Stakeholder Consortium Meeting
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New York State Water Resources Institute
NY’s Water Infrastructure

- **Wastewater**
  - 610 municipal wastewater treatment facilities
  - 16% of plants serve 64% of the population
  - at least 1.5 million septic systems
  - 22,000 miles of sewer pipes
  - many systems over 35 years old

- **Water Supply**
  - over 10,000 regulated water systems
  - ~3,000 of these systems serve less than 3,000 people
  - many systems over 60 years old

- **Dams**
  - more than 5,700 inventoried dams
  - 20 dams responsible for 69% of water storage capacity
  - one for every 15 miles of stream
  - over half built more than 60 years ago
Replacing Aging Infrastructure

- Cost (2008) to replace NY’s water infrastructure in next 20 years
  - Waste water: $36 billion
  - Drinking water: $38 billion
  - Dams: $0.5 billion

- Federal funding has drastically declined since 1980’s
  - Wastewater funding requests in 2012 were $7.7 billion, while federal funding was $700 million

- Local support issues
  - Population declines in older cities shrinks tax base
  - Smaller municipalities cannot access bond market
  - Fees for water services are less than the true cost of those services
Challenges and Opportunities

- Should we just replace or should we be evolving our water infrastructure?
  - Home rule has meant lack of regional water planning / inefficiencies
  - “Build it they will come” has resulted in significant excess capacity in some areas

- Similar and problematic business model used by both public and private water providers / waste water
  - Generally does not promote conservation
  - Should we transition to providing water services?

- Current regulations and financing inhibit change
  - Green water infrastructure
  - Decentralized systems

- Because water infrastructure is not very visible, public is not aware
NYS POTW Design Flows

POTW Design Flow (MGD)

year

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