

Compliance Management Framework for Septic System Reinspection Programs in the Lake Simcoe Watershed

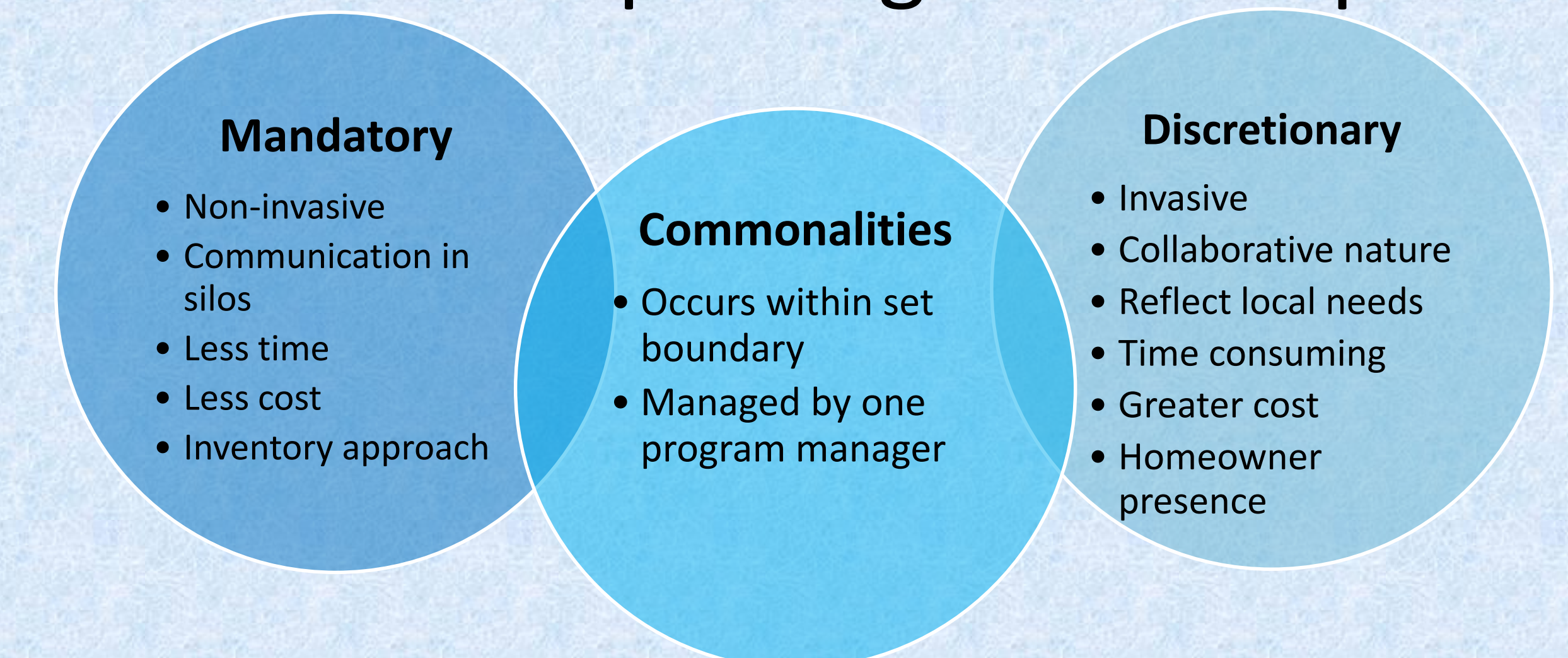
Background

- Private onsite wastewater (septic) systems (OSS) are a potential threat to Lake Simcoe
- Four metric tonnes of OSS-derived phosphorus enters Lake Simcoe per year
- Improve the management capacity of Principal Authorities (PAs) who are responsible for the management of private onsite wastewater system (OSS) reinspection programs



