



Overview of 2010 NC Water- Related Legislation

Water Allocation Committee

Sept 8, 2010

Major Water-Related Legislation

2010 Ratified Bills

- 1. Improve River Basin Modeling – SL 2010-143**
 - Codifies the requirement for river basin models. Mandates that models be approved by the EMC. Creates a science advisory board for ecological flows.
- 2. Modify Water Funding Priorities - SL 2010-151**
 - Add priority criteria for regionalization and drought water conservation.
- 3. Water Infrastructure Information Needs – SL 2010-144**
 - Improve the collection and utilization of water and wastewater infrastructure information.
- 4. Water Supply System Capacity Planning – SL 2010-150**
 - Revise LWSP when demand exceeds 80% of supply to show how future needs will be met.
- 5. Conserve & Protect Ag Water Resources - SL 2010-149**
 - Data collection and cost share program.

Improve River Basin Modeling

- DENR to dev. hydrologic models for all river basins
- Models shall incorporate:
 - Surface/groundwater resources in basin
 - Ecological & instream flow requirements
 - Withdrawals, discharges, & local water supply data
 - Projections of future withdrawals
- Models shall predict:
 - Inadequate yield to meet all needs
 - Inadequate yield to meet all essential water needs
 - Adverse effects on ecological flows

River Basin Modeling – Key Definitions

- Ecological Flow
- Ecological Integrity
- Groundwater Resource
- Prevailing Ecological Conditions
- Surface Water Resource

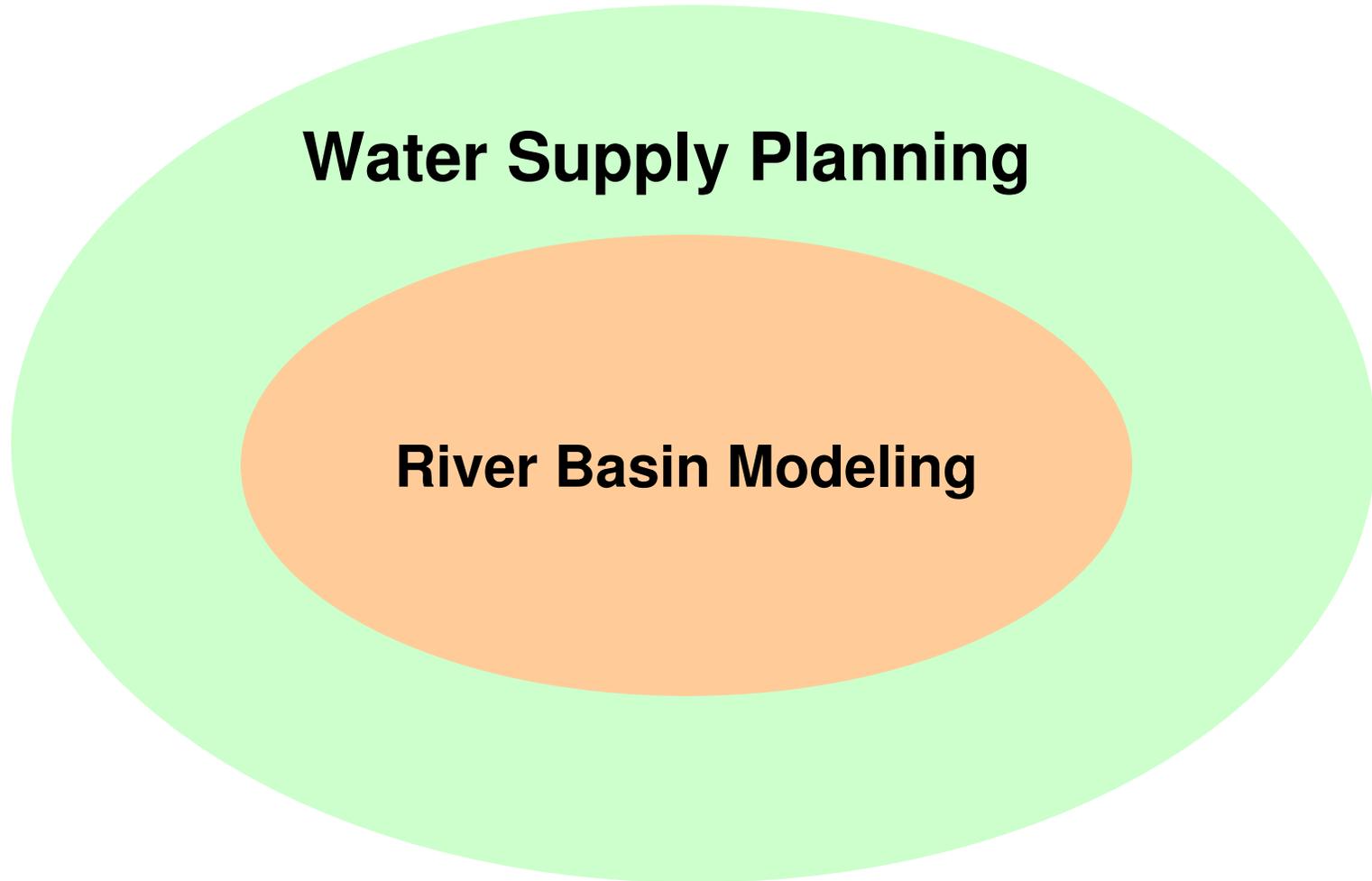
River Basin Modeling-Science Advisory Board (SAB)

- Directs DENR to establish SAB to assist in characterizing ecology & flow requirements.
- Key Stakeholders:
 - DWR / DWQ / Natural Heritage Program
 - NC Wildlife Resources & Marine Fisheries Commissions
 - US FWS & National Marine Fisheries
 - Agriculture / Forestry / Manufacturing
 - Electric Utilities
 - Local Governments
 - Environmental NGOs
- Members must have expertise in aquatic ecology.

River Basin Modeling

- Shall include interstate cooperation to the extent practicable.
- Hydrologic models shall be approved by NC Environmental Management Commission.
 - Include 60 day public comment period.
- Requires DENR to develop schedule and report to General Assembly every year.

Modeling Supports Planning



Water Infrastructure Information Needs

- DENR w/interested parties shall:
 - Develop statewide survey to supplement info in EPA water & wastewater needs assessment.
 - Develop plan to incorporate info from State & EPA needs survey into State Water Supply Plan.
 - Make rec. on plan to consolidate info on statewide water & wastewater infrastructure needs, resources, & funding.
- DENR & Local Govt Commission shall evaluate costs of measures to increase oversight of public systems to ensure that systems are financially sound.

Water Supply System Capacity Planning

- Applies to Local Water Supply Plan systems.
- Systems must revise plans to address future water needs when:
 - 80% of available water supply has been allocated
 - Seasonal demand exceeds 90% of available water supply
- Projected future needs incorporated into models.

Modify Water Funding Priorities

- Modifies criteria for loans & grants for water & wastewater infrastructure projects as follows:
 - Clarifies that leaking water lines are a priority for both water quantity & water quality.
 - Includes asset management, regionalization, water supply planning, & drought management as priorities.
 - Directs that a project that demonstrates that regionalization is not possible receive the same priority as a regional project.

Conserve & Protect Ag Water Resources

- Directs DENR & NC Dept of Agriculture to:
 - Continue to work with ag stakeholders to identify ag water infrastructure needs.
 - Encourage voluntary measures to conserve & protect ag water resources.
 - Design a cost-share program to assist farmers to implement BMPs to conserve & protect ag water resources.

Questions?

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