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Management  
Division

Department of  
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Conservation

# Source Water Protection: Municipal Roles and Responsibilities

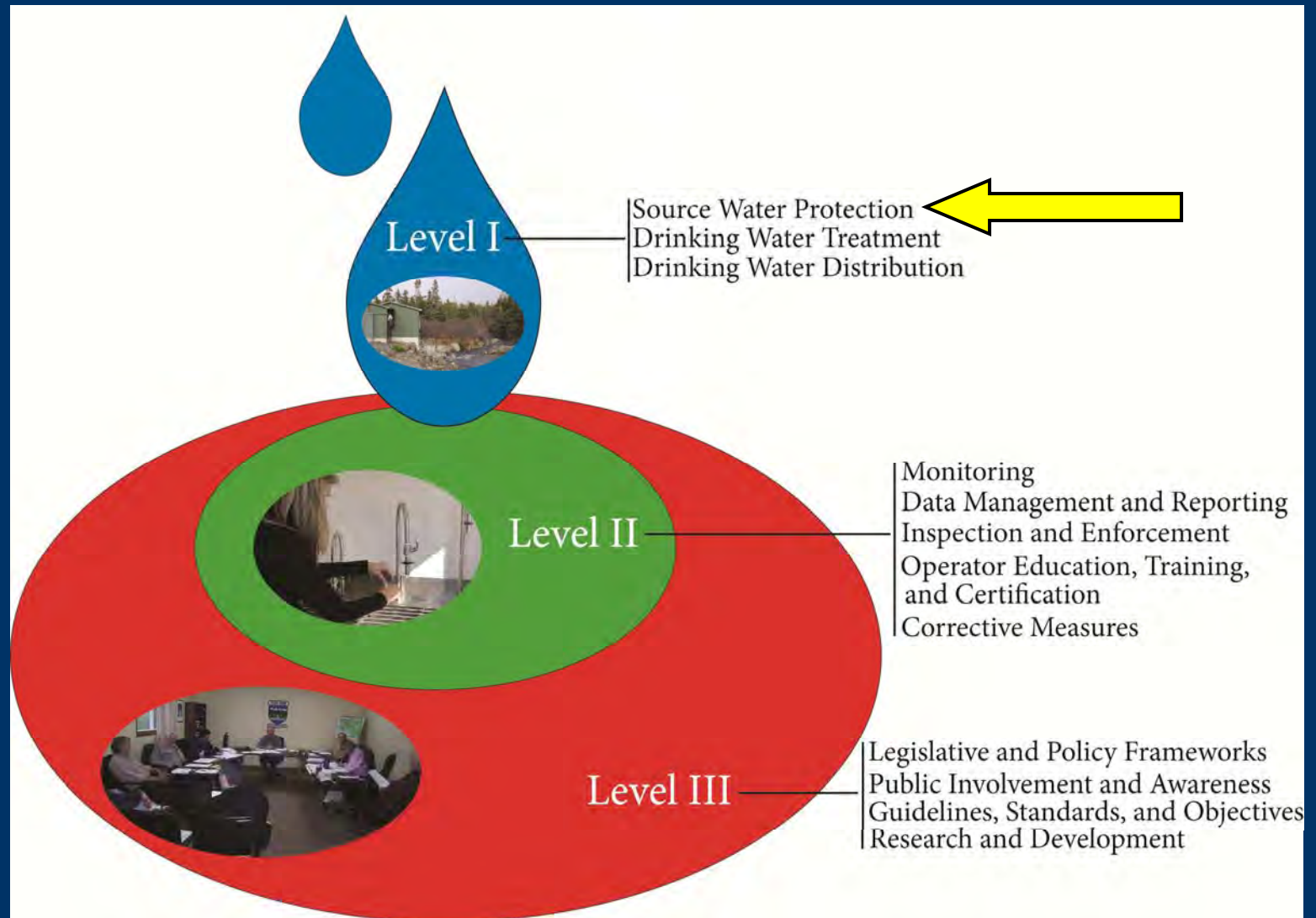
## Clean and Safe Drinking Water Workshop 2013

Christa Ramsay  
Water Resources Management Division,  
Surface Water Section

# Overview

- Background info
  - MBSAP, SWP, Watershed
- Application for Protection
  - Designation, resources
- Permitting
- Monitoring
- Committees/Plans
- Challenges
- Examples

# Multi Barrier Strategic Action Plan



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# What is Source Water Protection?

