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Self-Evident Truths About Water Management

- Water does not respect political boundaries.
- Water should be managed on a holistic, watershed basis.
- What happens on the land affects streams and rivers. You can not manage water without managing the land.
- There is only one water system. We must consider ground water & surface water; stormwater, water supply and wastewater integrated as one system.
- A drop of water in a reservoir can be future drinking water, in a stream be critical habitat, or if in someone's basement be detrimental flood water.
- We need to provide information about water availability and quality, and flood-hazard areas, so industries and local governments can make educated decisions on siting new facilities and accommodating residential growth.
- Downstream water supplies are dependent on the actions of other users.
- Floods will occur. We can not stop the flood waters, but we can reduce the losses and damages from flooding. A floodplain is a natural extension of a river. It will flood. Strategies need to consider upstream solutions, as well as keeping people out of harms way and warning them of impending floods.
- When establishing a water allocation and reservoir release program, one must consider water supply, instream flow needs, and flood mitigation both downstream and upstream of the dam.
- The Delaware River system is sensitive and can change quickly. We need to base our decisions on the range of conditions, not averages.
- There is not enough water in the basin to support all uses in another drought of record.
- We do not know all the answers. We need a stronger base of science to support the decision makers.
- Water management is not unilateral; it is a collaborative process. We need to engage all levels of government, including municipal government and local stakeholders.
- The management system of a river must be adaptive. Changes occur in the underlying science, management alternatives, and regional priorities. A river basin commission provides the forum for adaptive management.