

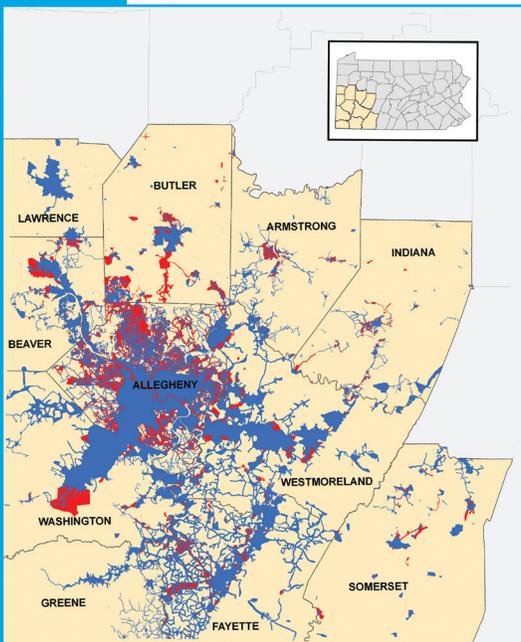


Regional Water Management
Task Force

Solving Water Problems through Collaboration

The mission of the Regional Water Management Task Force

Water—plenty of it—is one of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s most valuable natural resources. However, our region also has more than its share of water problems, such as:



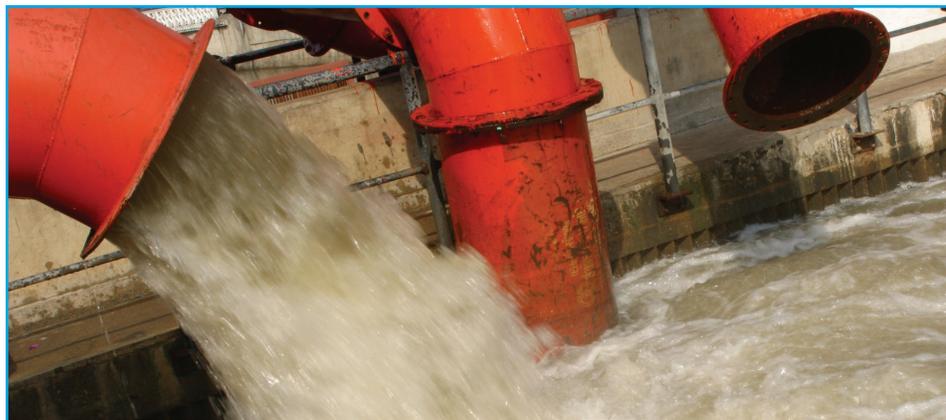
- sewage overflows,
- severe flooding,
- abandoned mine drainage,
- deteriorating sewer infrastructures,
- failing rural septic systems, and
- polluted waterways unfit for recreation.

Water issues cry out for regional cooperation, since water’s pathways are determined by gravity, not political boundaries. However, Southwestern Pennsylvania’s water resources are currently managed by nearly 1,000 separate entities—authorities, municipalities, private companies, regulatory agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Sometimes these entities work together well, but at other times their lack of collaboration hinders progress.

Several studies have detailed our region’s water-related problems and recommended regional collaboration to confront them. Meanwhile, the problems continue to worsen, and regulatory enforcement becomes a greater threat every day.

Blue areas indicate areas served by public water. Red areas indicate areas served by public sewage.

Solving our problems in a way that best serves our citizens and avoids costly regulatory actions is the mission of the Regional Water Management Task Force.



*Solving our water problems together
... because we all live downstream*



Dr. Jared Cohon
President of Carnegie Mellon University
Chair of the Regional Water Management Task Force

About the Regional Water Management Task Force

Who are we?

The Regional Water Management Task Force is composed of 17 members—appointed at the recommendation of county-level elected officials from 11 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania—who bring expertise on environmental, economic, legal, and health issues related to water resources. Additional input comes from the Task Force’s 90-member technical advisory committee.

What are the Task Force’s goals?

The Task Force’s goals are to educate Southwestern Pennsylvania residents about the region’s water resource problems and to help our region reach consensus on the best ways to collaboratively address these problems.

How will the Task Force achieve its goals?

The Task Force has carried out research in numerous areas, from comparing water and sewage rates to examining how other U.S. metropolitan regions have addressed similar problems. The Task Force is conducting extensive public outreach and interacting with stakeholders throughout the region before making any recommendations.

How can I express my opinions to the Task Force?

The Task Force holds public meetings throughout the region. In addition, your direct input is welcome at any time by calling Ty Gourley at 412-624-7792 or e-mailing dtg9@pitt.edu.



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