Municipal Actions to Protect and Improve Water Quality

MTAAP Meeting #5

March 1, 2017

DELAWARE VALLEY **dvrpc** REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Introductions: MTAAP

Purpose of this Project

- Improve the ability of organizations to assist municipalities in their efforts to improve and protect water quality.

- Main research questions:

  - What are the barriers to, and conditions of, success for municipal-based conservation practices?

  - Where and how could technical assistance be more effective?

MTAAP

- 843 municipalities
- Political science
- Stakeholder-based research
  - Technical Assistance Panel
- Blend of qualitative/quantitative
  - Task 2 Stakeholder Interviews
  - Task 3 Municipal Outreach
  - Task 4 Case studies
  - Task 5 Create recommendations endorsed by MTAAP

Municipalities in Delaware River Watershed and Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer Cluster
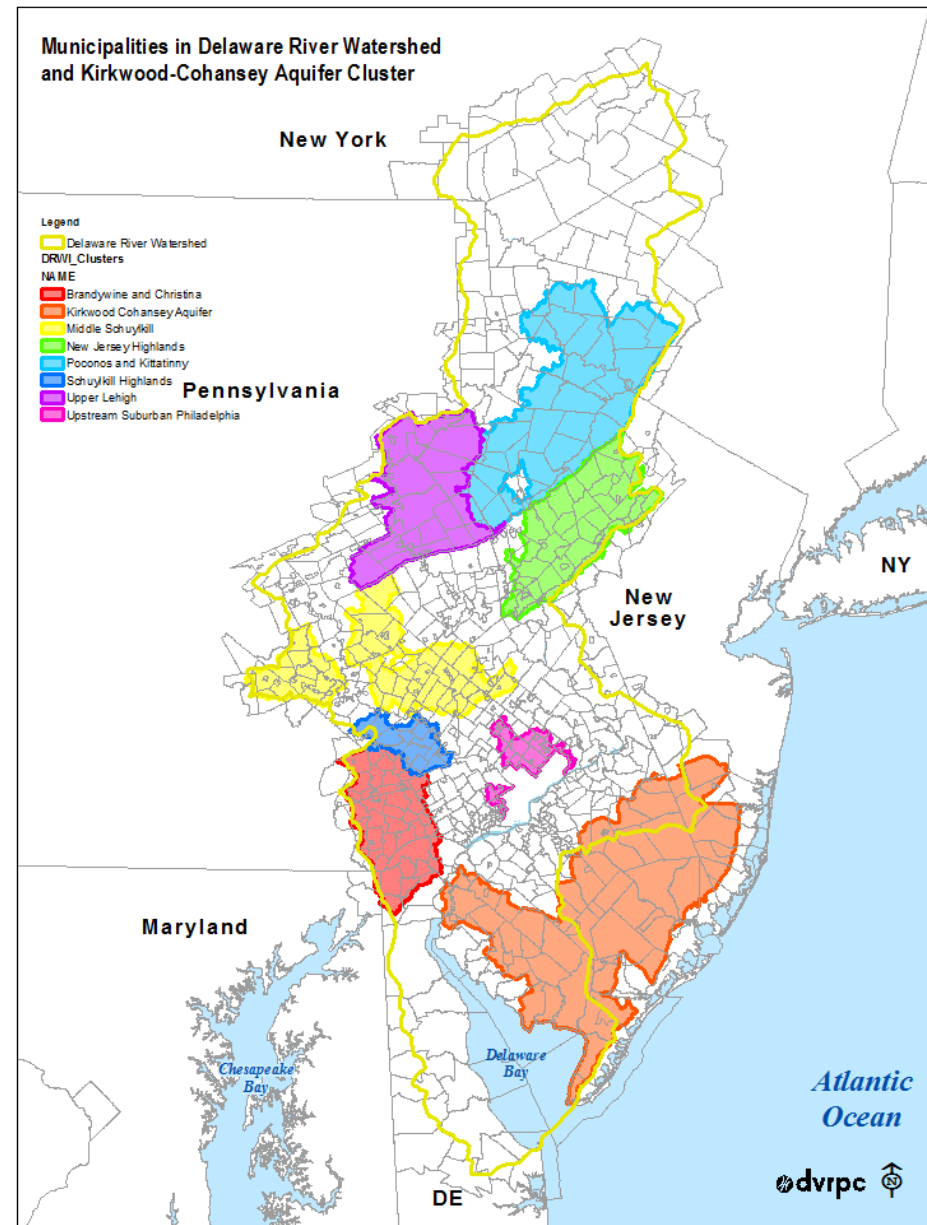
Project Components

