

# Planning for Small Systems

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# Our Mission

**To protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.**

# Small Systems

- 💧 **Group A**
- 💧 **Community**
- 💧 **Under 1,000 connections**

**Over 1,000 connections, NTNC, TNC  
and Group Bs have different needs**

# Water System Planning

**A planning document is a systematic program for attaining and maintaining safe and reliable drinking water.**

# Planning Goal

**To create a document that the system uses to make decisions that will lead to a sustainable future.**

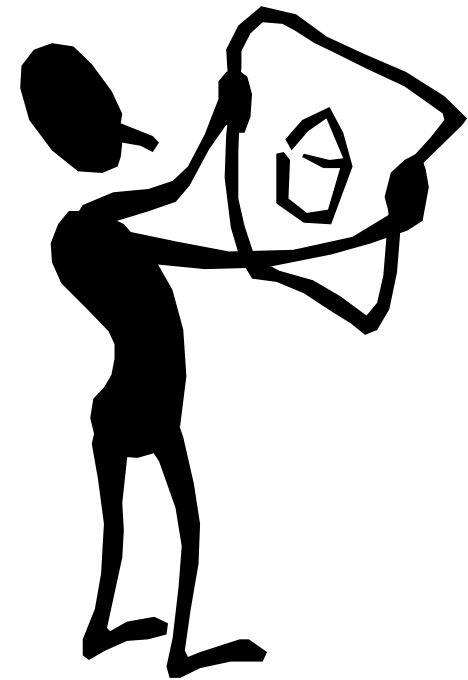
# Planning leads to...

## A system that:

- **Has the political will and ability to lead**
- **Educates and communicates effectively with customers**
- **Has rates to recover full operational costs**
- **Has technical, financial, and managerial capacity**

# Planning

- 💧 Who
- 💧 What
- 💧 Why
- 💧 When
- 💧 How



# Who:

## The Water System

**Governing Body**

**System Management**

**System Operator**

**Consulting Engineer (WSP)**



# The Operator is one of the Water System's Experts

**Operators know their systems and have a strong understanding of what the system needs. All experts should be involved in the planning process.**

