

Purpose

Develop a consensus between communities and other stakeholders within subwatersheds to implement management techniques to address existing problems and future threats to water quality and ecosystem health through a cooperative planning and an iterative decision making process that is based upon sound scientific principles and data analyses.

Core Features

- One common plan for each subwatershed
- Participation by all permittees within subwatershed
- One person, group or agency responsible for subwatershed plan coordination
- One integrated public participation plan for subwatershed (MDEQ approval required)
- Completion of plan within 18 months of receiving Certificate of Coverage (unless extended by MDEQ)
- Method for responding to MDEQ comments (No MDEQ plan approval)
- Process for revising and updating plan at end of permit term

Process

- Agree on operating procedures (who writes, reviews, approves and how are disagreements to be resolved)
- Assess and characterize water related natural resources (primarily utilizing existing information sources)
- Develop goals and identify objectives based upon existing conditions and vulnerability of aquatic resources and community needs
- Identify priority issues and opportunities
- Review management options and develop action plans (i.e., long term plans for subwatershed)
- Agree upon methods to assess progress and process to revise plans

Minimum Plan Requirements

- Describe nature and status of watershed ecosystem to extent required to achieve purpose of plan
- Define short-term goals in context of long-term goals that must include protection of designated uses defined by Michigan's Water Quality Standards
- Identify actions needed to achieve short-term and long-term goals
- Describe the benefits expected and estimated costs of the actions proposed
- Describe commitments by permittee or others to implement specific actions by dates (schedule) to achieve short-term goals (incorporated in detail as part of permittee's Pollution Prevention Initiative)
- Establish target dates for actions by permittee or others to implement actions to achieve long term goals (subject to reassessment as part of iterative decision making process following evaluation)
- Establish methods for evaluating progress (monitoring chemical or biological parameters, recording completion of action items, etc.)
- Establish date for deciding whether or not management plan needs to be revised (at least 180 days prior to permit expiration)

** Note: This outline was prepared for the workshop discussion and is not meant to cover all elements necessary for the development of a watershed management plan.*

Steps and Alternative Approaches to Plan Preparation

1. Identify Permittees within Watershed Boundary

Example: Upper Rouge Watershed

Permittees:

Communities need to define-this is confusing Alphabetize

Primary - Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Redford Township, and West Bloomfield Township.

Secondary *- Commerce Township, Northville Township, and Novi.

*These communities have a small portion of their geographic area located in the Upper Rouge Subwatershed, therefore their participation and emphasis may lie in another subwatershed (i.e., Novi may choose to be more active in the Middle 1 Subwatershed.)

Other Public Agencies

Primary - Wayne County (Department of Environment (Drains, Public Works, Watershed); Wayne County Department of Public Service (Roads, Parks); Oakland County Drain Commissioner; Oakland County Road Commission and MDOT.

Secondary- Schoolcraft Community College and other public schools with separate storm water discharges.

2. Who Is Going to Take the Lead? *(Each Subwatershed group must decide among the permittees who will provide administrative support for the subwatershed plan development.)*

A. Alternative 1. - Community or Agency

Permittees agree that one community or agency will provide leadership to coordinate the preparation of the subwatershed management plan and apply for grant funding from the Rouge Project for the development of the plan. The required grant match will be provided by all permittees for the Rouge Project grant to one permittee to generate plan.

B. Alternative 2. - Subwatershed Group

Permittees agree that subwatershed group will coordinate preparation of the plan, approve single or multiple grant applications and divide work among participants, and elect a chair to speak for the group. Group may decide to hire single consultant to facilitate meetings, collect and evaluate information and prepare written drafts of plan for review by group, or assign responsibilities to various members who in turn use staff or consultants to complete needed work.

3. Agreement on Operating Procedures

A. How will the group operate: with chair, facilitator or both?

B. Who will prepare, review and approve written plan?

C. How will differences between group be decided ?

(1) Voting or consensus

(2) Recording exceptions to votes/consensus

D. How will resources be provided to collect and analyze information, write plan, conduct public participation, etc.?

4. Public Participation Plan *(At a minimum the public must be given meaningful opportunity to review and comment on management plan prior to submission to MDEQ for approval)*

A. Alternative 1

Plan drafting committee formed with representatives of various stakeholder interests: permittees, public at large, business community, neighborhood organizations, locally based environmental organizations, other public agencies, etc. Draft plan presented to public at series of hearings or workshops for public comment.

B. Alternative 2

Once draft plan is developed by Subwatershed group, work shops, hearings or other forums to solicit public comment are scheduled by group or individual permittees.

5. Information Sources and Technical Assistance

- A. MDEQ, EPA & MDNR** - *General Information on watershed management, storm water management, ecological restoration, etc. Specific information on Rouge River including, Rouge River Remedial Action Plan and Rouge River Watershed Fisheries Assessment. See MDEQ Guidance for General Storm Water Permit for specific documents that are available or call Cathy Bean at the MDEQ Surface Water Quality Division District Office at 734.953.1441 or Roy Schrameck at 734.953.1431.*
- B. Rouge Program Office** - *Technical reports on a variety of topics related to storm water management and pilot projects; examples of public information materials; water quality data; summaries of demographic, land use and related information by subwatersheds; GIS maps with various coverages by subwatershed; and draft subwatershed reports. See Rouge Project Catalog of Publications for list of specific materials that are available or call Sharon Cummings at the RPO at 313.964.8876.*

6. Timing of Steps

- A. Subwatershed Group, Lead and Organization**
Agree on participants, lead and organizational issues while application for coverage is being prepared and MDEQ approval pending (before Feb.1, 1999).
- B. Grant Application for Rouge Project Funding**
Prepare grant application when participants, lead and organization is finalized and Certificate of Coverage is imminent (before Feb. 1, 1999).
- C. Preparation and Submittal of Coordinated Public Participation Plan**
Submit coordinated public participation plan (within 90 days of receiving COC)
- D. Prepare Plan, Conduct Public Participation, Submit Plan**
Prepare subwatershed management plan with public participation, submit draft plan for MDEQ review (within 18 months of receiving COC or later date specified in COC).
- E. Respond to MDEQ Comments** *(no time limit specified, up to 90 days for MDEQ review)*
- F. Prepare and Submit Pollution Prevention Initiative**
Each permittee must submit to MDEQ for approval a Pollution Prevention Initiative with a specific schedule for actions consistent with subwatershed plan (within 18 months after receiving COC or later date specified in COC)
- G. Implement Approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative** *(immediately after approval)*
- H. Determine if Plan needs to be Revised and Revise**
Determine whether plan needs revisions (within 180 days before permit expires). Revise plan if needed (submit any needed revisions with request for continuation of permit coverage prior to expiration).