“The legislated protection of your communities source watershed area!”

- Application / Designation
- Permitting
- Monitoring
- Surveillance
- Committees/Plans

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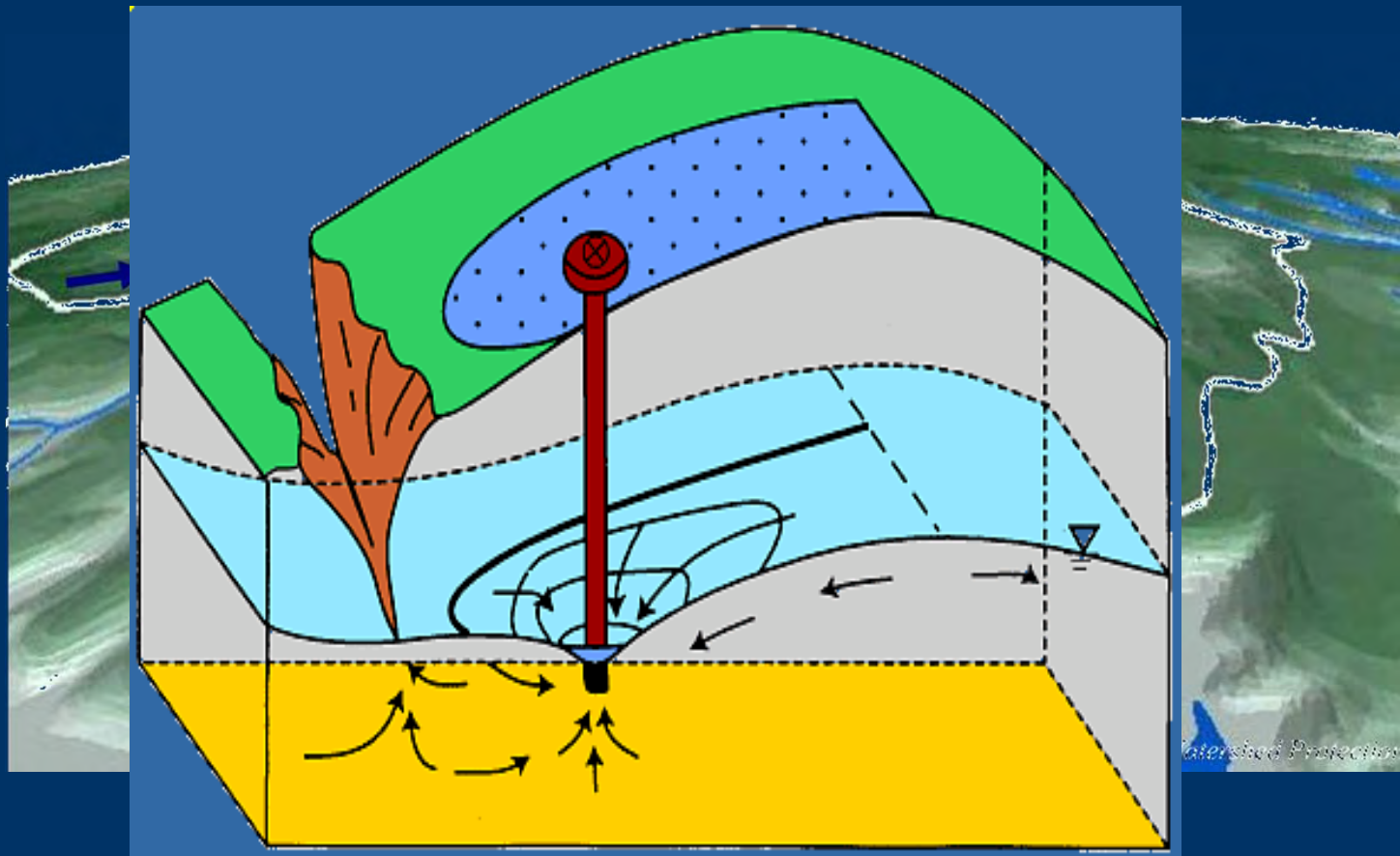
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Hawkes Bay, Torrent River

