

Region 7 Watershed Management Plan Review Criteria

A. Identification of Causes & Sources of Impairment

- General Watershed information including HUC information
- List of the 303d listed streams in the watershed and why listed.
- Is there a TMDL? What streams? What pollutants are addressed?
- Are there any point sources? Identify them and their potential impacts.
- What are the NPS sources of pollution in the watershed? Please note if it is not addressed in the plan then EPA 319 cannot fund it, unless the plan is modified.
- What are the current loads from all pollution sources being addressed?
- Maps are helpful, but not required.
- Are there any streams that need protecting? What impacts are threatening them?

B. Expected Load Reductions

- What load reductions are needed to meet designated uses in impaired streams?
- What is the source of the load reduction information? (TMDL, modeling, monitoring)
- What are the load reductions expected from BMPs? Will the proposed BMPs result in load reductions required to meet water quality standards?
- Please provide more than percentages, they are difficult to put into context.

C. Proposed Management Measures

- What BMPs/management measures need to be implemented to achieve the water quality goals?
- Have critical areas been identified? Are these areas mapped?
- Has the group prioritized areas of the watershed for implementation? What areas need to be addressed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc? What BMPs should be implemented in these areas?
- Are the BMPs and critical areas strategically targeted to have the greatest improvements in water quality?
- Does the plan quantify the projected BMPs? (i.e. miles of fencing, terracing, waterways, number of grade stabilization structures)

D. Technical and Financial Assistance Needs

- Do the cost estimates reflect planning and implementation costs?
- Information is provided on how the cost estimate was determined?
- All potential funding sources have been identified for federal, state, local and private.

E. Information and Education

- Does the plan have a reasonable strategy to inform and engage stakeholders (federal, state, local, private) in the watershed? Examples include public

meetings, watershed events, multimedia campaigns, news articles, signage in high visibility areas, etc.

- Is there an evaluation process included?

F. Implementation Schedule

- Plan describes the scheduled order of implementation including the planning process through actual implementation of BMPs and monitoring?
- Set time frames are projected to determine progress towards meeting goals – In other words, is there a timetable for addressing priority areas, a schedule for implementing critical BMPs, etc.?
- Does the schedule follow the prioritization of the critical areas? If not, is there a reasoning why?

Note, when developing a PIP, it should reference back to the plan and follow this schedule.

G. Measurable Milestones and Project Outcomes

- Does the plan include milestones with anticipated completion dates to mark accomplishments? This information can be incorporated into the schedule.
- Is there a way for those implementing the plan to evaluate progress?
- Milestones can include implementing a certain number of BMPs, addressing a number of critical areas, number of outreach events, etc.

H. Load Reduction Evaluation

- This element looks for interim water quality milestones. The milestone can differ from the water quality standard violation; for example improvements in fish diversity, water clarity, benthic community, reduction of atrazine etc.
- These milestones measure progress towards meeting the overall water quality goals for the watershed.
- Does the plan identify a course of action if goals are not being met as anticipated?

I. Monitoring

- What water quality indicators are you monitoring? What parameters?
- Who is performing the sampling? How often are they sampling? Are they doing before and after sampling or upstream vs. downstream, for example?
- Is the monitoring supporting the milestones that are identified? Will it demonstrate the effectiveness of implementing BMPs over time?
- Is there a trigger to have the state reassess streams or the watershed?
- How are info/ed evaluations being considered?

Note, this information does not need to be detailed out like in a QAPP, however we would like to have an idea of what type of monitoring will be performed.