Project Planning

Municipal Outreach (Interviews)

Recommendations

MTAAP Outreach (Stakeholder Interviews)

Case Studies

Final Report

Today

- Referring to **Short Recommendations** throughout meeting
- DRAFT LANGUAGE
- Average Ranking per survey section
- Normalized Ranking to identify top recs throughout survey

All Recommendations Ranked

| Ave Ranking	Norm Ranking	Short Recommendation	Long Recommendations
3.96	0.330	Lead by example	Lead by example by implementing Best Manageme... Practices (BMPs)/Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects in parks and other municipal-owned prope... with high visibility with educational signage and outreach.
5	0.333	Create new state funding sources	Create new state funding sources dedicated to mat... municipal efforts that preserve land for water quali... purposes.
4.04	0.337	Municipal stormwater fee	Enact municipal stormwater fees (without creating... new stormwater authority) to pay for water quality projects.
5.61	0.374	Integrate LID in municipal planning laws and SW regulations	Integrate Low Impact Development (LID) standards... state municipal planning laws and municipal storm... regulations; this would help establish LID as a norm... practice in municipal planning and zoning ordinanc...
4.62	0.385	Create LOSP [ballot initiatives]	Create locally-funded open space programs that prioritize land protection for water quality purpose...
3.92	0.392	Undertake Citizen Science [or Experiential Learning]	Expand nonprofit environmental organizations wor... with municipalities and the general public to under... citizen science projects, such as riparian buffer plan... and water quality monitoring, thus fostering engagement around water quality issues.
6.26	0.417	Legislate minimum riparian buffer protection regulations	Legislate minimum riparian buffer protection regulations for municipalities (ideally at least 100 fe... for all streams and 300 feet for high quality and exceptional value streams) where they don't alrea... exist.
			Provide more precise guidance and recommendat... municipalities on what they should be doing to

Stakeholder Interviews: Findings

Purpose of Interviews

- Learn about new stakeholders as quickly as possible
- Reconnect with partners
- Collect opinions on threats, strategies and recommendations
- Solicit best practices (organizations and municipalities)
- Interviewed 60 stakeholders
- About 40 joined MTAAP