# What is a Watershed?

Area of land where all rain/snow that falls on it will drain towards a common place  
A capture zone is a land area around a well that contributes water to the well



# Application for Protection

## *Water Resources Act*

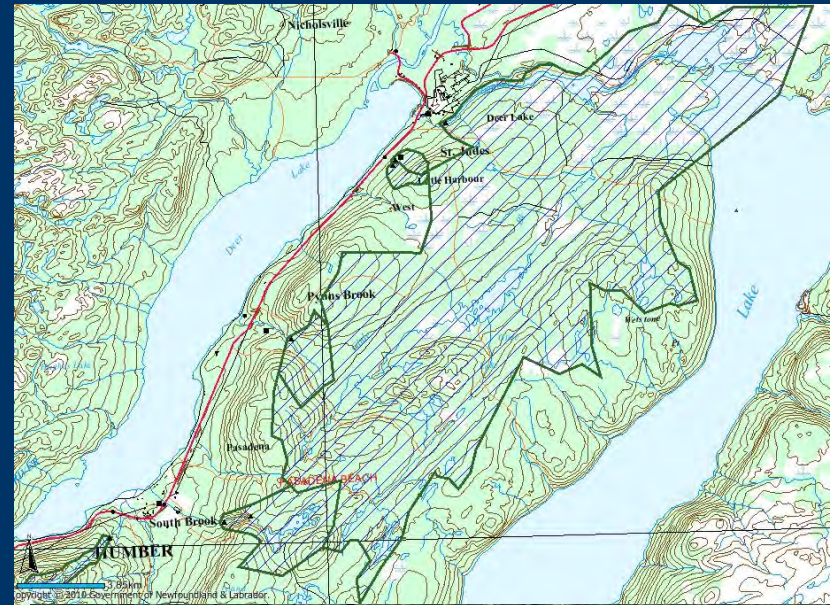
- Municipalities are responsible to apply for protection under Section 39 of the WRA

<http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/waterres/regulations/appforms/index.html>

- Water Supply & Community info
- Intake location
- Drainage basin
- Water quality
- Land/water use

