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Linking Science with Local Solutions and Decision-Making

The Orleans-Brewster-Eastham Groundwater Protection District: A Local Case Study for Inter-Municipal Cooperation

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How Was the IMA Formed and Why?

- Consent Orders
- Operating Agreement required to qualify for EPA grants
- IMA formed 1985
- 'District' formed 1988 Thru Special Act

How was IMA Administered?

- Initially, Host Community was paid by other Towns
- Once formed, District managed day-to-day, Host Community Still Paid the Bonds
- Amended by Town Meetings
 - 1988 Creation of District
 - 1989 Capital to Reconfigure
 - 2004 20 yr Renewal, change geographic bounds

Minuses and Pluses

- Biggest obstacle came from outside the IMA, which was the poor engineering
- Focus was on creation, not conclusion of ops
 - Dates for decommissioning not realistic
 - Post-employment benefits not dealt with
 - ‘Valuation’ not well defined
 - (‘Less’ is not always ‘more’)

What Worked and Why

- Highly flexible, amend 'on the fly'
- Towns retain a high degree of control
- Variety of structures to deal with different needs of different projects
- Easiest to administer when communities highly motivated or highly invested in a long-term outcome