Important Strategies to improve or maintain water quality
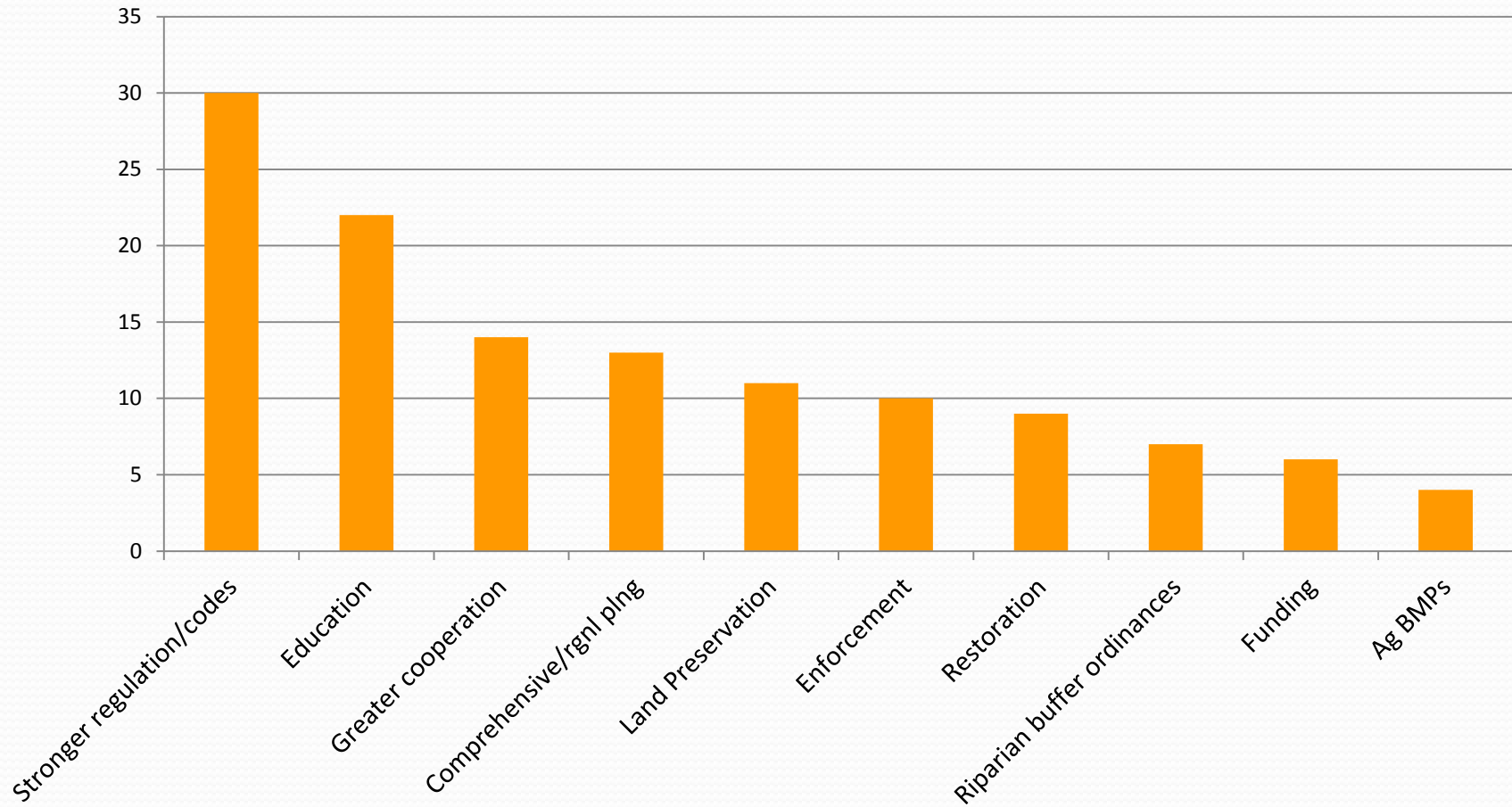