# Source Water Protection

## Designation process



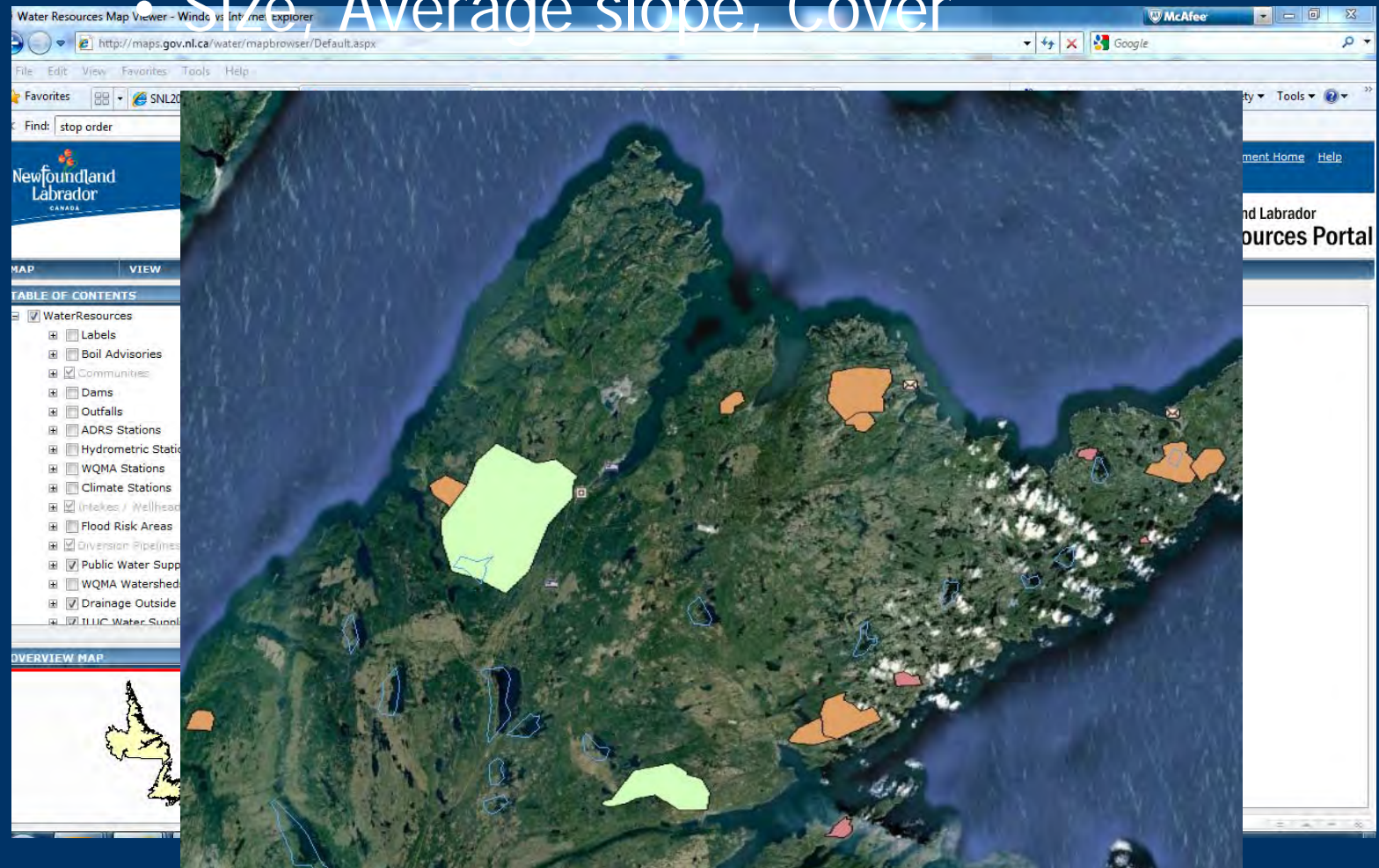
Notify your  
Residents

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# Resources

- Water Quality Classification
- Size, Average slope, Cover



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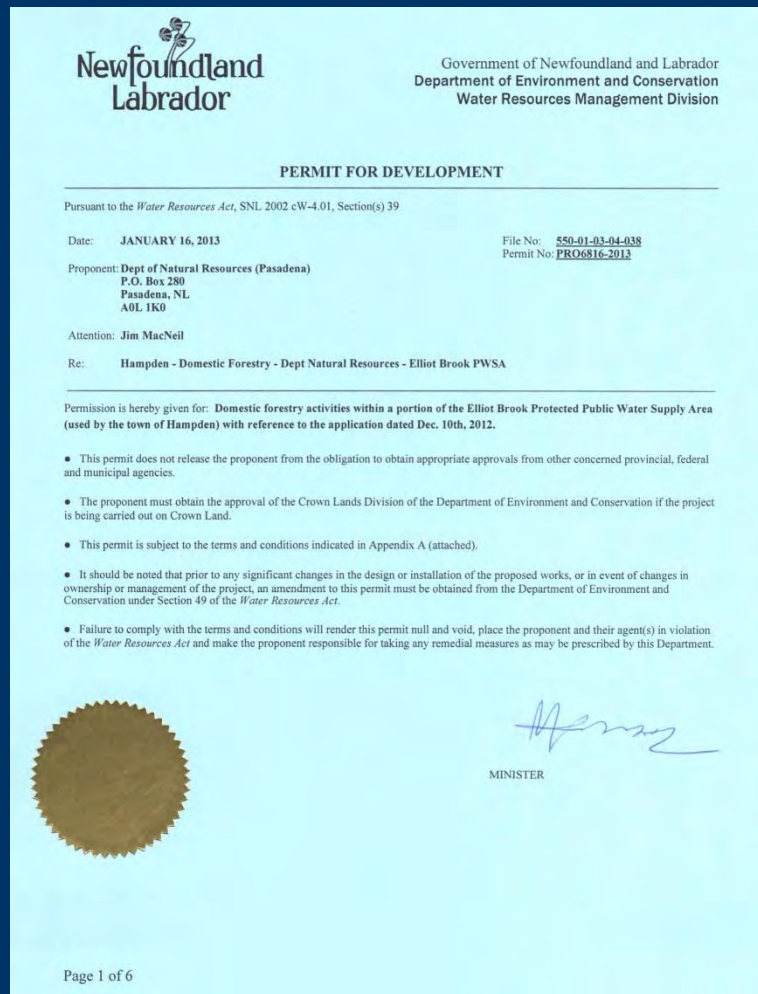
# Permitting

