

### **Purpose of preparing a concept paper for Consultation Day**

In general, the Consultation Day offers project sponsors the opportunity to clearly define their nonpoint source water quality problem and receive technical advice about their project idea. To that end, it's crucial to have the concept paper address five key components of the proposal:

- 1) What is the NPS water quality problem?
- 2) Where is the problem?
- 3) How will the project address the NPS water quality problem?
- 4) How will the project demonstrate/measure the project's success in addressing the problem?
- 5) How much will the project cost in rough numbers?

By thinking about these components early in the process, proposals will address more clearly the nonpoint source water quality problems and restoration goals. Please focus on the underlying water quality issues by discussing the project idea rather than "selling" the project. After this exercise you will be prepared to create a proposal based on the discussion.

Because the focus right now is on the underlying water quality issue, not on the application process, the release of the application materials is scheduled for later in the fall.