**Who:**

**Department of Health,  
Office of Drinking Water**

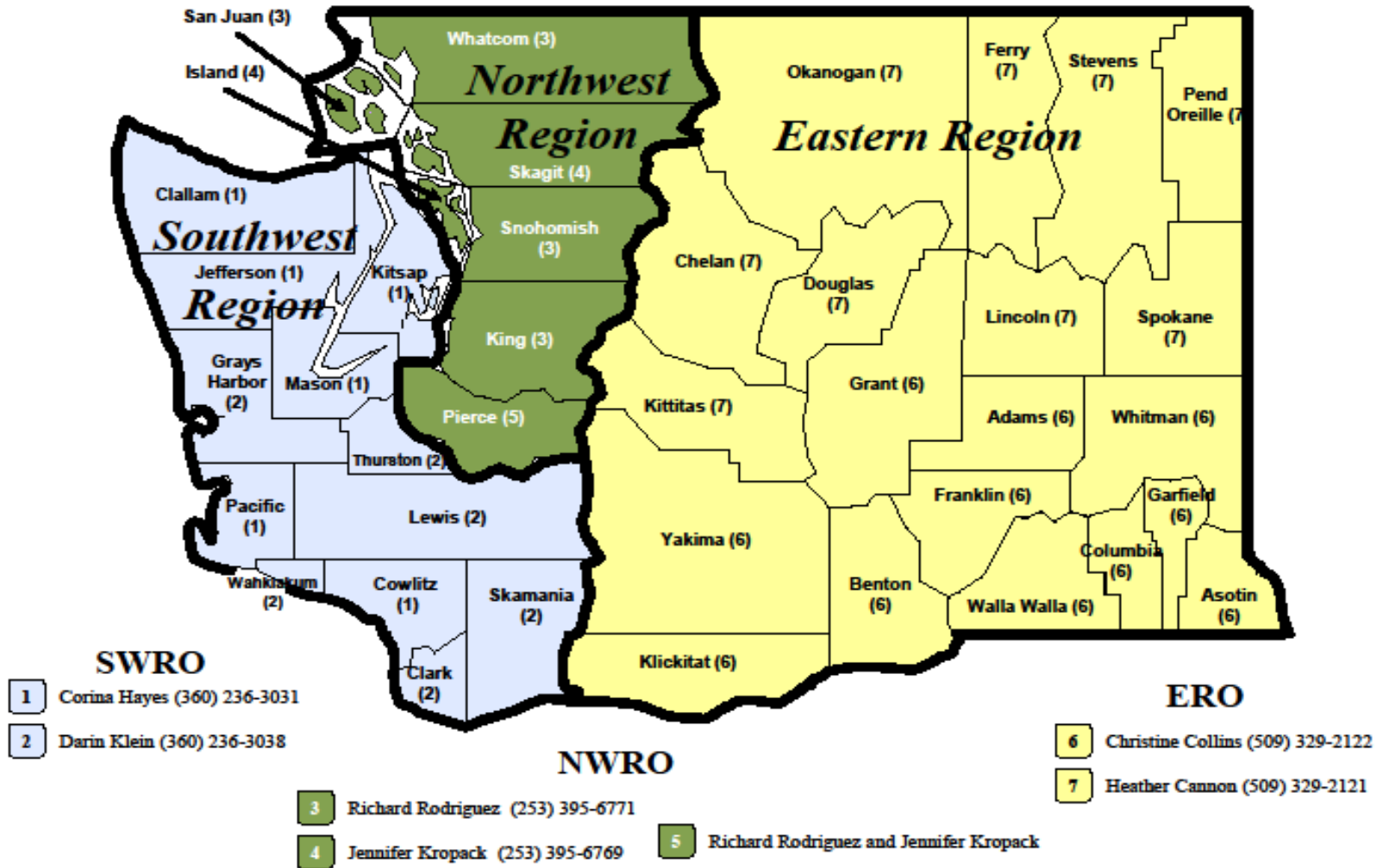
**ODW Regional Planners**

**ODW Regional Engineers**

# Who:

## DOH Drinking Water Planner Assignments

2/1/2012



# Who:

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- 💧 **Dept. of Ecology**
- 💧 **County Government**
- 💧 **Adjacent Utilities**
- 💧 **System Customers**

# What:

## Planning Goal-

**To create a document that the system uses to make decisions that will lead to a sustainable future.**

# Two Planning Documents

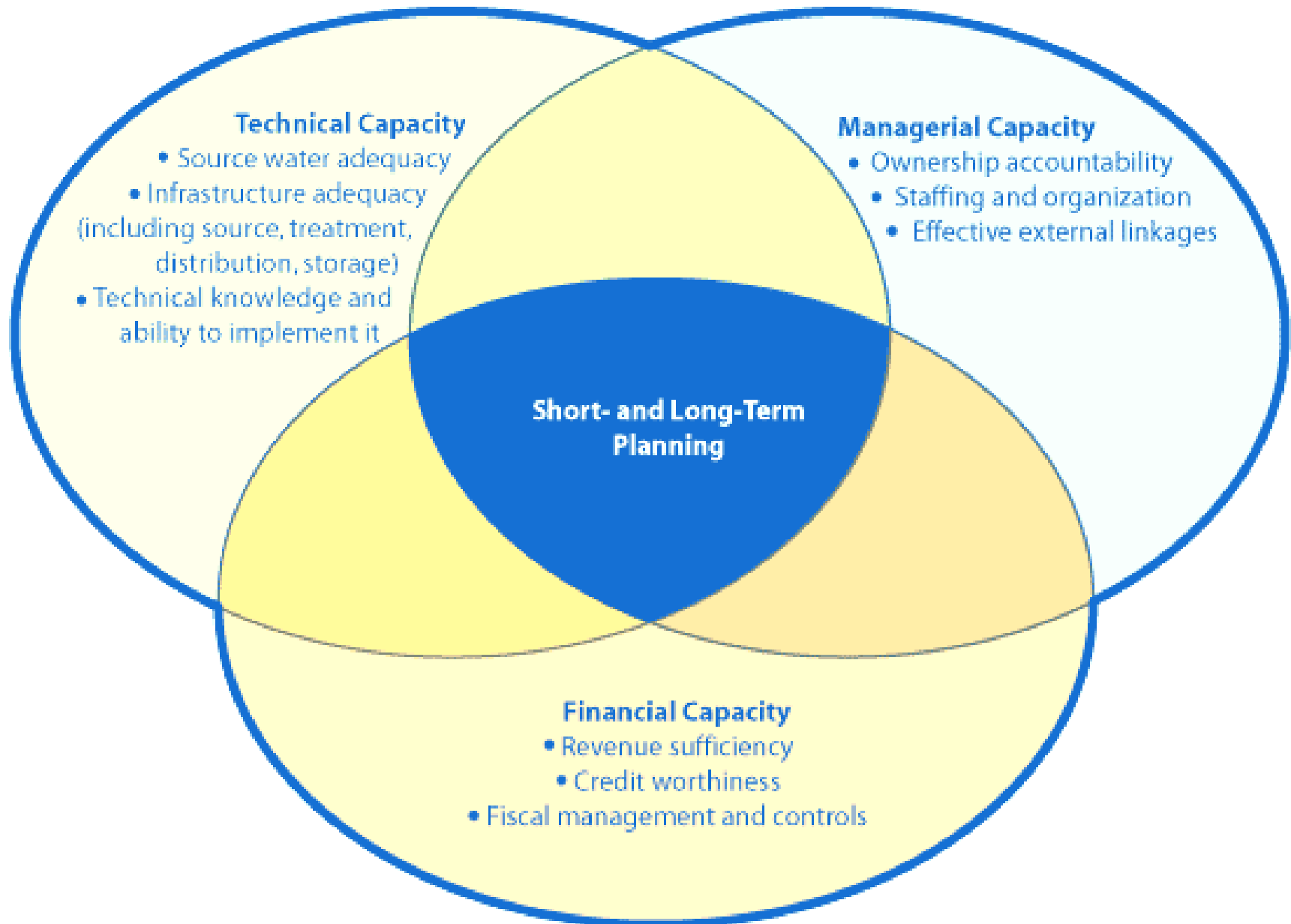
- 💧 **Water System Plan (WSP)** for systems that are growing or have specific issues that need to be addressed in depth
- 💧 **Small Water System Management Program (SWSMP)**

