



Department of Public
Health and Environment

Lowell Johnson
Director

David Brummel
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 24, 2015

To: Matt Moore, Administrator, South Washington Watershed District (SWWD)
John Loomis, Water Resource Specialist, SWWD

From: Jessica Collin-Pilarski, Senior Planner, Public Health and Environment

Copy (via email):

Jack Lavold, President, SWWD
Molly O'Rourke, Administrator, Administration
Lowell Johnson, Director, Public Health and Environment
Dave Brummel, Deputy Director, Public Health and Environment
Stephanie Souter, Planner II, Public Health and Environment

Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment (PHE) would like to thank the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) for requesting input on the update of the Watershed Plan. PHE would also like to thank the SWWD for the invitation to join the Technical Advisory Committee for the plan update.

PHE reviewed how the current SWWD plan addresses groundwater. The existing plan recognizes the importance of groundwater as the districts sole source of water for drinking, irrigation, commercial, and industrial facilities. The SWWD plan also addresses the impact of geology and the importance that groundwater has on precious ecosystems. Additionally, the existing plan recognizes the partnership with Washington County under the previous county groundwater plan and includes strategies specific to groundwater and surface water interaction, groundwater monitoring, and infiltration practices.

The county adopted an updated groundwater plan in September 2014. PHE requests that during watershed plan development, SWWD updates the language in the plan to refer to the current Washington County Groundwater Plan 2014-2024. PHE also requests the SWWD consider strategies from the updated groundwater plan and identifies opportunities to partner with the county and others on groundwater projects. Some specific strategies are listed below, that SWWD may consider including or referencing in their plan. Please refer to the full county plan for additional strategies.

- GW Plan strategy 3.2.6 Develop a county wide water conservation plan
- GW Plan strategy 3.2.7 Partner with the WCD, WMOs and businesses to collaborate on ways to reduce water use and increase water reuse.
- GW Plan strategy 4.2.1 Promote and encourage research related to better understanding the regional infiltration system and specific relationships between groundwater aquifers and surface water bodies.
- GW Plan strategy 4.2.5 Partner with WCD and watershed organizations to develop, through the water consortium, a county-wide groundwater monitoring plan.
- GW Plan strategy 4.2.6 Collaborate with LGUs, the WCD and WMOs to identify and preserve regional recharge areas.

PHE looks forward to working with the SWWD, as the watershed plan is updated, on finding opportunities for collaboration and partnership.