Important Municipal Actions
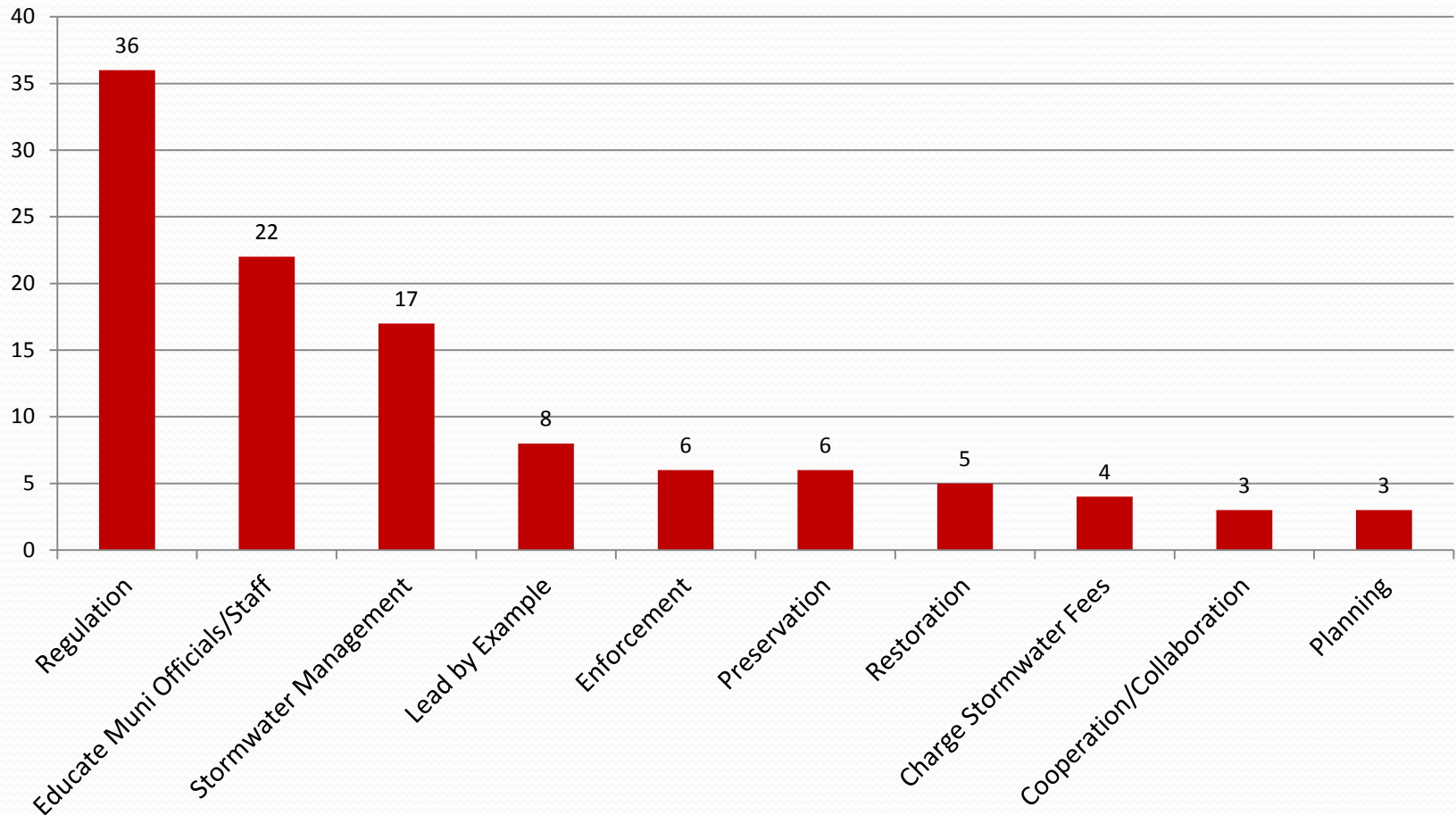
Greatest Limitation faced by municipalities

