**Skowhegan**

**Chapter 10: Water Resources ( Goal E)**

**Overview and Summary:** (In Plan not here)

**Policies:**

* Protect current and potential drinking water sources.
* Protect surface water resources from pollution and improve water quality where needed.
* Provide public water supplies and sewer service in growth areas, to encourage more intensive development in those areas.
* Minimize the effects of direct discharges of wastewater treatment facilities by encouraging upgrade of existing public sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities.
* Cooperate with neighboring communities and advocacy groups to protect both groundwater and surface water resources.

**Strategies**:

1. Update the Subdivision Ordinance to be consistent with the Maine Stormwater

Management Law and rules concerning low impact development, DEP’s allocations for allowable levels of phosphorus in lake/pond watersheds, and the Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System program.

2. Monitor federal floodplain mandates and inform the Planning Board of any need to update the Town’s floodplain management ordinance.

3. Monitor the requirements of the urban impaired stream watershed program, and continue to pursue funding to develop a Whitten Brook Urban Impaired Stream Watershed Plan. Currier Brook and other streams will be evaluated to see if they fall into the “urban impaired stream” classification.

4. Work with Aqua Maine and other public water systems to take appropriate action to protect public wellhead and aquifer recharge areas as necessary.

5. Provide water quality “best management practices” information to farmers and foresters.

6. Continue management practices and standards for erosion control and wildlife corridor protection in construction and maintenance of public roads, utilities, and properties and require their implementation by the local officials, employees and contractors

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7. Continue to participate in local and regional efforts to monitor and protect the quality of the Kennebec River and other significant water bodies, in particular involvement in the Kennebec River Initiative.

8. Obtain educational materials on milfoil and other invasive species and post at Lake George and Kennebec River boat launches and in the town office.

**Implementation:**

1. The Planning Board is responsible for drafting and proposing amendments to the

Subdivision and Site Review Ordinances. The Board will propose amendments to further protect water quality in the Subdivision Ordinance for the 2011 annual town meeting.

1. The Planning Board will consider whether to make additional changes in the Site Review Ordinance to further protect the significant aquifer north of Upper and Lower Ponds as it looks at overall revisions (2012).
2. **In preparation for amending these ordinances, the Planning Board and Conservation**

**Commission will have a joint meeting, inviting representatives from NEMO (Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials) and Aqua Maine to attend and discuss issues related to their areas of responsibility.**

1. **The Conservation Commission will bear primary responsibility for regular monitoring of local and regional water quality issues and reaching out to cooperating individuals, groups, and organizations (e.g. Kennebec River Initiative, Lake George Regional Park) on a continuing basis.**
2. **The Conservation Commission will be responsible for identifying and applying for funding for an urban-impaired watershed plan, a continuing activity until the plan is in place.**
3. **The Conservation Commission will obtain Best Management Practices literature from applicable State agencies in 2010 and work with the town assessor to identify and mail the literature to all farm and forest landowners in Skowhegan within the coming year.**
4. **The Conservation Commission will develop a system to monitor fish populations and threats to water quality in tributary streams and report to the town, beginning in 2013.**