



Kentucky's Area Development Districts and the _____ Water Resource Information System



What is the Water Resource Information System (WRIS)?

The WRIS is a comprehensive database that contains:

- Water and sewer project profiles with detailed project data.
- System data including contact, fiscal, operations, customer demographics, and planning information.
- Mapping of existing water and sewer infrastructure and proposed improvements.



History of the WRIS

- Originally developed for planning the extension of water/sewer services to unserved areas.
- Over 90% of Kentuckians now have access to potable water.
- 2012 GPS initiative improved accuracy of GIS data.
- Planning priorities have shifted from expansion to maintaining infrastructure and meeting new quality standards.



ADDs Role in Water Management Planning

- Maintain WRIS system data, project profiles, and GIS data
- Facilitate Water Management Planning Councils.
- Provide regional consistency and coordination.
- Coordinate between utilities and funding partners.



How ADDs Get Data for WRIS

- Annual system visits with utilities
- Review fiscal, operational and customer data
- Update GIS mapping and infrastructure details
- Collect project information from utilities and engineers
- Standardize and reconcile data as needed



Benefits of ADDs supporting local utilities via WRIS

- Trusted regional partner for utilities
- Standardized data collection and analysis across counties/regions
- Stronger funding applications
- Regional coordination and collaboration
- Support for small systems with limited capacity



How Water Management Councils contribute to water planning

- Bring utilities, leaders and stakeholders together
- Review projects and set regional priorities
- Provide a forum for collaboration and problem-solving
- Validate WRIS data accuracy
- Strengthen local input for state planning



Future Vision for WRIS

- WRIS accomplished its mission as stated in legislation
- Water distribution may be complete, *but* planning is not
- Quarter century of GPS/GIS technology has ensued – modernize the standard
- What can a statewide water information system achieve in the future?



Recommendations

- Create a bill to define future goals of WRIS
- Utilize existing WRIS Technical Advisory Committee to define those goals
- Provide consistent funding required to meet future goals
- Make WRIS gateway for enhanced state-wide utility operation/oversight
- Incentivize use of WRIS by making it gateway for state and federal funding support