Municipal Outreach & Case Studies

Case Studies

- Reached out to over 50 municipalities to identify "stories" – lessons learned, evidence, best practices
- Based on MTAAP feedback, aimed for 20 in-depth case studies (5-10 pages)

17 Case Studies

- Abington Township, Montgomery County (Gaadt)
- Camden City, New Jersey (Gaadt)
- Durham Township, Bucks County (Center for Watershed Protection)
- East Bradford Township, Chester County (PEC)
- Hamilton Township, Mercer County (NLT)
- Kidder Township, Carbon County (DVRPC)
- Lambertville city, Hunterdon County (DVRPC)
- Lower Salford Township, Montgomery County (PHS)
- Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County (DVRPC)

- Montgomery Township, Montgomery County (Brandywine Conservancy)
- Newark CCD, New Castle County (SSM)
- Pilesgrove Township, Salem County (SSM)
- Reading city, Berks County and Wyomissing Borough, Berks County (DVRPC)
- Smithfield Township, Monroe County (DVRPC)
- Stillwater Township, Sussex County (DVRPC)
- Warrington Township, Bucks County (Gaadt)
- West Chester City, Chester County, PA (PEC)

Consultants

Abington, Montgomery County, PA

Source: Abington Township

gaadt perspectives

Durham Township, Bucks County, PA

Hamilton Township, Mercer County, NJ

Natural Lands Trust
land for life

Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, PA

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Reading City and Wyomissing Borough, Berks County, PA
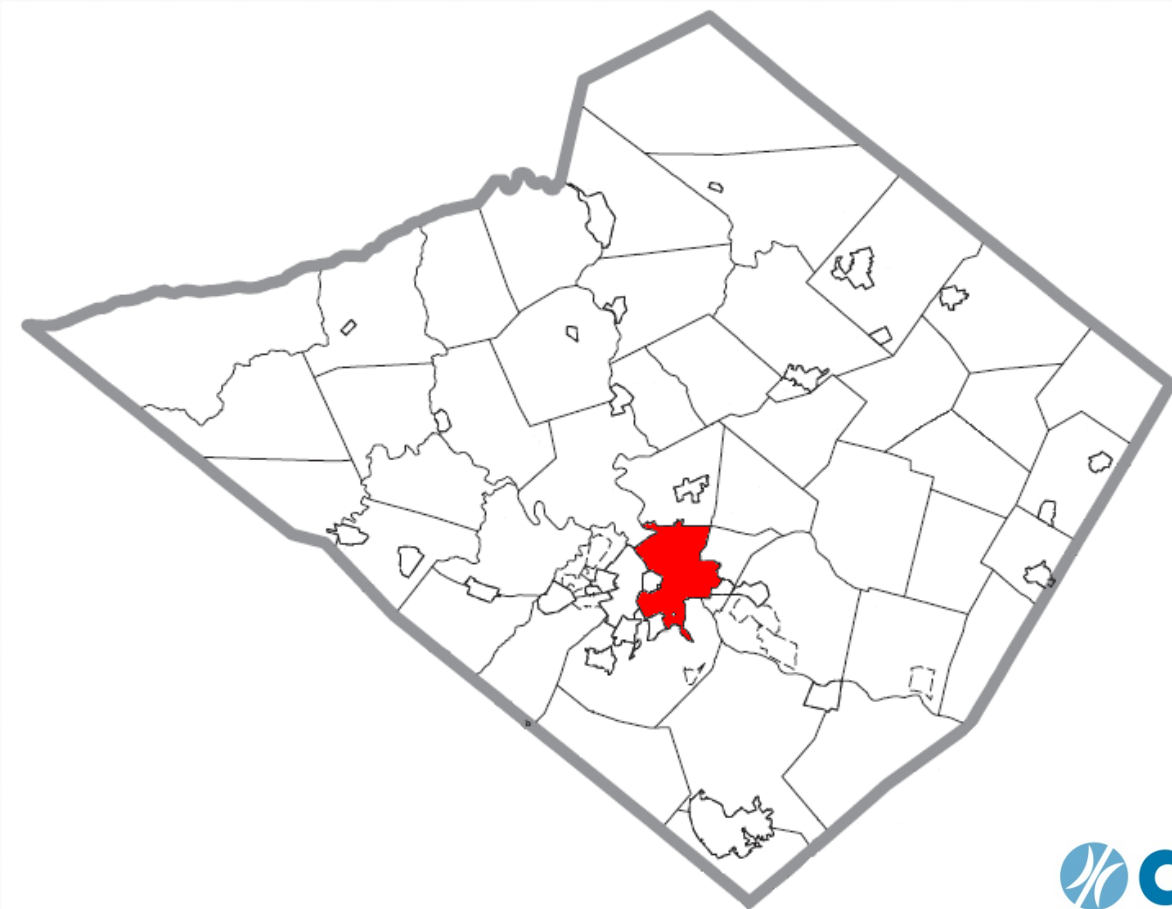
Ranked Recommendations

Results from Survey

Ranking Recommendations

- 400 recommendations synthesized to 48 distinct recommendations

- For purpose of ranking, organized into 4 "actors"
  - Collaborative (mix of organizations – recs tend have moving parts)
  - Nonprofits
  - Municipalities
  - State agencies

Ranking Recommendations

- Survey sent to 60 MTAAP members
  - 27 responses of 60 (45% response rate)
- Open for three weeks in January
- Identify what are priorities for MTAAP
  - Wisdom of group
  - Compare to Stakeholder Interview Findings
  - Find the "Coalition of the Willing"
    - MTAAP Members expressed interest in developing recommendations

Top Ten

Normalized Ranking	Short Recommendation	Section
0.330	Lead by example [with BMPs/GSI]	Municipal
0.333	Create new state funding sources	State
0.337	Municipal stormwater fee	Municipal
0.374	Integrate LID in municipal planning laws and SW regulations	State
0.385	Create LOSP [ballot initiatives]	Municipal
0.392	Citizen Engagement	Nonprofit
0.417	Legislate minimum riparian buffer protection regulations	State
0.439	Provide more precise guidance to municipalities	State
0.447	Incentive program that encourages property owners	Municipal
0.452	Educate landowners	Nonprofit

Call-outs

Short Recommendation	Section	Total Call-Outs
Municipal stormwater fee	Municipal	6
Legal Defense Team	Collaborative	6
Watershed Academy	Collaborative	5
Invest in existing organizations/alliances at county and subwatershed level	Collaborative	4
Incentives/penalties for municipal officials and staff to participate in water quality training	State	4
Stop giving waivers, variances, and special exceptions	Nonprofit	3
Work with traditional providers (NJLM, PSATS) to train officials	Nonprofit	3
Buy-out repetitive loss properties	State	3
Convene Experts to determine biggest bang for BMP bucks	Collaborative	3
Multi-Million dollar messaging campaign	Collaborative	3

Call-outs

- Most Innovative: Legal Defense Fund (6)

- Most Achievable: Convene Experts to determine biggest bang for BMP bucks (3)

- Most Important to do RIGHT NOW: Incentives/penalties for municipal officials and staff to participate in water quality training (3)

- Biggest Impact over LONG-TERM:
  - Watershed Academy (2)
  - Municipal Stormwater Fee (2)
  - Stop Giving Waivers [Educate Officials] (2)

General Take-aways from Survey

- When given choice between municipal and regional, survey respondents chose municipal (now).

