Asset Management: Rural Perspective

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- Background of MRWA
- Established 1978 as private non-profit
- Board of Directors
- Provide training and on-site technical assistance to small water and wastewater systems
- Operations, Management, Regulations, Sustainability, Finance, Source Water Protection
- Financing for public entities projects
Asset Management

- Why MRWA and Asset Management for Small Systems?
- Small systems have many of the same infrastructure as large systems, deal with much the same regulations and have very limited customers to pay the costs
- Usually have higher turnover of staff, less hours to do the job and less knowledge and expertise
Asset Management

- SO...what’s currently out there?
- Nothing!!!
- A number in the audit that no one knows where it came from!!!
- Spreadsheets!!!
- Asset Management Software (CUPPS)
Asset Management

- Working with MDH, MPCA and PFA to develop a DIY template that includes---
- Current infrastructure – distribution, collection, meters, valves, hydrants, source, pumps, lift stations, manholes, etc.
- Location, condition, year installed, replacement date, remaining life, current value, criticality analysis
Asset Management

What are the Benefits

- Reports value of systems
- Replacement dates and costs (long term)
- Short lived assets report
- Budgeting
- Depreciation and reserve funding
- Service history
Asset Management

Lessons Learned

- Asset Management is NEVER a priority
- Asset Management always costs money!!
- No information – requires mapping and possibly GPS coordinates
- Spreadsheets – not formatted to fit the “template” so information needs to be “rekeyed”
- Upkeep is difficult (time consuming) – especially maintenance performed

=GARBAGE IN GARBAGE OUT!!