

	Vision		What it Means and Comments
	New Brunswick's water is managed and protected to ensure its quality and availability for people, for nature, and for the economy, now and in the future.		The Water Strategy vision is intended to lay out the government's objective with respect to managing water, and will be used to guide its internal decision-making. The Vision contains the correct elements — protecting water both for people and our economy and for nature, and cuts across generations — protecting water for today's uses and for future uses.
	Guiding principles	DOE Description	What it Means and Comments
1	Conservation and Accountability	Water recognized as a valuable public resource essential for human life with conservation and responsible water use encouraged	Encouraged is wishy-washy. Needs to be backed by law and enforcement. Is water a valuable resource (second most important, after our children) or a right? Is there an opportunity to modify this slightly to expand the Euro-Canadian understanding of water as a renewable resource to include the First Nations understanding of life-force and of treaty rights?
2	Sustainability	Goals will be informed by science and a long-term view of preserving healthy eco-systems	As a basic level, the role of science to to provide evidence that supports decision making. 1) This would be the place to introduce the concept of uncertainty — the description of the goal could be enhanced by adding precaution, where the long term view would also be informed by the principle of precaution. Alternatively, the government could amend this document to include a sixth principle, the precautionary principle. 2) Over that past years, the capacity of the DOE to collect and analyze data with respect to groundwater and surface water quality and quantity has been cut. As reported earlier in other documents, the government's ability to protect our groundwater is limited by a critical lack of data needed for effective groundwater management.
3	Stewardship	Consideration will be given to how everyone plays a role in watershed protection and management.	A poor definition of stewardship. Environmental stewardship refers to responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. There are 3 types of environmental stewards: doers, donors, and practitioners . Wikipedia. Community watershed groups and province-wide efforts from organizations like CCNB communications and public information programs will need to be supported.
4	Partnerships & Innovation	Opportunities for partnerships and innovative water management will be pursued	As stated this scares me. Do you mean bulk water transfers, private management of water resources? a good principle — but need some detail. For example, will it be a requirement that local watershed groups are consulted with respect to new COAs issued in the watershed, or exemption permits for construction?

5	Transparency & Communication	Progress will be reported publicly and more all water-related information will be shared.	
	Challenges & Opportunities: To achieve goal?	1. What are the challenges with achieving each goal?	2. What actions (opportunities) could help us achieve each
	Goal	DOE Expected Outcome	What it Means and Comments
1	To better understand our surface and ground water resources.	More comprehensive information available to inform decision-makers, stakeholders and the general public about the quality and quantity of NB's water.	The watershed categories must be of a size and scope to facilitate management. For example, the Saint John river watershed is too diverse to manage holistically. There are 30 watershed groups in the province, but the strategy is restricted to 13 Level 1 watersheds. An ecosystem/watershed approach needs to be based on scientific data including existing water flow and peak flow data, water quality, environmental data and riparian status. The transfer of scientific information to policy makers, stakeholders and the public in plain language will enhance understanding of and support for progressive environmental management. This is essential for building informed and motivated communities with the common goal of restoring the health of NB waters. A completed, comprehensive watershed protection strategy will have an action plan laying out how more information will be collected and made available by whom over time.

2	To manage and use water responsibly by protecting drinking water and eco-system health while allowing when developing and approving economic initiatives.	Solutions for drinking water quality and quantity challenges requirements, a better understanding of and eco-system requirements, and development that is sustainable in that it maintains <i>balance</i> between human needs, the envirmt and the economy.	" Balance " can result in slow pollution increases. Need to ensure water quality and availability and ecosystem protection are integrated into economic development as a condition of approval. This outcome could also be informed by a priority listing of solutions (zero-discharge, low impact, etc.) as well as a priority listing of pollutants to address, and pollution pathways to reduce.
3	To <i>share</i> the responsibility for the management of water and build relationships	Increased water management partnerships; a greater sense of responsibility on the part of all consumers (large or small), and public awareness of water-related management tools and conservation options.	Water is a public good. The government must be solely accountable for results. Stakeholders can be involved and recommend but govt is accountable for ensuring quality and quantity is maintained. Need to clarify what is meant by partnerships. The key role existing watershed organizations play in science and communication must be included in and strengthened by the regulation. Sharing responsibility also implies new actions on the part of government to include consumers and the public in its water-related decisions.
4	To make more all water-related information available to the public and report on the progress of water strategy actions.	Greater amount of All water-related information accessible to the public and providing <i>regular</i> updates on the progress of water strategy actions areas.	All documents related to water use currently held by DELG, including condition monitoring reports, WAWA requests and permits, and ecosystem withdrawal or transfers must be published online in an accessible format to inform strategy development. Future documents and reports regarding these matters must be published when received or approved. The regulation must include a timeline for implementation and a timeline and responsibilities for review.

The Water Crisis in parts of the world have two components:

- the crisis of supply
- the crisis of contamination

We have to be careful that we don't permit the privatization of profits and the socialization of costs.

We cannot exploit groundwater storage at rates above groundwater recharge. (and things we allow, such as clear cutting, reduce groundwater recharge)

River basin integrity should be the first priority in supply-demand management: for long term health of the system, withdrawals must not endanger the ecological services the river provides to all riparians.

Balance in an ecosystem means no exports of bulk water from an ecosystem.