



RIVERKEEPER

Recommendations for Hudson 7 2020 Work Plan

The following recommendations make use of “Drinking Source Water Protection Scorecard Review for Seven Hudson Communities,” knowledge gained in the first 18 months of regular meetings of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (“Hudson 7”) and available information about the NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The goal is to categorize, organize and prioritize actions the council can take, and estimate the timeframe for each action.

1. Build Capacity

Action	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Continue to meet monthly	3 meetings	3 meetings	3 meetings	2 meetings
Fund coordinator		Review and revise application	Apply	Win
Build stakeholder group needed for source water planning process	ID and invite stakeholders; intro H7 via letter to watershed municipalities; survey members to ID largest water users*	Host stakeholder meeting (potential DWSP2 kickoff)	Subsequent or smaller work group convening TBD	Subsequent or smaller work group convening TBD
Convene water plant operators regularly	Host 1st meeting, establish schedule and topics	Host meeting	Host meeting	Host meeting

2. Focus on High Priority Water Quality Concerns

Action	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Work with Coast Guard on spill prevention and response	Followup on letter	TBD	TBD	TBD
Watchdog Central Hudson coal tar cleanup	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Support wastewater infrastructure improvements	ID funded projects in watershed; infrastructure report; letter supporting state \$		Track implementation of H7 projects	Letter supporting state funding
Support water quality studies	Letter(s) supporting Riverkeeper-partnered PFAS research	Request DEC briefing on Hudson River monitoring study	Execute Riverkeeper partner funded project(s)	Letter in support of federal funding for USGS monitoring network (timing tbd)
Backup/Emergency supply assessment	Define additional needs for data gathering			
Other	Letter to EPA to identify Hudson 7 as interested in Wappinger Creek Superfund site	Climate Resiliency Building workshops (if funded)		

3. Begin Watershed-Based Data Gathering

Action	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Improve stream and wetland protection laws	Letter(s) in support of NYS legislation and budget items (ie, Class C streams, wetlands protection bills)			
Review land use regulations and zoning codes, and complete build-out analysis for H7 + larger watershed	Assess capacity and/or partners needed; schedule presentations on comp plans by Esopus, Poughkeepsie	Discuss with stakeholders	TBD	TBD
Increase knowledge, coordination and effectiveness of MS4 programs	Education			
Work with the DEC RIBS program to obtain data and participate in the stream assessment process.		Riverkeeper report out on status of stream assessments; recommendations (timing tbd)	Letter to DEC requesting stream assessments in 2021 RIBS (timing tbd)	

4. Education

Action	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Coordinate publication of Annual Water Quality Reports	Develop plan	Publish reports (May 31); host event coinciding with H7 anniversary (could be stakeholder meeting)		
Host speakers	Create topic list and schedule speakers; ID partner to host events	Host speakers	Host speaker(s)	Host speaker(s)
Tour Hudson 7 water treatment plants	Make tour schedule	Schedule TBD	Schedule TBD	Schedule TBD
Educate elected representatives (county, state, federal)	Invite to convene and/or observe stakeholder meeting	Consider Albany visit, other TBD	Consider in-district meetings, other TBD	Consider in-district meetings, other TBD
Develop and install signs to identify the Hudson River as a Source Water and install in the watershed immediately draining to drinking water intakes.		Engage stakeholders and/or develop grant application to design signage		

Potential Educational Speaker Topics and rationale

Topic	Rationale
Climate Change Impacts on 1. Infrastructure; 2. Salt front; 3. Stormwater pollution	Priority water quality concern; Scorecard recommendation to incorporate climate change into Source Water Assessment
MS4: How source water protection is/is not reflected in MS4 programs in Dutchess, Ulster; who is regulated and who is not	Priority water quality concern; Scorecard recommends several actions related to MS4
Water protection policies (streams, wetlands, steep slopes, buffers, floodplains, etc.)	Basic watershed approach to protecting water quality; Scorecard recommends improving local protection laws
Watershed-based management of tributaries (which tributaries have management plans, who is working where, etc)	Scorecard recommends encouraging “the development of watershed plans for tributaries within the source water area, and ensure that preservation or improvement of water quality is a goal of each plan.”
Regulated/Unregulated chemicals (PCBs, PFAS, DBPs)	Increase understanding of H7 and ability to communicate well to the public

Priority Water Quality Concerns

- Spill of crude oil or other hazardous material
- Legacy contaminants including coal tar
- Wastewater discharges, including CSOs
- Disinfection byproducts
- Unregulated/newly regulated contaminants (PFAS, pharmaceuticals, other DBPs)
- Climate change (sea-level rise on infrastructure + salt front + greater stormwater risks)
- Backup capacity and emergency supplies
- Treatment process differences among members