

### **Five-Year Strategic Plan – A Robust Network**

Vision – The regional source water protection program dedicated to protecting our region’s rivers so as to provide safe and reliable drinking water for public health, public safety, and economic development.

Mission – Provide public drinking water facilities with real-time water quality data in our major rivers that serve as source water to assist in recognizing contamination events and to notify member water systems in order to advance efforts in protecting public health and safety, and promote regional environmental accountability.

**Goal 1 – A sustainable funding base for RAIN, where at least 80% of RAIN’s membership contributes to that base.** (Membership denotes surface water systems that will gain from and participate in an Upper Ohio River Basin EWS.)

Objective A – Support from 80% of membership with rate based on water production or size of budget.

Strategies:

- From January 2017- January 2018 arrange and attend authority board meetings and/or county Council meetings with water suppliers and/or local officials throughout the Basin. These sessions will demonstrate financial imperative of RAIN’s EWS as a means of insurance to regional water suppliers. Particularly highlighting the value of RAIN’s collection of trending data, that would indicate a potential catastrophic incident to the source of drinking water for 2.5 million consumers in the Basin.

Objective B – At least 25 meetings held in the first year with water systems/local officials. Prioritizing those on the susceptibility list.

Objective C – Five distinct means of fundraising to support the capital requirements of a robust early warning system identified and implemented.

Strategies

- RAIN Membership Annual Contribution Fund
- Contributions/Support of EPA/PA DEP/ WV DHHR
- Regional Foundation/ Philanthropic Support
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Individual Contributions

\* This funding will need to prioritize the initial capital investment required for monitoring and reporting equipment.

## **Goal 2 – A fully functioning early warning spill detection system in the Upper Ohio River Basin.**

Objective A – In partnership with surface water systems (via their locations and populations served) at least 15 additional monitoring sites installed.

Strategies:

- Coordinate with Southwest DEP's source water protection liaison to generate a susceptibility list of water systems.
- Include water systems and other levels of government and relevant health departments in the process.
- Susceptibility list will be influenced by various factors, including but not limited to, location in basin, and an analysis of regional potential sources of contamination/concern to intake.
- Much of this information can already be gained from RAIN's previous participation in PA DEP's SWPTAP program.
- Favorable consideration to be given to system's ability to host and maintain equipment in coordination with RAIN.

Objective B – In partnership with surface water systems effectively notifying downstream users of possible contamination issues.

Strategies:

- Conduct mock drills annually.
- Develop and finalize a regional calling tree, emphasizing a two-call system
- Create an updated contact sheet
- Consider including contact/reporting form on RAIN website

## **Goal 3: RAIN utilizes its unique regional perspective as an organization with foundational support of drinking water suppliers to lead, coordinate, or participate in educational activities focused upon source water protection with all levels of learners.**

Objective A – Coordination with schools, universities, water suppliers, non-profits, government agencies and elected officials, industrial and agricultural actors to develop a source water protection curriculum that prioritizes mitigating impact to source water. Emphasizing the importance of engaging educational material that is suited for all levels of learners.

Strategies:

- Continue engaging and meeting with all levels of partners to discuss shared visions of source water protection and to discuss particular educational activities
- Continue to host annual source water protection conference each fall that brings together all levels of partners

- Engage all levels of actors in the development of and application of source water protection plans

**Goal 4: RAIN facilitates/hosts comprehensive, regional water quality data resource to support water quality management.**

Strategies:

- Develop and communicate with organizations dedicated to monitoring and protecting regional water quality.
- Utilize existing RAIN website and interactive map to include overlays of relevant water quality data.
- Sustain a platform for data sharing