- When given choice between fee and authority, survey respondents chose fee (now).

- Recommendations that used proper names as examples or specifics ranked lower.

- Some recs are now more easy to combine knowing group's priorities and "phasing."
  - Ex. A strike force of professionals approaching municipalities; and a watershed academy that is the go-to

Comparing Interviews to Survey Results – most important actions, biggest limitations
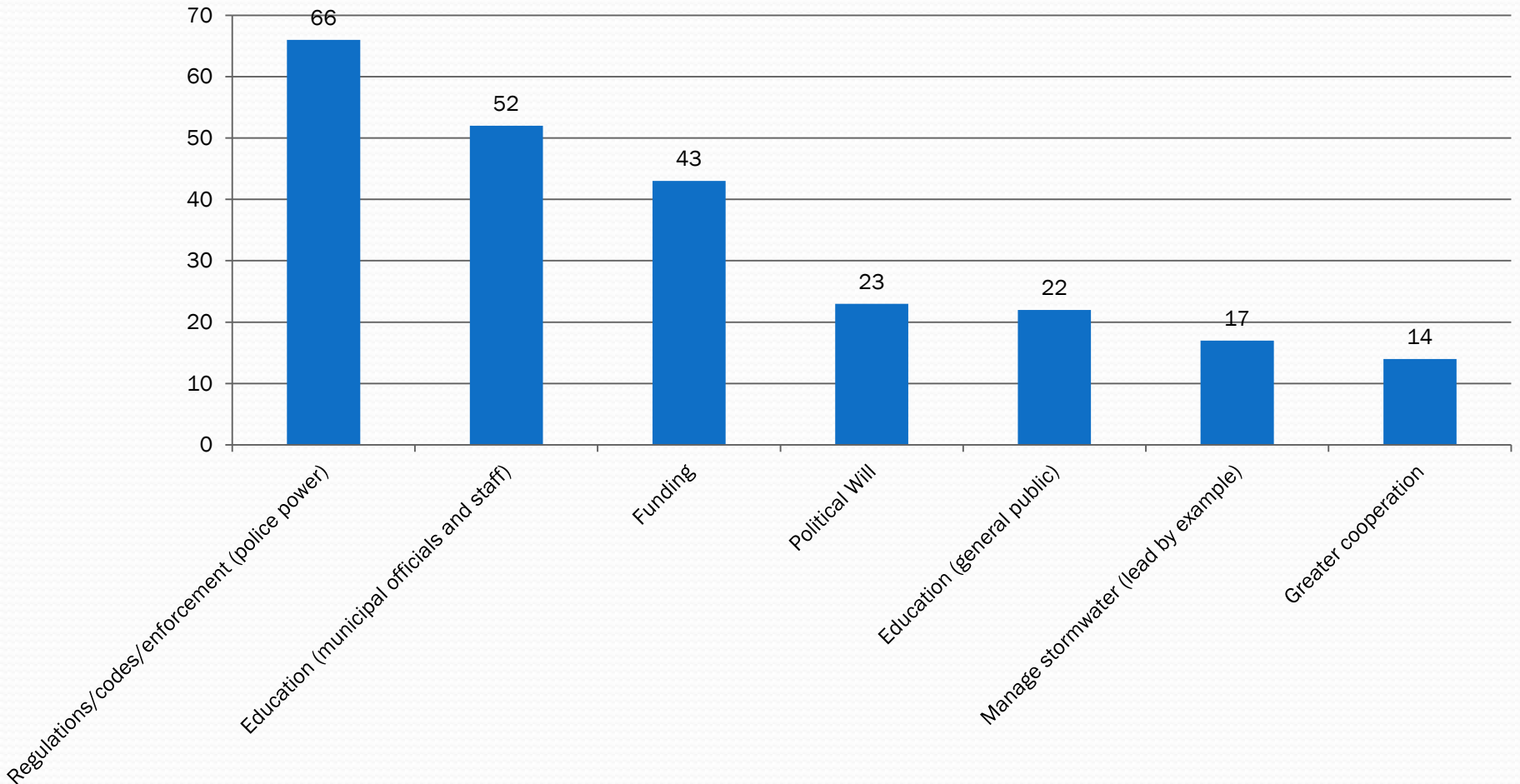
Moving Recommendations Forward

