution through educational programs.
- Enhance the communication between regulatory and elected/appointed officials in order to properly manage the potential nonpoint sources. Through the education and information exchange with all the various interest groups within the county, it is the committee's view that a proactive approach in addressing nonpoint source pollution is much more cost effective than the "after-the-fact" approach. This view then becomes the mission, which is to eliminate, or mitigate, nonpoint source pollution before it occurs. This can only happen by building cooperation among all the affected parties.

## FUNCTIONS

The functions of the committee are to:

1. Create a forum where organizations, municipalities, and individuals interested in water quality can meet to share knowledge, resources, expertise, challenges and opportunities related to improving the quality of water and reducing nonpoint source pollution in Rockland County.
2. Build a working coalition dedicated to changing the behaviors that result in nonpoint source and other forms of water pollution. The committee will develop a team approach to reduce nonpoint source pollution of county bodies of water, especially those on NYSDEC Priority Water Problem List, and advocate for the adoption of municipal ordinances designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution.
3. Develop and carry out a plan of action to reduce nonpoint source and other forms of water pollution that include identifying gaps and overlaps in programs, activities, and regulations; coordinating and implementing educational programs and activities; integrating new programs, activities and regulations within the work of the committee; identifying bodies of water for addition to the Priority Water Problem List; and publicizing the activities and results.
4. Advise municipalities on water quality problems related to nonpoint source pollution and make them aware of best management practices that mitigate those problems.

