

Wastewater Regulatory Tools Improvements: WEAO Working with Regulators

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Municipal Engineers Association, 60th Annual Workshop

Towns of The Blue Mountains, Collingwood

and Wasaga Beach

November 27, 2019



WEAO in Brief

- Member Association of WEF
 - WEF: 36,000+ members
 - WEAO: 1,200+ members
- Board of Directors + 16 committees
- Over 200 active volunteers
- Annual conference ~1,000 attendees
- Charity of choice: Water for People

WEAO

- **Vision**

Essential to all professionals dedicated to sustaining Ontario's water environment.

- **Mission**

We connect and enrich the expertise of professionals who protect Ontario's water environment

- **Values**

- *Leadership*

- *Collaboration*

- *Knowledge*

- *Innovation*

- *Passion*

- *Service*

What is WEAO doing?

- **Goals**

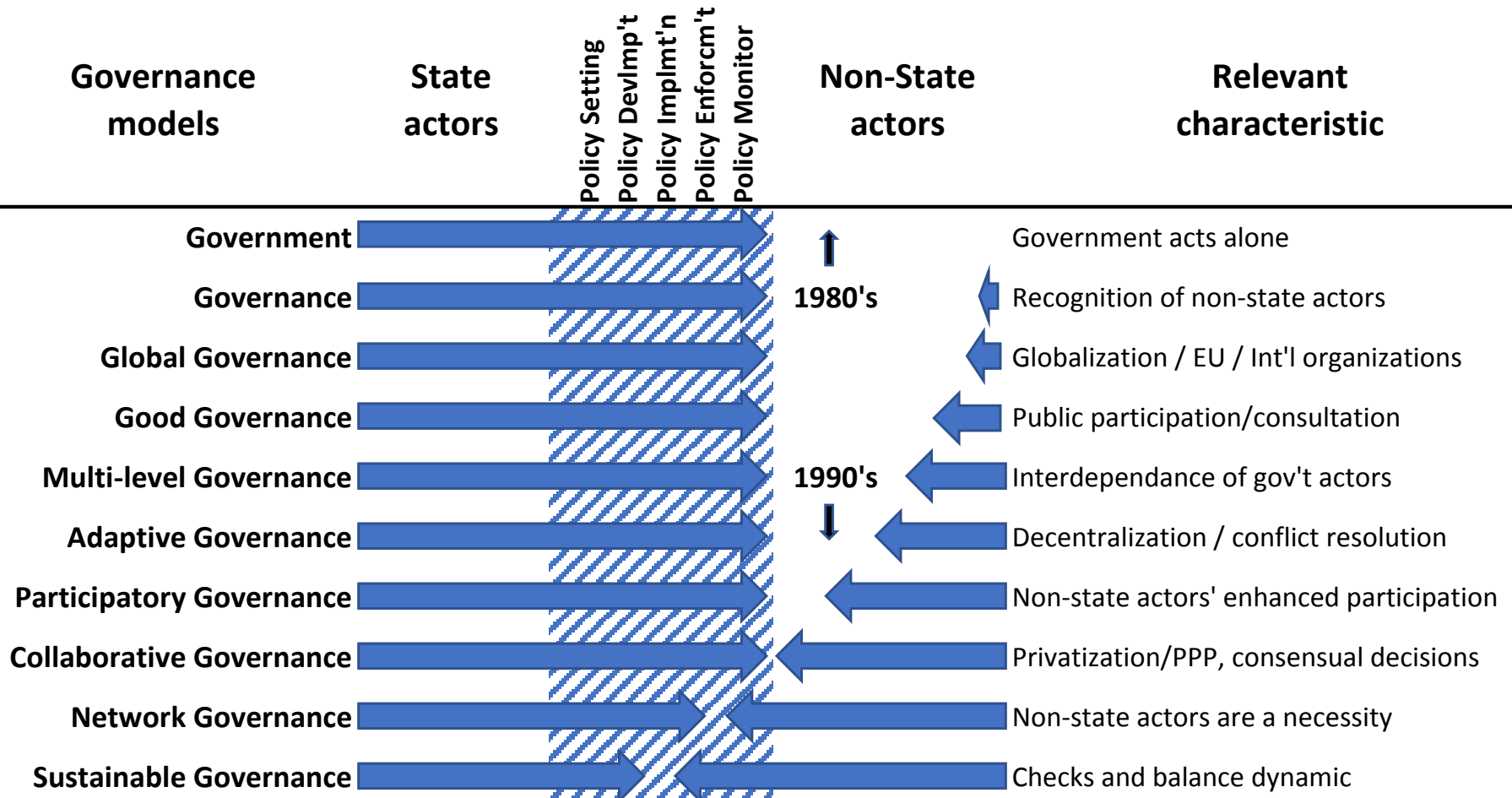
- To continue to be a recognized knowledge source for protecting Ontario's water environment on the basis of sound science
- Inform government on issues affecting the environment
- Attract new professionals to the industry and membership
- Build strategic alliances with other provincial groups