- 48 + 1 recs
- Down to ~25
- 10+ will be developed by MTAAP members
  - Still confirming with some MTAAP members

Normalized	Short Recommendation	Section	MTAAP Members	DVRPC S
0.33	Lead by example	Municipal	Seung Ah Byun, Brandywine	Christina
0.33	Create new state funding sources	State		Chris
0.34	Municipal stormwater fee	Municipal		Chris
0.37	Integrate LID in municipal planning laws and SW regulations	State		Melissa
0.39	Create LOSP (ballot initiatives)	Municipal		Alison
0.39	Undertake Citizen Science	Nonprofit	Julie Slavet, TTF	Alison
0.42	Legislate minimum riparian buffer protection regulations	State		Laura
0.44	Provide more precise guidance to municipalities	State		Melissa
0.45	Incentive program that encourages property owners	Municipal		Alison
0.45	Educate landowners	Nonprofit	Jeanne Ortiz, Steven Staffier, Audubon	Melissa
0.47	Strike Force	Collaborative	Jen Adkins, PDE (John Theilacker, Carol Collier, Ann Hutchinson, Susan Caughlan)	Alison/Me
0.48	Keep SW BMP manuals up-to-date	State		Alison
0.49	Undertake Technical Work	Nonprofit		Melissa
0.49	Legal Defense Team	Collaborative	Alice Baker, PennFuture	Alison
0.49	Buy-out repetitive loss properties	State		Chris
0.50	Stop giving waivers, variances, and special exceptions	Nonprofit	Sandra Yerger	Christina
0.51	Identify Existing DRW-wide group to take on new responsibilities	Collaborative	Madeline Urbish/DRW Coalition (Jen Adkins/PDE)	Patty
0.52	Official maps	Municipal		Christina
0.54	Downstream municipalities/sourcewater protection projects upstream	State		Alison
0.55	Septic ordinances	Municipal		Laura
0.56	Matching farmers with right TA providers	Collaborative	Grant DeCosta, Brandywine	Alison
0.56	LTAP Classes	State		Christina
0.56	Resolve conflicts between rules and regulations re: drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, surface water	State		Alison
0.58	Multi-Million dollar messaging campaign	Collaborative		Chris
0.59	Green Certification	Collaborative		Alison

Questions?

https://tidysurveys.com/blog/2013/11/03/survey-questions-choose-right-type-survey-questions/

Recommendations

MTAAP Members

Set A

Small Group Discussions

- Purpose:
  - Provide feedback on recommendations
  - Help determine breadth and depth
- Go through two rounds
  - Choose group to discuss specific recommendation.
  - 20-30 minutes per round

Small Group Discussions – Set A

Group A: Lead by Example by Installing BMPs

  NJ Room

Group B: Legal Defense Team

  PA Room

Group C: Educate Riparian Landowners

  Back of Conference Room

Group D: DRW Organization Encouraging Municipal Best Practices

  Front of Conference Room

Small Group Discussions – Set B

Group E: Strike Force/Watershed Academy

  NJ Room

Group F: Waivers & Variances [aka Educate Officials]

  PA Room

Group G: Matching Farmers with TA

  Back of Conference Room

Group H: Citizen Engagement

  Front of Conference Room

Next Steps

Developing Recommendations

- DVRPC will work with 10-12 MTAAP members/groups to develop in-depth recommendations ("mini-proposals")
  - Ex. Strike Force/Watershed Academy
- DVRPC will develop 10-20 additional recommendations (shorter in length, but equally important)
  - Ex. Create LOSP (Ballot Initiatives)

Next MTAAP Meeting

- To Be Determined

- 1-2 more MTAAP meetings before end of project (Summer 2017)

Evaluations

- Very helpful!

Municipal Technical Assistance Advisory Panel (MTAAP)
February 15, 2017 Meeting Survey

Help us find out what worked and what didn't work about today's meeting

1. Please rate the overall quality of the MTAAP meeting.

           1   2   3   4   5

   Low quality ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ High quality

2. Was the MTAAP meeting a good use of your time?

           1   2   3   4   5

   Not a valuable use of my time ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Excellent use of my time

3. What did you like *best* about the MTAAP meeting?

4. What *could have been improved* about the MTAAP meeting?

5. Do you have suggestions for this project and/or the MTAAP?

THANK YOU!

Make sure to sign in!