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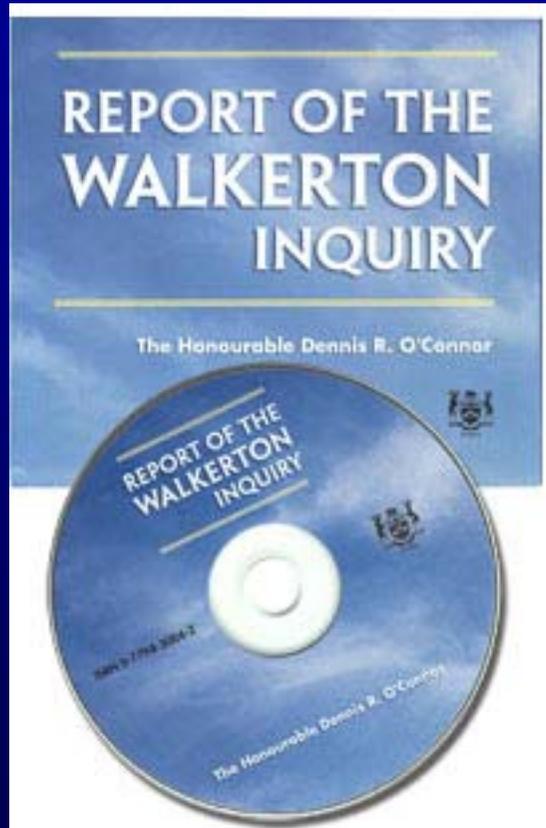
Integrated Water Resources Management – Can source protection lead us to the promised land?

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Conservation Ontario

September 15, 2007

Impact of Walkerton on Water Management in Ontario



- Walkerton is having the biggest impact on water management in Ontario since Hurricane Hazel
- Whether that impact is good or bad depends on how we deal with it



The Current Ontario Water Management Reality

- **Historically sector based / issue based approach to water management**
 - Flood control
 - Fisheries
 - Drought
 - Water taking
 - Nutrient management
 - Etc.

Water Related Federal Legislation

- **Canada Water Act**
- **Canadian Environmental Protection Act**
- **Environmental Contaminants Act**
- **International River Improvement Act**
- **International Boundary Waters Treaty Act**
- **Fisheries Act**
- **Navigable Waters Protection Act**

Water Related Ontario Legislation

- Ontario Water Resources Act
- Environmental Assessment Act
- Environmental Protection Act
- Conservation Authorities Act
- Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act
- Beds of Navigable Waters Act
- Aggregate Resources Act
- Clean Water Act
- Planning Act
- Municipal Act
- Public Utilities Act
- Drainage Act
- Nutrient Management Act
- Pesticides Act
- Public Lands Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act

Problems with a Sector Based Approach

- Multiple pieces of legislation
- Many agencies involved
- No overriding strategic direction
- Duplication of effort
- Conflicting objectives
- Costly in both time and money

Source Water Protection



Option 1: Stand-a-lone

- Source water protection is another issue-based water management initiative
- Provincial program can be implemented as an independent stand alone program
- But, will only add to complexity, confusion and cost of water management

Integrated Water Resources Management -Option 2

The process of promoting the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems



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Integrated Water Resources Management

Integrated across

- issues and sectors
- space and time
- disciplines and agencies
- Ground water and surface water
- water quantity and quality
- Environmental, economic and social interests

Origins of IWRM

- **The concept of managing water on an integrated watershed basis goes back many years (and was the basis of the original Conservation Authorities Act, 1946)**
- **More recently IWRM emerged from the International Conference on Water and the Environment, Dublin 1992**

IWRM on the Global Scene

**Integrated Water Resources Management
is become a corner stone of water
management for sustainable development**

- Rio Conference 1992
- Millennium Goals
- Johannesburg Summit, 2002

World Health Organization

“Issues of water quality and their impact on communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases are optimally addressed under IWRM principles”

“A basin-wide approach to water resources development and management has immediate repercussions for MDG targets.”



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IWRM in Other Provinces

- **Quebec Water Policy, 2002**
 - IWRM one of 3 key issues addressed
- **Manitoba Water Strategy**
 - Integrated Water Planning and Management System
- **Alberta's Water for Life**
 - An integrated, cross-sectoral approach to water management
- **Ontario ?**

Part Two: Report on the Walkerton Inquiry

“I want to emphasize that a comprehensive approach is needed and should be adopted by the province. Source protection plans should be a subset of broader watershed plans”

“...it would be very difficult to develop a meaningful and useful drinking water source protection regime without a broader strategy. The recommendations I make in this chapter assume that a broader system will be in place.”