- Application received by WRMD
- 15 day review & comment period
- Conflict resolution
- Permit PRO1234 copied to town



<i>Water Body</i>	<i>Minimum Buffer (m)</i>
Intake pond	150
River Intake	150 /1 km up/ 100m down
Main river channel	75
Major tributaries	50
Other	30

# Permitting



Newfoundland  
Labrador

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
Water Resources Management Division

PERMIT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Pursuant to the *Water Resources Act*, SNL 2002 cW-4.01, Section(s) 39

Date: JANUARY 16, 2013 File No: 550-01-03-04-038  
Permit No: PRO6816-2013

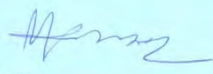

Proponent: Dept of Natural Resources (Pasadena)  
P.O. Box 280  
Pasadena, NL  
A0L 1K0

Attention: Jim MacNeil

Re: Hampden - Domestic Forestry - Dept Natural Resources - Elliot Brook PWSA

Permission is hereby given for: Domestic forestry activities within a portion of the Elliot Brook Protected Public Water Supply Area (used by the town of Hampden) with reference to the application dated Dec. 10th, 2012.

- This permit does not release the proponent from the obligation to obtain appropriate approvals from other concerned provincial, federal and municipal agencies.
- The proponent must obtain the approval of the Crown Lands Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation if the project is being carried out on Crown Land.
- This permit is subject to the terms and conditions indicated in Appendix A (attached).
- It should be noted that prior to any significant changes in the design or installation of the proposed works, or in event of changes in ownership or management of the project, an amendment to this permit must be obtained from the Department of Environment and Conservation under Section 49 of the *Water Resources Act*.
- Failure to comply with the terms and conditions will render this permit null and void, place the proponent and their agent(s) in violation of the *Water Resources Act* and make the proponent responsible for taking any remedial measures as may be prescribed by this Department.



MINISTER

Page 1 of 6

“Officials of the Department and the appropriate **Municipal Authority, Operator, or Watershed Management Committee** may visit the site to ensure compliance with this Permit.”

“Liaison is to be maintained with the appropriate **Municipal Authority** and Environmental Scientist. If there are any specific problems (ie sedimentation, fuel spill, other potential water quality impairment), the appropriate Town Manager/Clerk, Mayor,... must be notified...”

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# Monitoring

## Regular Surveillance

Monthly **reports**/checks for such things as:

- Signage
- Anything irregular or inappropriate
- Water Levels
- New construction
- Erosion/sedimentation
- Trail degradation





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# Monitoring

## Surveillance of Permitted Activities

- Permit PRO1234
  - Be familiar with the permit conditions
- Call ahead, **Safety First!**
  - Fuel Storage
  - Buffers
  - Oil spill kits
  - Refuse removal
  - All personnel aware of PWSA
  - Vehicles in good working order
  - Sediment Control
  - Waste Disposal
  - Water Monitoring

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Conservation

# Monitoring

## Violations?

- Call Regional Environmental Scientist
  - Paul James = Central NL
  - Floyd Barnes = Eastern NL
  - Christa Ramsay = Labrador & Western NL
- Stop Orders can be issued
- Permits can be revoked
- Investigations can be requested
- Charges under the *WRA*

