

Chapter 8 Process For Revising The Plan

The main purpose of the Subwatershed Management Plan (SWMP) is to identify and implement actions needed to restore designated uses and resolve water quality and quantity concerns. As stated in the permit language, the long term goals of this voluntary permit “shall include protection of designated uses of the receiving waters as defined in Michigan’s Water Quality Standards”. These designated uses are as follows:

- Agriculture
- Industrial water supply
- Public water supply at the point of intake (not applicable to Rouge)
- Navigation
- Warmwater fishery or cold water fishery (Johnson Creek)
- Other indigenous aquatic life and wildlife
- Partial body contact recreation
- Full body contact recreation between May 1 and October 31.

The SWMP must be reviewed and revised (if necessary) 2 years after it is submitted. The updated plan will document the success in achieving the short-term goals, reassess long-term goals, and schedule new initiatives for the next five-year period (2006-11) Through this iterative process, the communities and agencies will be able to evaluate and apply the most cost-effective approaches to protecting and restoring the river and meet the long-term goals consistent with state and federal water quality requirements. As in the development of this plan, the public will be invited to participate in the review of progress, reassessment of long-term goals, and consideration of alternative actions for the next five-year period. At a minimum, public meetings and formal hearings before local governing bodies will be provided. Workshops or other public involvement mechanisms may be utilized to assist in obtaining public input and support of plan revisions.

Although the SWMP does not need to be formally approved by MDEQ (as the SWPPIs do) communities will not be eligible for CMI funds unless their SWMP is formally approved by the MDEQ. Revision of the SWMP does require additional public involvement.

The schematic diagram shown in Figure 8-1 illustrates the revision process.

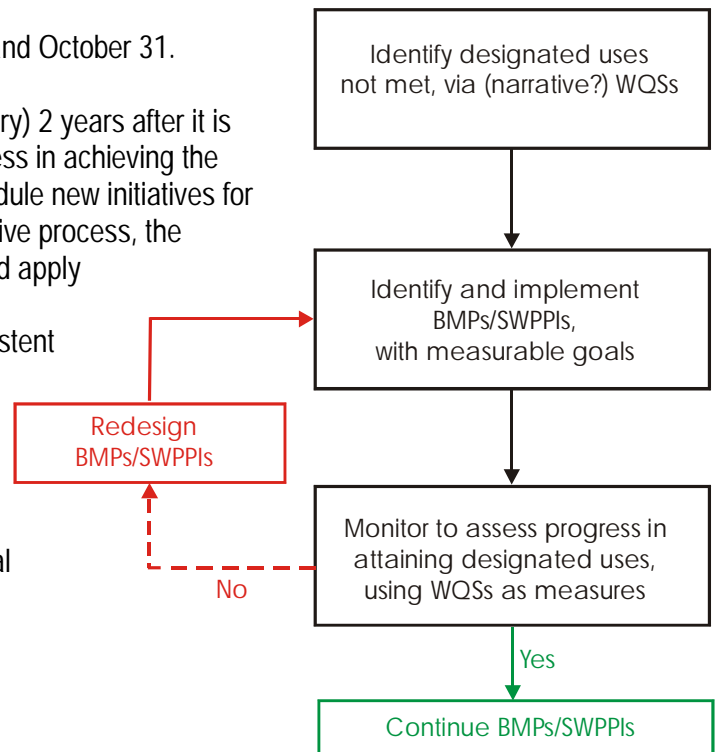


Figure 8-1: Revision Process

Within the next five years, the SWAG intends to meet periodically to share data, assess progress, and review new information on best management practices. Based upon new information the SWAG may recommend modifications to the SWMP prior to the targeted 2005 update. Any changes that occur to the Plan prior to 2005 will be reviewed with the MDEQ prior to adoption and depending upon the scope of changes, may be subject to formal review and comment. EPA and MDEQ view the application of the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) standard as an iterative process. As stated in the Phase II Storm Water Permit Text: "Successive iteration of the mix of BMPs and measurable goals will be driven by the objective of assuring maintenance of water quality standards." In many cases the process of meeting water quality standards may take two to three permit terms (10-15 years).

Each community (permittee) will submit an annual report to the MDEQ. This should include an explanation of progress towards goals listed in the SWMP and the status of actions listed in the SWPPI. It should also include discussions of proposed revisions/modifications to the original goals/action in the SWMP and/or SWPPI that may be needed.