

# Tomhannock Reservoir Protection Plan Update Stakeholder Questionnaire

This questionnaire was developed to obtain feedback and data from each of the stakeholders and organizations representing the advisory committee. You may either fill in the answers using this survey tool (preferred), hand write and fax/scan and email the form back, or simply respond to the questions within the body of an email. Please return by **Monday, February 15**.

All materials produced to date for this project have been archived at <https://cdrpc.org/tomhannock-reservoir-watershed-protection-study-update>

## Current Study Advisory Committee

- Capital Region PRISM
- City of Troy
- NYS Farm Bureau
- Hudson River Watershed Alliance
- NYSDEC
- Rensselaer County Land Trust
- Rensselaer County Planning and Economic Development
- Rensselaer County Soil and Water
- Rensselaer Land Trust
- Rensselaer Plateau Alliance
- Rensselaer County Department of Public Health
- Town of Schaghticoke
- Town of Pittstown
- Town of Brunswick
- Rensselaer County Executive
- Rensselaer County Legislature

**What organization/community do you represent?**

**Are there any individuals or organizations critical to the success of this initiative that not represented here? If so, please provide a name and affiliation below.**

# Goals and Vision

Goals should aim to guide development of the final report and implementation of programs and policy created as a result. Rate the goals below in order of importance to you and your constituents:

- *Create a robust and reliable data set, maps and narrative to provide a clear picture of the health of the reservoir and watershed and threats.*
- *Identify sources of pollutants of concern and create mechanisms for mitigating and reducing risk.*
- *Focus development to minimize harmful impacts.*
- *Identify causes of nutrient loading and turbidity and establish programs and policy to stem nutrient loading and turbidity where possible.*
- *Increase tributary buffers, to prevent pollutants from entering into tributaries.*
- *Remove invasives and work to ensure they do not return.*
- *Ensure, if recreational access around or in the reservoir is allowed, that water quality is not impaired as a result.*
- *With the aid of willing landowners, purchase or protect land of significant environmental protection value to the reservoir.*

*Are there other goals you or your constituents set for this project?*

*How should success be measured for this project? In what ways can this study yield measurable results?*

From [DWSP2](#), The Vision should:

1. Recognize that drinking water source protection is part of a multi-barrier approach.
2. Include input from stakeholder group members.
3. Declare intent to commit sufficient resources to drinking water source protection.

## **DRAFT Vision Statement**

*“Through a comprehensive analysis of threats – existing and potential – to the Tomhannock Reservoir, and the development of potential solutions, policies, and regulatory guidelines that can mitigate these threats, this program will enable, encourage and support municipal and other efforts within the watershed to protect this valuable resource and ensure the reservoir remains a quality drinking water source.”*

*Does this vision sufficiently summarize the goals and desired outcomes?*

*Does this vision inspire involvement from stakeholders?*

*What concerns do you or your constituents have for this resource?*

# Mapping

The current set of maps include:

- [Elevation and Topography](#)
- [Agricultural Use](#)
- [DEC Regulated Sites](#)
- [Land Use](#)
- [Land Cover](#)
- [Land Cover Change](#)
- [Impervious Cover](#)
- [Development](#)
- [Buffers \(protection strategy map\)](#)
- [Buffers with land use](#)

### **Additional Maps proposed**

- Subwatershed maps for the Sunkauissia, Tomhannock and Otter Creek.
- Conserved/protected lands within the watershed
- Soils
- Septic locations

*Do these maps sufficiently communicate land use, geological conditions and potential threats to the Reservoir?*

*If not, what additional maps should be produced as part of this effort?*

## **Protection Methods - Land Use Tools and Methods**

The following protection strategies are most commonly employed in efforts to protect water quality and mitigate expensive down the road capital and regulatory costs associated with mitigating pollution, invasive infestation and failing/poorly maintained infrastructure.

Please rate the following protection methods based on your experience on effectiveness and likelihood of employment as a program of policy to protect water quality.

### **Regulatory**

- Municipal Comprehensive Plan
- **Source Prohibitions** that can be used to address activities that typically require the use of hazardous materials, or restrictions on the use of specific hazardous materials. Examples of activities that may involve hazardous materials include coal combustion for power generation, manufacturing of automotive parts, plastics film manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and metal coating. Prohibiting specific hazardous materials,

such as heavy metals, solvents, petroleum products and radioactive materials, may also be effective.

- **Conservation Zoning District** – Allows a municipality to limit land uses in the defined conservation zoning district.
- **Overlay Zoning** – An overlay district can span across multiple zoning districts and can add requirements for sensitive areas.
- **Setbacks** – Establish setbacks to limit certain activities in a designated area.
- **Special Use Permits**
- **Site Plan Reviews**
- Subdivision Control
- Critical Environmental Area (CEA) Delineations
- New York State Watershed Rules and Regulation Updates
- Intermunicipal Agreements

**Please rate the following non-regulatory protection methods based on your experience on effectiveness and likelihood of employment as a program of policy to protect water quality.**

- Land Purchase/Acquisition or Voluntary Conservation Easements
- Transfer of Development Rights
- Encouraging or Incentivizing the Use of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Intermunicipal Organizations
- Build-Out Analysis

What strategies, not currently in the place, or in place but are not effective, could be employed to protect water quality and how would these new programs or efforts affect your constituents?

What would make your job easier and more effective in protecting water quality in the watershed?

What goals does your community or organization have that may be at conflict or benefit water quality in the watershed?

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