

Water System Partnerships Training Workshop

Expanding Partnerships Exercise

Review and complete Part 1 and Part 2 of the worksheet. In Part 1, you will explore how to use a partnership to solve an example problem that a water system may face. In Part 2, you will expand upon the previous exercise from Module 3, Current Partnerships, to consider new partnership activities you could engage in with a current partner or how to expand a current partnership activity to a new partner. You'll see how it can be easier to build something new from something that already exists. If at any time you are having trouble filling out this worksheet, please reach out to workshop facilitators, organizers, or other support personnel for help.



Part 1. Solving Problems with Partnerships (Group work)

Using your knowledge of the four types of partnerships and their advantages and disadvantages, read through your group's assigned scenario to propose a possible partnership solution. Then, answer the questions below. Remember there may be more than one possible answer for how a partnership activity could benefit the water system or systems in each scenario.

1) What scenario were you assigned?

- a. Scenario #1
- b. Scenario #2
- c. Scenario #3
- d. Scenario #4

2) What activities could benefit the water system(s)? (refer back to Module 3 for a list of example activities)

3) How would the activities listed above benefit the water system(s)?

4) What type of partnership would you recommend the water system(s) participate in? (select one)

- a. Informal Cooperation
- b. Contractual Assistance
- c. Joint Power Agency
- d. Ownership Transfer
- e. Multiple Partnership Types (i.e., a layered partnership)

#	Scenario
1	A water system suffers from a poor-quality groundwater source, an untrained operator, and frequent distribution line breaks.
2	A certified operator has been working at a medium-sized water system for 40+ years and is about to retire. The water system is well-run and has not experienced any major health-violations in the past 5 years. The owner of the plant is having a hard time locating a qualified replacement.
3	Apple County Water is a small water system that does not have any recent compliance issues. They are working on creating their first emergency response plan to ensure everything is in order during the time of a crisis.
4	The local School District operates three separate water systems for the schools in the district. Each school experiences recurring violations of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliform bacteria.

Please wait for instruction from your facilitator before moving onto Part 2.



Part 2. Identify Partnership Opportunities (Individual work)

As we learned, understanding your strengths and challenges can help you identify opportunities to create successful partnerships by building relationships to address water system challenges. Review the example below to see how a water system used a current partnership to identify other partnership opportunities and address other challenges.

Example Matrix:

As you'll see in the example boxes below, partnership opportunities are classified as:

- **Current Partnership (Step 1):** A partner and partnership activity you have already implemented.
- **Opportunity A (Step 2):** New activity with a current or past partner to solve a challenge.
- **Opportunity B (Step 3):** Current or past activity with a new partner to solve a challenge.
- **Future Opportunity (Step 4):** Future opportunity to work towards to develop a new partnership activity with a new partner.

Partnership Activities

Activities you have not done	<p>Opportunity A STEP 2</p> <p><i>(a new activity with a current partner)</i></p> <p>Challenge: <u>Limited access to equipment</u></p> <hr/> <p>Activity: <u>Develop mutual aid agreement to share equipment between water systems</u></p> <p>Partner: <u>Tremonton, UT</u></p>	<p>Future Opportunity STEP 4</p> <p><i>(a new activity with a new partner)</i></p> <p>Challenge: <u>Increasing restrictions on source water pumping during droughts</u></p> <hr/> <p>Activity: <u>Construct regional interconnections to water systems with less reliable source water</u></p> <p>Partner: <u>Plentiful Water District and Elwood, UT</u></p>
	<p>Current Partnership STEP 1</p> <p><i>(from the Current Partnerships Exercise)</i></p> <p>Challenge: <u>Understanding and upgrading certain treatment techniques</u></p> <hr/> <p>Activity: <u>Informal calls with another water system with similar treatment techniques</u></p> <p>Partner: <u>Tremonton, UT</u></p>	<p>Opportunity B STEP 3</p> <p><i>(a current activity with a new partner)</i></p> <p>Challenge: <u>Reliability of source water (i.e., drought concerns)</u></p> <hr/> <p>Activity: <u>Informal calls with another water system with the same source water</u></p> <p>Partner: <u>Elwood, UT</u></p>
	People you have worked with	People you have not worked with
Partners		

Now it's your turn! Use the blank matrix on the next page to identify partnership solutions relevant to your water system.

- **STEP 1.** To begin, select a partnership you identified in the previous exercise, Part 1b in Module 3, and fill-in the Current Partnership box with the challenge being addressed, the activity, and name of your current partner.
- **STEP 2.** To complete the **Opportunity A** box, consider a different challenge at your water system and how a new activity with the same partner could address this new challenge. Having that existing foundation of trust can benefit the partnership.
- **STEP 3.** To complete the **Opportunity B** box, consider how your “current partnership” activity could be implemented (maybe from a fresh angle) with a new partner to address a challenge at your water system. Having previous experience with an activity can make it easier to implement with a new partner.
- **STEP 4.** The top-right box of the matrix, the **Future Opportunity** box, shows how you could build off of your current partnerships’ relationships and experiences to develop a new partnership activity with a new partner in the future. You can also use this matrix to identify what steps may help you get to a future partnership. For example, if you ultimately want to create a regional entity to oversee and manage multiple water systems, there may be smaller activities to pursue with partners first to help build relationships, trust, and relevant experience.

Partnership Activities

Activities you have not done

Activities you have done

<p>Opportunity A STEP 2</p> <p><i>(a new activity with a current partner)</i></p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p>Activity:</p> <p>Partner:</p>	<p>Future Opportunity STEP 4</p> <p><i>(a new activity with a new partner)</i></p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p>Activity:</p> <p>Partner:</p>
<p>Current Partnership STEP 1</p> <p><i>(from the Current Partnerships Exercise)</i></p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p>Activity:</p> <p>Partner:</p>	<p>Opportunity B STEP 3</p> <p><i>(a current activity with a new partner)</i></p> <p>Challenge:</p> <p>Activity:</p> <p>Partner:</p>
<i>People you have worked with</i>	<i>People you have not worked with</i>

Partners