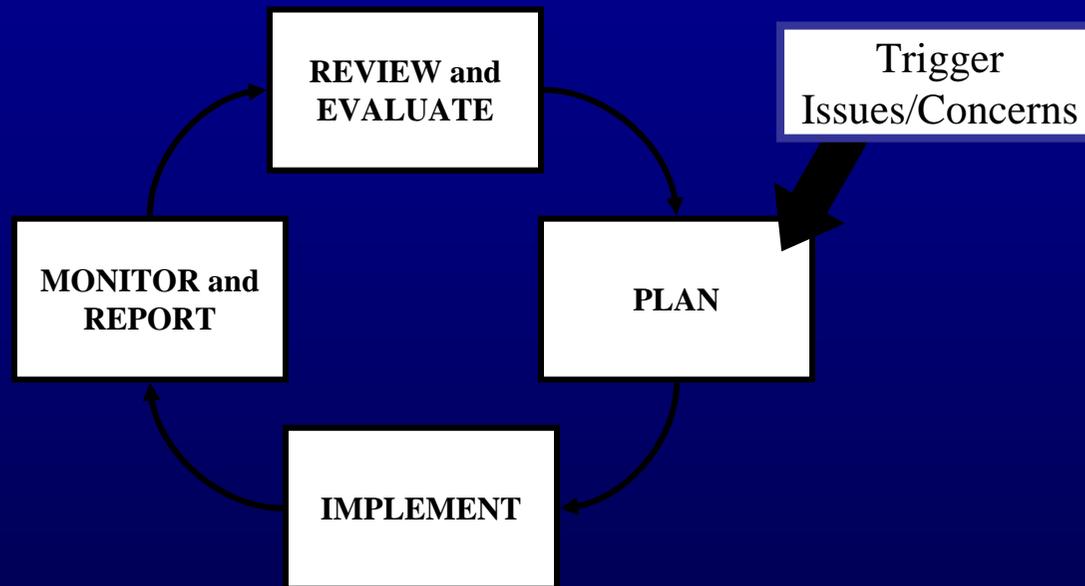
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Source Protection Planning and Watershed Planning

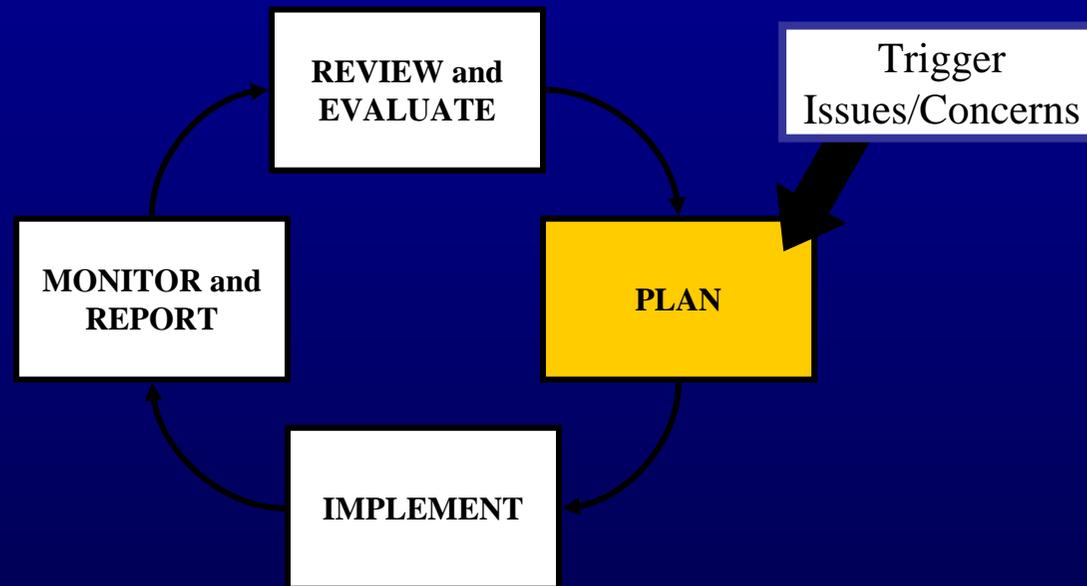
Source Protection must become a component of the overall watershed plan

- Flood Management
- **Source Protection**
- Natural Heritage
- Fisheries Management
- Cultural heritage/recreation

