

Appendix B

Guidance for Wetland Related Elements in Nonpoint Source (NPS) Proposals

Wetlands and Watershed Management Planning

All Nonpoint Source Program funded watershed management plans must include a wetlands component which includes an inventory of existing wetlands, identification of historically lost wetland areas, procedures and strategies to prioritize historically lost wetlands for restoration and existing wetlands for protection and restoration, and the development of wetland specific water quality-based recommendations. Maps depicting current wetlands and areas with the potential for wetland restoration are available through the [Wetlands Map Viewer](#) or from Jeremy Jones; Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams Unit; Field Operations Support Section Water Resources Division (JonesJ28@Michigan.gov or 517-899-6122).

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) endorses the use of a [Landscape Level Wetland Functional Assessment](#) (LLWFA) as a means to prioritize areas for wetland restoration and protection. Methodologies to conduct an LLWFA of existing and historically lost wetlands were developed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. EGLE has modified and refined the LLWFA process to reflect Michigan conditions. The LLWFA methodology is based on an inventory of existing wetlands, and a determination of the functions they are performing. This information is then used to prioritize them for protection and restoration. The LLWFA methodology will also allow the identification of historically lost wetlands, determine the functions they once provided, and to prioritize wetlands for restoration in order to obtain the most significant water quality improvements.

Elements for Wetland Considerations in Watershed Management Plans

The following wetland related elements should be considered for watershed planning projects:

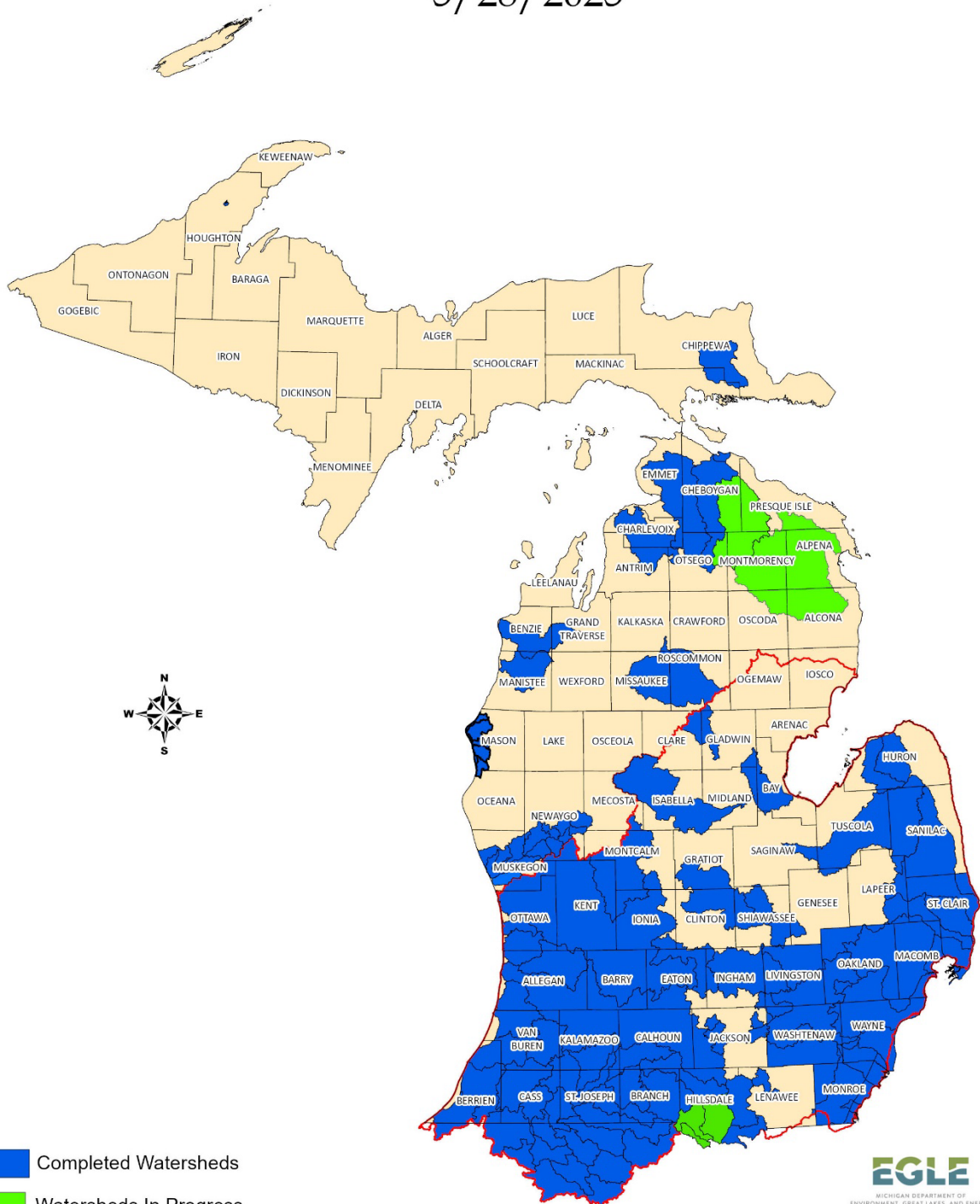
- 1) Compile wetland information on a watershed basis.
- 2) Assess local wetland protection capacity through [ordinance review and evaluation](#).
- 3) Identify wetland partners and roles.
- 4) Create an inventory of existing wetlands and potential wetland restoration sites within the watershed using Geographic Information System wetland related data layers (inventory/maps are now available from EGLE).
- 5) Conduct an LLWFA, or similar protocol, of the watershed to produce an analysis of both historic and present-day wetlands and their functions. The results are used to estimate the cumulative effect of historic wetland losses on the watershed and water quality. The results will assist the grantee in setting goals to replace wetland functions that have been lost since pre-settlement. The results will also be a critical source of information for developing procedures to prioritize existing wetlands for protection and preservation as well as prioritizing historically lost wetlands for restoration.

Note: A map is included at the end of this guidance, indicating watersheds where an LLWFA has been completed by EGLE or is underway.

- 6) Define wetland goals and objectives for the watershed.
- 7) Develop a water quality-based wetland restoration strategy. The strategy should identify the tools that will be used to accomplish the physical restoration as well as a system to prioritize which historically lost or degraded wetlands should be restored.
- 8) Develop a water quality-based wetland protection/preservation strategy. The strategy should specify the methods or tools that will be used to increase the protection of existing wetlands and to prioritize the preservation of the highest quality wetlands.
- 9) Screen “priority” wetlands for further assessment and field evaluation.
- 10) Develop specific water quality-based priority recommendations for wetland restoration and wetland protection

LLWFA Watershed Status Map

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- Completed Watersheds
- Watersheds In Progress

100 Miles



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