The Rhode Island Water Management System
Elliptical Chart Narrative

The Elliptical Chart, composed of ten elements, was developed to describe the elements of the Rhode Island Water Management System and provides the foundation for the water management system.

Element #1: WRB Adopted Recommendations from the Water Allocation Committee: A: Priority Use Policy and B: Watershed Approach

The Water Resources Board adopted 6 major recommendations to support the design of the water management system. Two recommendations, a priority use policy and adoption of a watershed approach, create the system framework.

Element #2: Resource Inventory

The water resources inventory is constructed from the adopted recommendations, expansion of the major public suppliers database to include voluntary reporting of minor public suppliers and self suppliers, and information from ongoing WRB projects, i.e. Supplemental Water Studies, etc.

Element #3: Watershed-Based Water Use and Availability Studies/Data System

The water use and availability data system is constructed from the ongoing studies prepared/in preparation through the partnerships with the USGS and University of Rhode Island, NEWUDS (a Microsoft Access database developed by USGS for the storage of water-use information for New England), and future studies.

Element #4: WRB Establishment of Water Budgets

Basin and sub-basin water budgets are dependent on the water use and availability studies, water use data, and the water supply system management plans.

Element #5: Translation of Water Budgets to Municipal Water Budget Guidance to Municipalities

Basin and sub-basin water budgets provide current and projected water resource availability for municipalities. Guidance to local municipalities will inform resource planning decisions.

Element #6: Review and Evaluation

The resource inventory is complemented with strategic planning activities that include a review and evaluation of state and municipal planning functions (state guide plan, comprehensive planning act, sub-division and zoning enabling acts).

Element #7: Regional and Local Water Management

Regional and local water resource management processes include a series of revision and integration activities based on local comprehensive plan requirements, zoning and land management regulations, and water supply system management plans.

Element #8: State Water Management

The state water management system is further empowered through enhanced water supply system management regulations, policies and procedures that will include development of and require wherever necessary out-of-basin transfers, new users and withdrawals, and will require wherever necessary revisions of Handbook #16.

Element #9: Local Land Use Decision Making Process

An ongoing, strategic implementation of technical and informational products will inform local land use decision-making process involving water resources.

Element # 10: Education, Funding and Technical Assistance

A collaborative water education program to develop a conservation ethic in the state will educate and inform the general public, public officials and affected users on the need to protect and preserve the state's water resources. The promotion of long-range water conservation and reuse strategies, funding support, and technical assistance will inform and enhance the implementation of the water management system on all levels (state, basin, sub-basin, and municipal).