- **Strategies**

- Scholarship (\$5,000 annually to 4 post-secondary students)
- Attracting students to a career in the industry
- Mentorship program
- **Collaborating w/ Regulators (Gov't. Affairs Committee)**

Global Trend: Increase Collaboration

Decision Making Level



WEAO Policy Priorities / GAC

- **Policy Priorities**

- 1) Support of research and pilot projects
- 2) Reduce Inflow / Infiltration on sanitary collection systems
- 3) Water quality offsets
- 4) Climate change adaptation
- 5) Holistic approach to MECP Draft LID Design Manual

- **GAC Activity**

GAC Activity	2017	2018	2019
EBR Letters / Recommendations to MECP	2	1	6
Influent magazine articles	2	3	4
Motions for Board resolution	1	2	8

WEAO Collaborating w/ MECP

- MECP Quarterly Executive Meetings
 - WEAO Joined in 2018 (OWWA, OMWA)
- MECP Stakeholder Consultation & Discussion
 - WW Practitioners Group (since 2013)
 - WW / SWM Design Criteria (since 2018)
- 2018 Study for Area-wide ECAs for WW Collection Systems
- MECP & OMH Health Units – Working Group
 - ECA requirement to report OF/Spills to the public

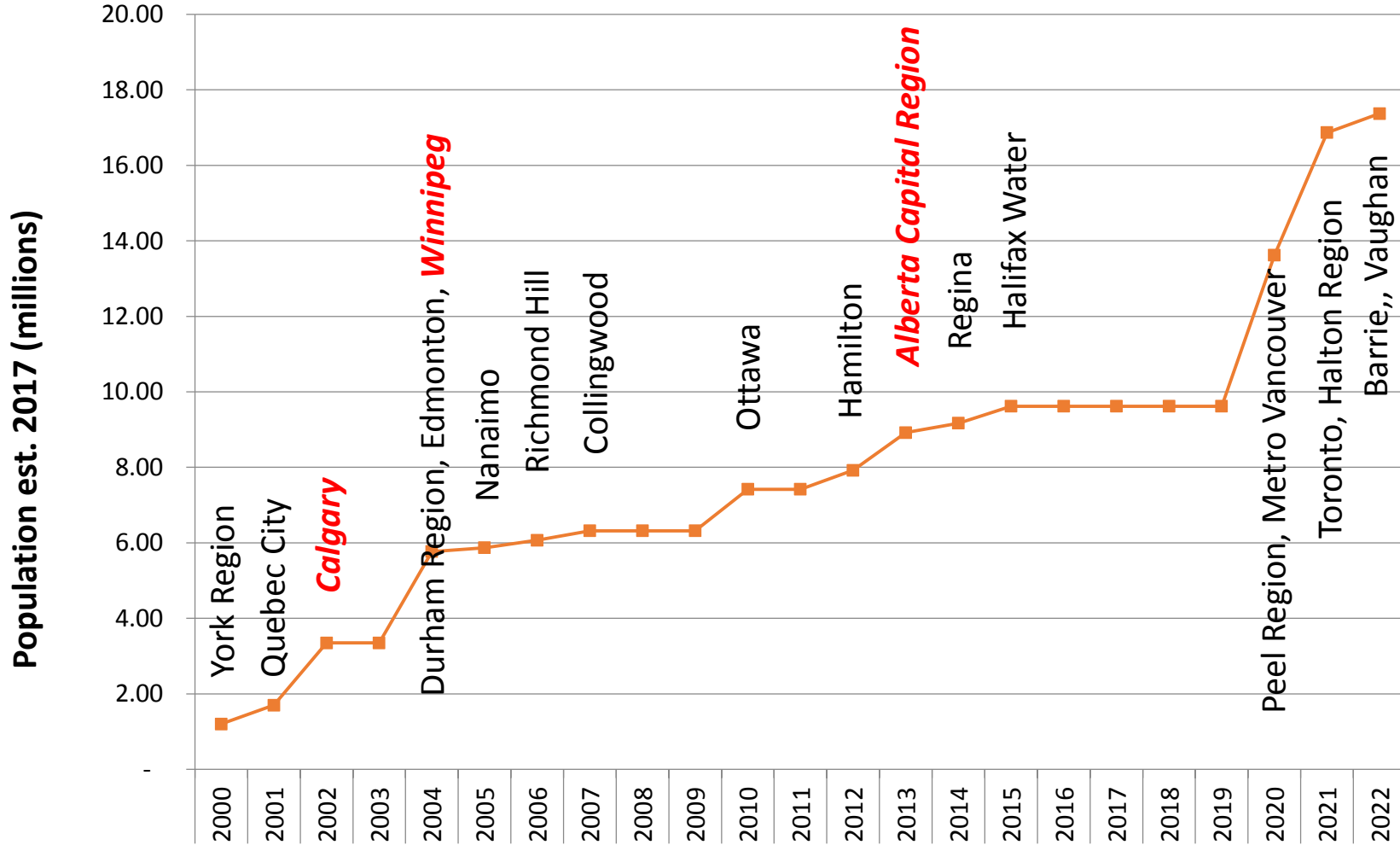
WEAO Collaborating w/ MECP (cont.)

