

## Michigan Department of Environmental Quality SRF – NPS Ranking Criteria

Based on Rule 10 of SRF Administrative Rules, R323.960

a) *If the proposed nonpoint source project is necessary to comply with an order, permit or other document issued by the director or water resources commission or entered as part of an action brought by the state against a municipality, 200 points will be assigned.*

**If the applicant has been issued an administrative consent order, an National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which requires construction of the project, or other similar document by the department, the proposed project will be awarded 200 points. If none of these actions have been taken, no points will be awarded.**

**Projects that are required by NPDES permits may receive points as provided by rule, but they are not eligible to receive Nonpoint Source (NPS) State Revolving Fund (SRF) funds so the point ranking is meaningless.**

b) *If the proposed project is a necessary component of a comprehensive plan developed pursuant to the provisions of SRF Administrative Rules R323.1064, 100 points will be assigned.*

**No points will be assigned based upon this subrule. This rule reference is no longer a viable reference for nonpoint source programs. R323.1064 was not superceded, but is no longer viable.**

c) *If the project will address violations of water quality standards in the watershed or project area, points will be assigned based upon the severity of the receiving water impairment that the proposed project will abate. Each project will receive a score of between 1 and 100 for each standard violated based on the severity of the violation. Maximum of 400 points may be assigned for each project.*

**The measurements used in the calculation are the estimated pre- and post-project levels of the pollutants to be reduced in the primary water body affected by the project. Scores will be totaled for the pollutants with the top four rankings in each project.**

**Point scores for load reductions of total suspended solids, total phosphorus, and total nitrogen will be calculated by Water Resources Division's Surface Water Assessment Section (SWAS) using a base-10 log of the estimated load reduction and multiplying by 20. Where a water quality threshold is identified for the primary water body affected by the project, pollutants reduced below the threshold will receive a score of 100 points.**

**In case of a tie, point scores may be totaled for the remaining pollutants addressed by the project, and added to the score for the top four pollutants addressed. The highest point total above 400 breaks the tie.**

**(Note – Other scoring criteria will be developed by SWAS on an as-needed basis for microorganisms and concentration-based NPS pollutants.)**

d) *If the watershed contains high quality waters, which must be maintained, 200 points will be assigned.*

**Using high quality waters as defined in the administrative rules for the Clean Michigan Initiative-Clean Water Fund (R 324.8904, Rule 4, (a) (i-vii) as attached, 0 or 200 points will be assigned. Projects must be tributary to the protected high quality waters in order to receive points.**

e) *If the watershed has high public use value, 200 points will be assigned.*

**High public use value of a watershed will be defined as watersheds containing two or more of the following:**

- 1) **An existing city, county, village, state or federal parks or recreation areas dedicated for public use for swimming, fishing or boating, or**
- 2) **An existing ground water source public drinking water supplier who has an MDEQ-approved wellhead protection program (WHP) and/or an existing surface water source public drinking water supplier who has submitted to MDEQ a source water assessment (SWA) report.**
- 3) **An existing State of Michigan Natural River designation and/or an existing Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers designation.**

**[The actual number of park/recreation sites, number of approved WHPs, and number of SWASs within the project's watershed will be totaled and used as a tie-breaker, if needed.]**

**Projects must be tributary to the protected high public use waters in order to receive points.**

f) *If there is high landowner or municipal willingness to participate in controlling nonpoint sources in the watershed or project area, 200 points will be assigned.*

**Willingness to participate can only be demonstrated by the following: Letters of commitment from local agencies and/or landowners regarding their participation in specific nonpoint source control activities contained in the proposed project plan. General letters of support will not be considered a demonstration of participation.**

g) *If there are ongoing local, federal, or state nonpoint source initiatives in the watershed or project area, 100 points will be assigned.*

**A project will receive 100 points, if federal, state or local initiatives have been implemented voluntarily by the local unit of government having jurisdiction over the project. Qualifying ongoing initiatives must include the following:**

- 1) **An in-place, comprehensive zoning program which controls development through encouragement of low impact development, open space preservation, restrictive zoning in areas with steep slopes, near waterbodies, or highly erodible soils.**
- 2) **A stormwater utility within the local unit which provides oversight, inspection and/or promotion of nonpoint source pollution prevention programs.**
- 3) **Successful and timely completion of nonpoint source control projects funded by state or federal grants or loans.**
- 4) **Implementation of a comprehensive community education and citizen involvement program. This program must be based on knowledge of the audience, careful preparation of the message, demonstration of successfully reaching the audience using a variety of tools, and finally obtain citizen involvement (as feedback, volunteer monitoring, etc) plan.**

**Note: The proposed project, by itself, will not qualify as an 'ongoing initiative'.**