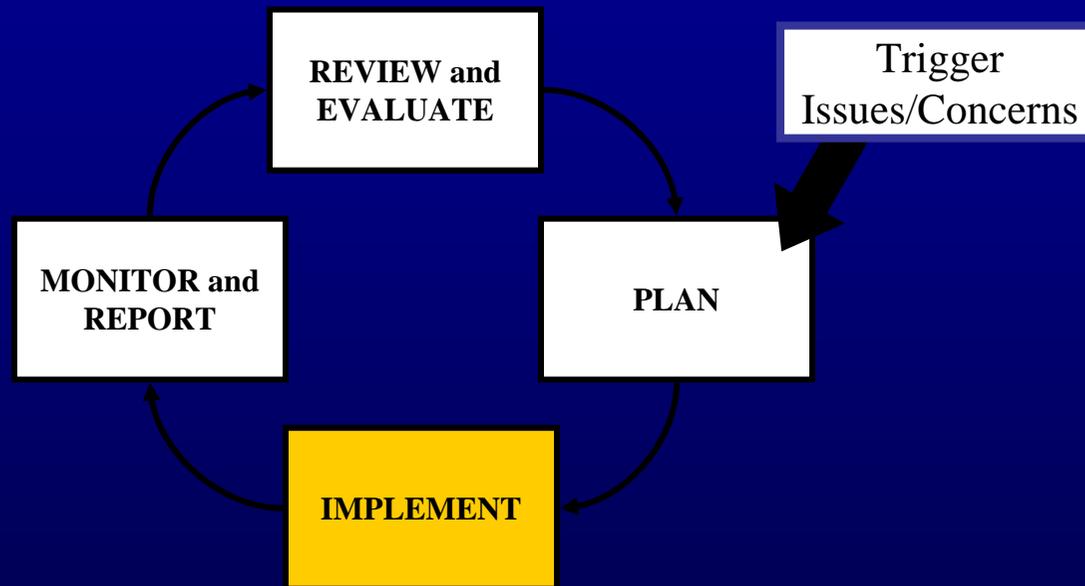
CA Watershed Management Process



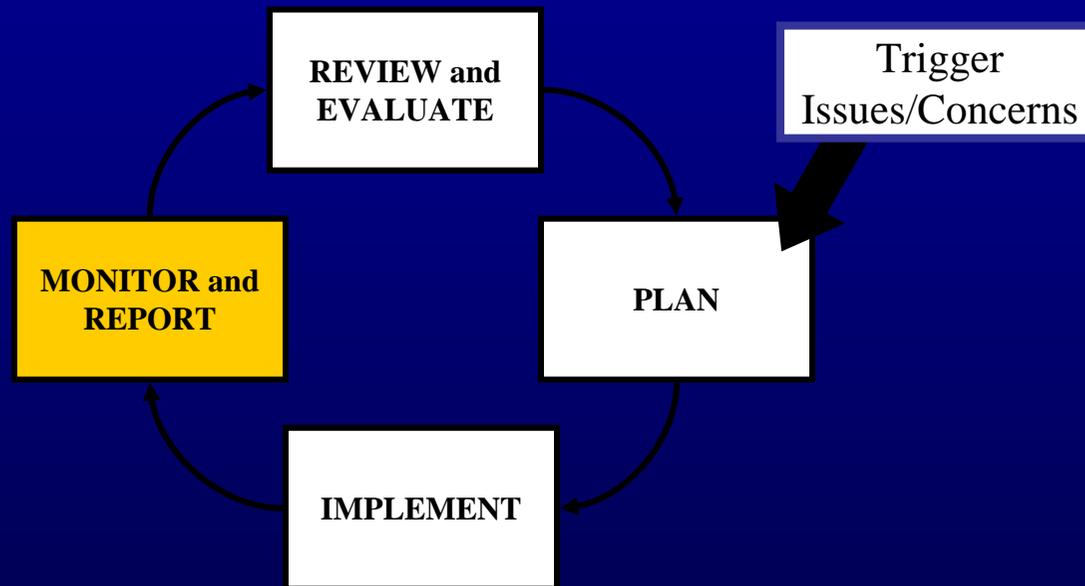
CA Watershed Management Process



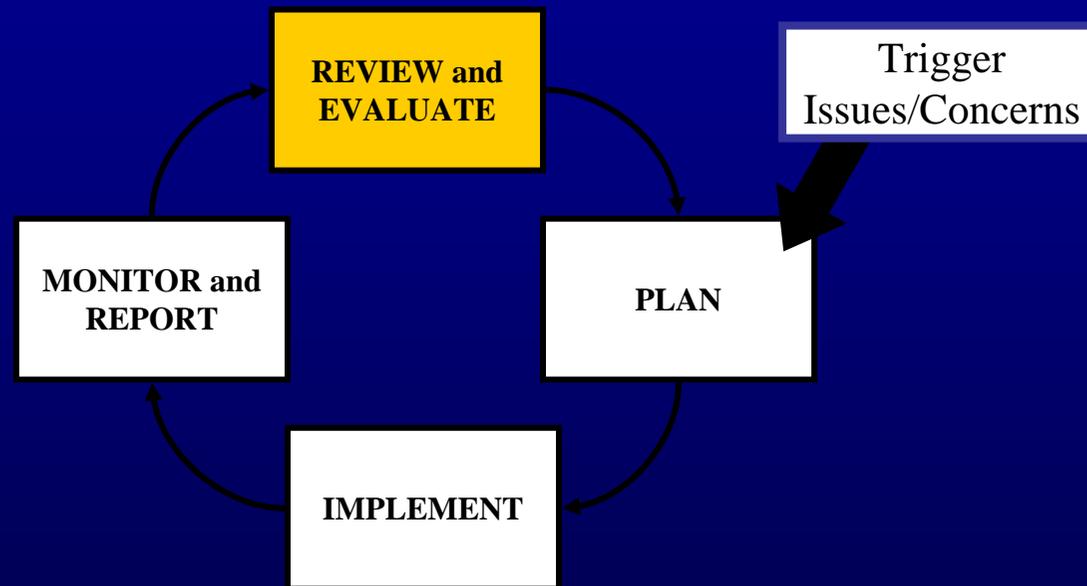
CA Watershed Management Process



CA Watershed Management Process



CA Watershed Management Process



In Summary

- **Can source protection lead us to the promise land of Integrated Water Resources Management ?**

Watershed Connections

