

Appendix A

Watershed Management Planning Guidance and Criteria

Three types of projects will be considered under this Request for Proposals (RFP):

(1) Development of new watershed management plans for watersheds without a nine-element approved watershed management plan and nested watersheds within larger scale approved plans.

(2) Complete updates of previously approved outdated (more than 15 years since the department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) approval) watershed management plans.

(3) Technical updates of current (less than 10 years since EGLE approval), nine element, EGLE approved watershed management plans.

Technical updates of watershed management plans are also an eligible component of nonpoint source (NPS) implementation projects under a separate RFP process (scheduled for release later in 2025). Technical updates consist of adding or updating specific information to otherwise current (less than 10 years since EGLE approval) and approved watershed management plans. Technical updates could include, but are not limited to:

- Field inventories to identify specific sites that are the sources and causes of NPS pollutants impairing a designated use.
- Environmental or social monitoring.
- Incorporating the NPS load allocation from approved Total Maximum Daily Loads.
- Modeling to identify and prioritize areas for restoration or protection. An example would be a technical update to include the landscape level wetland functional assessment.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Nine Minimum Elements of Watershed Management Planning

To ensure that Section 319 projects make progress towards restoring waters impaired by NPS pollution, watershed-based plans that are implemented with Section 319 funds must include nine minimum elements of watershed management planning. The USEPA has developed a handbook ([Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters](#)) describing these elements and how they can be met. The USEPA believes that these nine elements are critical to ensure that public funds are used effectively.

Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Watershed Management Planning –

All CMI-NPS funds have been expended and CMI criteria are no longer required.

Watershed Planning Resources

Numerous watershed management planning resources are available from Nonpoint Source Program [staff](#) and on the [NPS Program web page](#) under the Technical Assistance section, see "[Developing an Approvable Watershed Management Plan](#)."

- [Checklist for a 319 Approved Watershed Management Plan](#)
- Michigan NPS Program Watershed Management Planning White Papers

- [Watershed Characterization](#)
- [Scale Considerations](#)
- [Inventories for Watershed Management Planning](#)
 - [Parking Lot Inventory](#)
 - Animal Feeding Operations Inventory (available upon request)
 - Stream Walk (available upon request)
- [Evaluation of Midlevel NPS Loading Models](#)
- [Pollutant Load Estimation Tool \(PLET\) | US EPA](#)