- Pilot “*How to*” documents:
 - *How to apply for MECP ECA approval for new/innovative technologies*
 - *How to notify the public and downstream users of Overflows/Bypasses*
 - Other:
 - Water Q. Offsets
 - WW Collection Performance
 - Duty to consult
 - Documenting pre-authorization
 - I/I Programs
 - Treated WW reuse
- Partnership with CSA Group – WW MS

CSA Group / MECP / WEAO

- Wastewater Management Standard
 - Increased regulatory compliance
 - Better preparedness for a ministry inspections
 - Improved public confidence in system operations
 - Reduced likelihood of env. violations (due diligence)
 - Preparedness for climate change resiliency (OF, flooding)
 - Culture of continual improvement
 - Having industry-identified risk factors
 - Harmonizes operational practices with drinking water sector
 - Increased confidence of regulators in the operation

Voluntary Adoption of EMS Std.



CSA Group – WWMS



CSA Wastewater Management Standard

Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario
Duffin Creek WPCP, Pickering, ON, April 2, 2019



CSA – WWMS (cont.)

Why Develop a Standard?

- All municipalities already have management systems experience through the DWQMS
- Many municipalities have already transferred some elements of their DWQMS management system to their wastewater system (e.g., documented procedures, training, financial planning, record keeping, management of essential suppliers, infrastructure maintenance, emergency protocols)
- Some municipalities have voluntarily adopted elements of ISO 14001, achieved full certification under ISO 14001, or their developed their own environmental management system.

CSA – WWMS (cont.)

This initiative is not intended to:

- Develop a mandatory standard for all municipal systems (like the DWQMS)
- Result in changes to the regulatory or compliance framework, although implementation may provide mechanisms for demonstrating compliance.
- Replace any existing standards
- Additional mandatory requirements (i.e., regulation), become less likely and less necessary when things are working well

CSA – WWMS Next Steps

- **Advisory Council**

- Established in May 9, 2019

- **Funding Strategy**

- Goal: \$150,000
- Approach Ontario-based organizations
- Approach selected Ontario municipalities
- MECP – In-kind support and endorsement

Standards Council of Canada

Engineers Canada - Developing a QMS for Stormwater Systems



Developing a Stormwater Quality Management Standard (QMS) *in Light of a Changing Climate*



SEED DOCUMENT TO SUPPORT NATIONAL STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

Prepared for: Engineers Canada
Date: November 2018

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Thank-you!

Questions?

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