# What:

## Water System Plan

- **Growth projections**
- **Demand forecasting**
- **System analysis**
- **Water use efficiency**
- **Capital improvement program**
- **Financial program**
- **And more . . .**

# What: Small Water System Management Program





# Why:

## 💧 Rules and Regulations

- **Federal Safe Drinking Water Act recognizes the need for water system “capacity development”**
- **Drinking Water Regulations (WAC 246-290)**
- **Water System Coordination Act (WAC 246-293)**

# Why:

## 💧 In addition –

- **Coordinates utility relationships**
- **Coordination with GMA**
- **DWSRF loan eligibility**

# Why:

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**Planning develops  
system capacity**

# Why:

## Capacity

- 💧 **To achieve and maintain compliance with relevant local, state and federal plans and regulations**
- 💧 **To have the knowledge, tools, and resources to ensure you can provide safe and reliable drinking water now and into the future**

# Why:

## 💧 **Capacity to address system challenges**

- **Increasing demands**
- **Economic down turn and development slow down**
- **Budget issues and unpredictable funding**
- **New rules and new health risks**
- **Service requests and temporary water systems**
- **System risk and emergency response**
- **“Value of water” consumers perception**
- **Staff changes**

# Capacity:

## 💧 Technical

- **Source water adequacy**
- **System operations**
- **Infrastructure adequacy**

# Capacity:

## 💧 Managerial

- **Ownership accountability**
- **Planning and performance measurement**
- **Staff knowledge and training**
- **Effective external linkages**

# Capacity:

## 💧 Financial

- Revenue sufficiency
- Fiscal management
- Credit worthiness



# When:

- 💧 **Start now, its not too late**
- 💧 **Keep your planning document current to “keep it real”**
- 💧 **Review your document every year**
- 💧 **For WSP - schedule a pre-plan at least every 5 years**
- 💧 **WSP - update 6 years**

# How:

## Planning can be a big project –

## Where do you start?



# Start with the Online Water System Capacity Assessment

- 💧 <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/WaterSystemAssistance/CapacityDevelopment/CapacityAssessment.aspx>
- 💧 18 questions to help water system determine the managerial and financial health of their water system

# How:

- 💧 **For a WSP, WAC 246-290-100 is the framework for water system planning**
- 💧 **The system and ODW meet to discuss system needs and**
  - **Work to establish the level of detail**
  - **Scope and detail related to system size and complexity**

# How:

## 💧 The SWSMP Guidance is an online planning document -

- Evaluate and improve technical, managerial, and financial capacity and continue the process
- Improve clarity for owners, operators, and customers in the viability of their water system
- Evaluate facility and operational needs and link them to the budget

# It's your document

## Make it what you need



# Planning Assistance is Available

- 💧 **ODW planning staff**
- 💧 **Evergreen Rural Water of Washington**
- 💧 **Rural Community Assistance Corporation**

# ODW Regional Planners

## SWRO

- Corina Hayes 360-236-3031

## NWRO

- Jennifer Kropack 253-395-6769
- Richard Rodriguez 253-395-6771

## ERO

- Heather Cannon 509-329-2121
- Chris Collins 509-329-2122



# Questions?

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND**  
**HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**