

The Business of Clean Water and Public Water Service

A Model for Watershed Collaboration

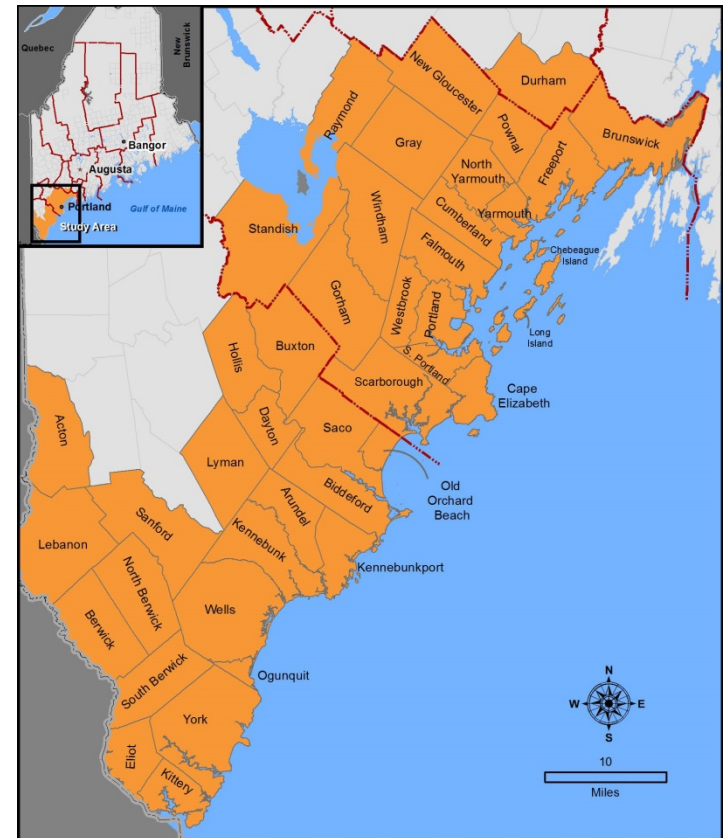
2019 Maine Sustainability and Water Conference



Rick Knowlton, President

Southern Maine Drinking Water and the Saco River

- * Coastal Southern Maine home to 400,000
- * Majority served by Public Water ±250,000
- * Saco River Watershed includes over 125 public water systems
 - * 30 Community systems
 - * 100 Non-Community systems
- * SMRWC utilities serve Portland to Kittery
Revenues over \$50M/yr
- * Maine Water's Biddeford Saco division is the only direct withdrawal from the Saco



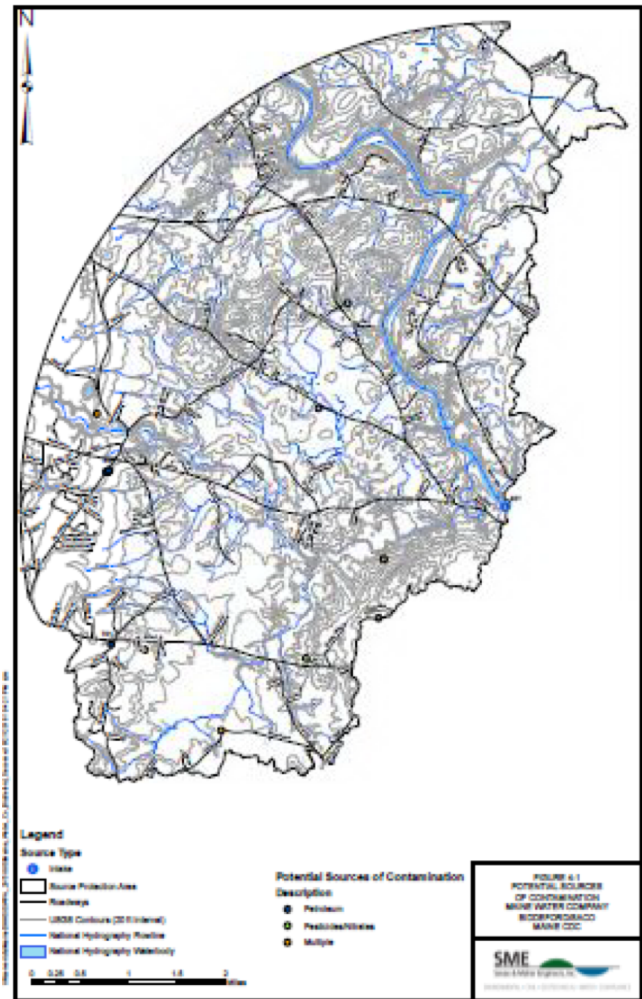
Critical for Public Water Sources: Quantity!

Water Sources Of Regional Significance



- * Average daily Saco River flow
 - * 3550 cfs= 1.6 MG/min= 2.2 BG/day
 - * Safe Yield estimated at 1.0 BG/day
- * Drinking water withdrawals average 6 MGD (< 0.3% of average daily flow)
- * Total current Southern Maine average demand is 40 MGD, Max Day is 60 MG
- * 2008 Study by Wright Pierce
 - * No comparable options
 - * <http://www.smrwc.org/pdfs/WaterMasterPlan.pdf>

Critical for Public Water Sources: Quality!



- * 2016 Source Water Assessment upstream of the Saco intake:
 - * Petroleum storage and use
 - * Roadway runoff
 - * Agriculture
 - * Manufacturing/Commercial/Landfills
 - * No Licensed Municipal or Industrial waste discharges
- * Unique protections provided by the Saco River Corridor Act in Maine and by White Mountains National Forest

The Business of Drinking Water and Source Water Protection

- * Water is Local.
- * Water is Essential
- * Water Touches Everything We Care About
- * Water Infrastructure is expensive...and lasts a long time. Planning horizon is often 50 to 100 years.
- * Water Utilities have serious stewardship responsibilities. Source to Tap.
- * Great water systems start with great water sources

Protecting the Saco River for Drinking Water

2012 Study by WRF on Source Water Protection found the majority of surface water supplies used for drinking water did not have source water protection programs. Why?

- * their lack of authority to do anything to protect the source water;
- * restricted resources that are directed toward other higher-priority utility functions;
- * the belief that some other entity is responsible for source water protection;
- * government agencies (other than the municipalities) controlling the source used;
- * minimal threats and risks to the source water;
- * the water source being too large to implement a program effectively; and
- * lack of a requirement for a source water protection program.



Collaborating to Protect the Saco River for Drinking Water

- * Primary Interests in and on the Saco

- * Hydropower
- * Fish Restoration
- * Agriculture
- * Recreation
- * Drinking Water

- * Effective Partnerships can do more!

- * Shared Knowledge
- * Targeted Action
- * Expand Funding Sources

- * Great Example: Savannah River Clean Water Fund

https://www.nature.org/cs/groups/webcontent/@web/@lakesrivers/documents/document/prd_293976.pdf

Saco Watershed Collaborative Efforts Supported by Maine Water

- * Sharing Knowledge
 - * Meetings, Field Trips, Presentations
 - * Data Collection and Distribution
- * Targeted Action
 - * Data Collection, Water Quality Threat Assessment
 - * Outreach, Education, Engagement
 - * Strategic Conservation of Land
- * Expand Funding Sources
 - * Leveraging DWSRF, NRCS, and EPA funds
 - * Grants – NOAA Saco River Drinking Water Resiliency Project
 - * Those that benefit... Consumers

The Next Century of Service



Thank You!