# Watershed Management Planning Committees

## Possible members

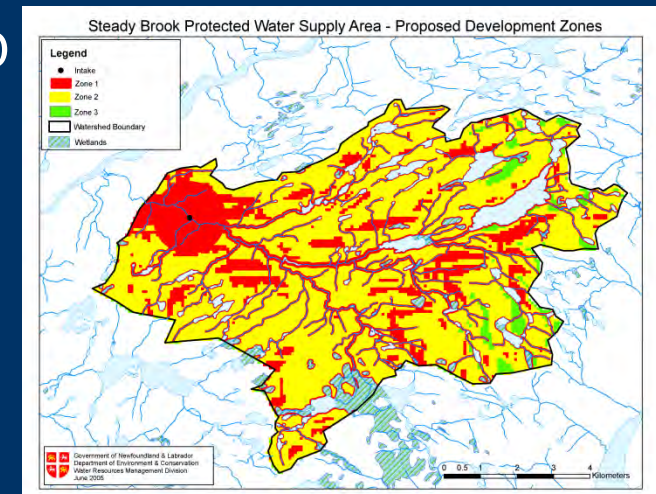
- Municipality Chair
  - citizen reps
  - Business /industry reps
  - Gov't reps – WRMD, DNR, DEC
  - NGOs/environmental group reps
- TOR, Plan development





# Watershed Management Plans

- Municipal guide to the development of a WMP
- Components of Plan
  - Watershed characterization
  - Contaminants & risk assessment
  - Management Plan – GOS
    - Education & Stewardship
    - Monitoring & reporting
    - Implementation
  - Mapping



# Challenges

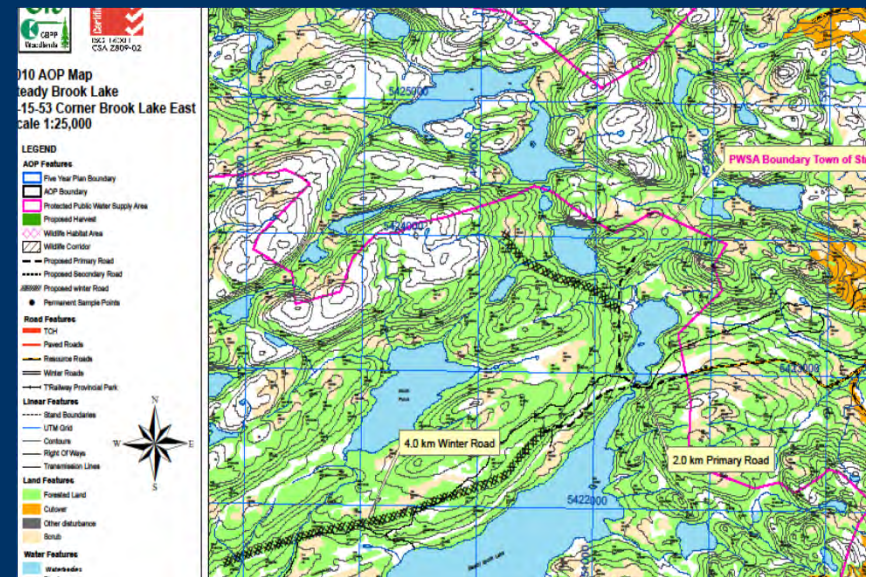
- Fragmentation of management
  - Coordination with other Divisions, Dept's, municipalities, stakeholders, etc.
- Capacity
  - **Volunteer councils** / Provincial capacity
- Lack of public awareness & confidence
- Boundary vs. reality
- **"WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!"**

# Examples

- Agricultural pasture land for sheep in the McIvers PWSA
  - Intake moved upstream of the pasture
- Cabin development in the Cox's Cove PWSA
  - Cabin lot owners given lots in other areas
- Turbidity event due to mineral exploration in Lourdes PPWSA
  - Exploration company rehabilitates affected area
- Treated utility poles used in Steady Brook PWSA
  - Power company agrees to move treated poles outside of required buffer zones or replace with untreated poles

Steady Brook opposed to commercial forest harvesting

- Watershed management plan developed
- Under Plan, harvesting allowed with special winter road stipulations



# Examples

- Towns of Botwood and Peterview opposed to commercial forest harvesting in Peter's River PPWSA
  - Negotiated wider buffer zones in sensitive areas to be incorporated into permit
- Proponent cleared land right to water's edge adjacent to town of Loon Bay water supply intake, with plans to build a cabin
  - Court action brought about a stop to the development and the site re-vegetated
- Ongoing problem with fishing in Birchy Bay PWSA
  - 3 individuals charged and convictions for violating the *Water Resources Act*
- Snowmobiling in Bird Cove PWSA over frozen intake pond
  - Brochure distributed with Snowmobiling licenses
  - Forestry Officers ticket domestic cutters



# Thank you!



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