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Developing the Mid-Atlantic Water Program: Breaking Boundaries to Build Capacity Through Collaboration

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Abstract Text:

Since late 2002, the Mid-Atlantic Water Program (MAWP) has addressed the area's major water quality issues in a uniquely regional way. By developing a cohesive network of extension and research faculty from six 1862 and three 1890 land grant universities, the MAWP has promoted a structure of interstate collaboration founded on the dissemination of water quality science for practical applications in the field and on "the Hill." Such a coordinated effort to incorporate the best available land-based science in both policy and on-the-ground operations was not formerly available or pursued in the region. The success of the program, however, is reflected by the difficulties in building an organizational culture, developing a regional presence, managing members who can only commit a small portion of their time, identifying and strategically addressing needs, and measuring impacts. This poster will address the organizational development of the Mid-Atlantic Water Program – where the program succeeded, where it felt short, and where it goes from here.

Impact Statement: