

Types of Partnership for Water Systems

Informal

- Managers and operators meet on an informal basis to discuss mutual issues
- All systems are independent

Formal Group

- Managers and operators meet on a regular schedule (sometimes in conjunction with other trainings and association meetings) to discuss mutual issues
- Meetings are more structured with an agenda
- All systems are independent and no actions are taken that needs governing body approval

Purchase Agreements

- Systems work together to purchase equipment or supplies at a better price
- Systems work together to purchase professional services, such as accounting, at a better price for all

Mutual Aid

- Water systems agree to provide aid to each system in the agreement
- Requires an agreement that needs governing body approval

Emergency Interconnections

- Systems are interconnected to be able to serve each other water if there is an emergency
- Systems are interconnected to serve each other water in times of drought or water shortages

Purchase Water

- One system purchases water from another to supplement its own sources
- One system purchases water from another to replace its own sources
- A group of systems purchases water from another system to supplement their own sources
- A group of systems purchases water from another system to replace their own sources

Shared Services

- Water systems share management structure
- Water systems share operators
- Systems work together to share sampling services

New Structure

- Create umbrella organization for source but each distribution system remains independent

Merge

- Merger into new utility authority; each system must be dissolved and new entity created to take over all responsibility for providing water

Water System Collaboration Resources

- EPA's Sustainable Water Infrastructure – Water System Partnerships website:
<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/water-system-partnerships>
- EPA's Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems – Water System Partnerships website:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-system-partnerships>
- EFC at UNC's Crafting Inter-Local Water Agreements: Tips Relating to Issues You May Not Have Thought of or that You Were Hoping to Avoid: <https://efc.sog.unc.edu/reslib/item/crafting-inter-local-water-agreements-tips-relating-issues-you-may-not-have-thought-or>
- EFC at UNC's Enhancing Performance of Small Water Systems through Shared Management: <https://efc.sog.unc.edu/reslib/item/enhancing-performance-small-water-systems-through-shared-management>
- EFCN's Resource Library: <http://efcnetwork.org/resource-library/> found under the question "How can we work with other water systems to lower costs?"
- EFCN's WEBINAR | Ask the Expert – Advice on Water System Partnerships: <http://efcnetwork.org/events/webinar-ask-expert-advice-water-system-partnerships-2/>
- EPA's Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series, Water System Partnerships Webinar: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series>