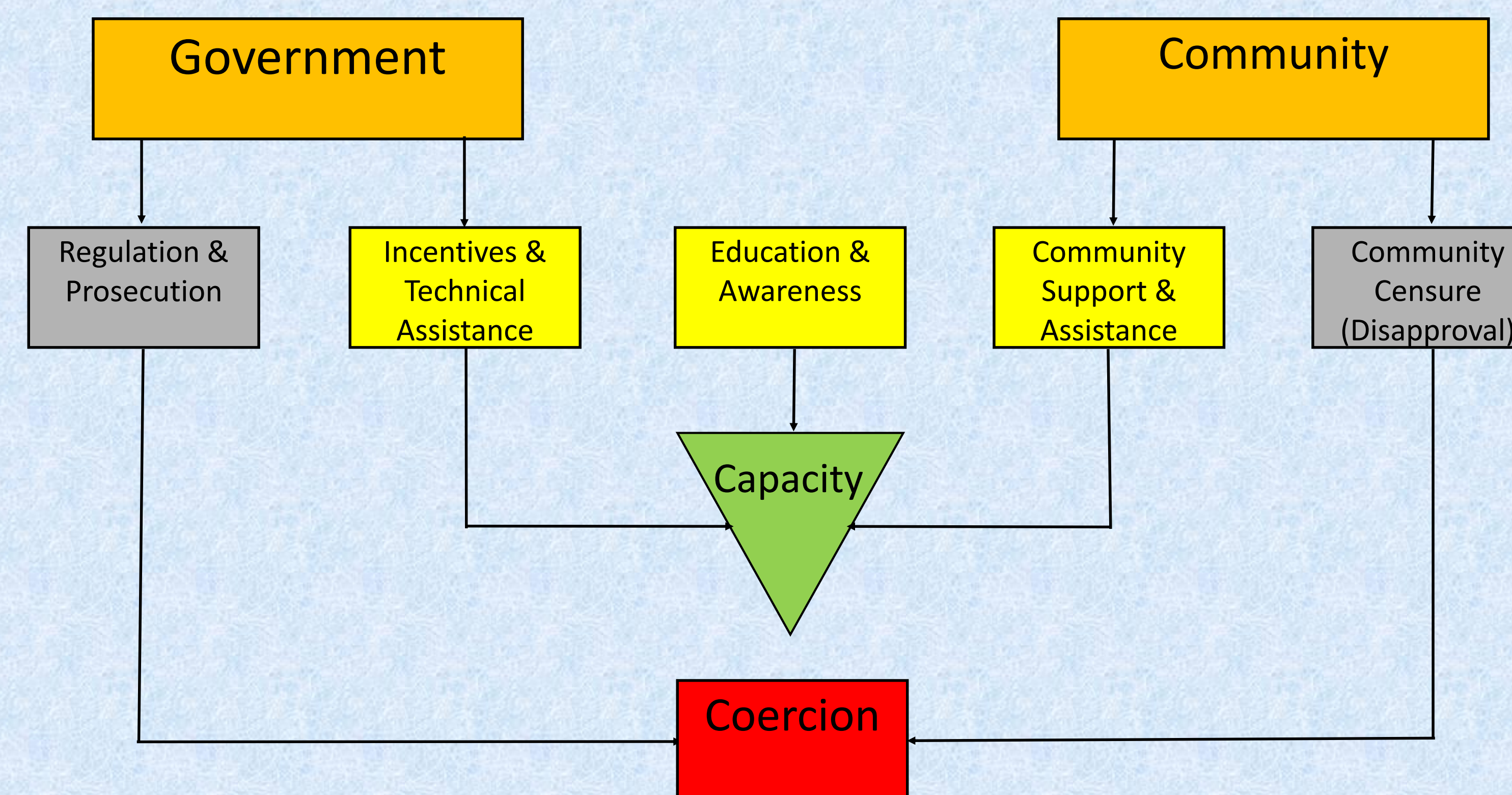
Results

- Reflected the mindsets of program managers and systems owners
- Mandatory and discretionary jurisdictions
- Showed an interest in improving OSS reinspection programs



Methodology

- Jurisdictional scan of the Great Lakes watershed
- Assess the quality of current mandatory OSS reinspection initiatives in the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Determine management rationale for discretionary OSS reinspection programs
- Develop a compliance management framework for building management capacity for OSS reinspection programs



Conclusions

- Neglected OSS continue to threaten the Lake Simcoe watershed
- OSS are a viable solution for treating domestic human waste, if they are inspected and maintained
- OSS reinspection program staff are willing to adapt their management strategies but lack support
- Step forward: Incremental implementation of collaborative efforts, between government agencies, local communities, and homeowners

Recommendations

- Bottom up approach for OSS reinspection programs
- Collaborative working relationships should be pursued between all OSS stakeholders
- Incremental implementation for transitioning to local management applied
- Agencies and community groups should consult work of other jurisdictions, (i.e. University of Minnesota), to inform best management practice development

To learn more

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