

Guiding Values – Recommended Update

12-4-12

Seven guiding values for our watershed management plan were approved by the Watershed Council at their May 9, 2012 meeting. On September 20, 2012, the Ag/Econ Subcommittee recommended adding an additional value as indicated with underline below.

1. **Our watershed management plan will be pragmatic and “actionable.”** While striving toward the larger watershed goals, our watershed management plan shall nonetheless have a highly pragmatic and financially realistic orientation. Our work will build upon and leverage work already done. Our recommendations shall be feasible so that we can celebrate success. We will use common sense, creatively leverage existing resources and data, look for low-hanging fruit, and consider how to get the most “bang for the buck.”
2. **Our watershed management plan will be accessible to the general public.** We will strive to produce a watershed management plan, and other associated written materials, in a manner that conveys technical information in an interesting and easy to understand format so that it is readily accessible to members of the general public.
3. **Our watershed management plan will be unique.** Our watershed management strategies shall acknowledge the unique circumstances of our particular watershed. We will not mimic language or strategies that do not make sense here. We will encourage innovative ideas and solutions.
4. **Our watershed management plan will acknowledge the triple bottom line. A healthy and sustainable watershed requires not only vibrant and well-functioning ecological systems, but also vibrant and well-functioning social and economic systems. Our watershed plan will include humans and their social and economic needs as part of an integrated and balanced approach to watershed management.**
5. **Our watershed management plan will address prevention.** Damaged habitats need restoration, but equally important is prevention of further damage. This applies not only to habitats, but also to water supply, water quality, and flood management. We will give due attention to long-term, proactive strategies, such as land use planning policies, that may be more difficult to implement in the short-term, but have the potential for significantly greater and longer-lasting benefit.
6. **Our watershed management plan will address policy.** While the watershed management plan in itself is not a regulatory document, it our intention to nonetheless outline, for the benefit of regulators, the specific manner in which regulations are hindering or could benefit the watershed.
7. **Our watershed management plan will be technically strong.** We hold high expectations for the technical understanding that underlies our watershed management plan. Whether in the area of science, policy, civic engagement, economics, infrastructure management, or education, we expect to rely upon analyses that are sophisticated, thorough, and endure scrutiny.
8. **Our watershed management plan will be a living document.** It is our intention to regularly update our watershed management plan as new information becomes available and priorities change so that it continues to be relevant and useful.