

Water Quality Plan Requirements For MnDNR 2008 Pilot Project Grant Application

The MnDNR 2008 Pilot Grant Program requires that applicants provide a water quality plan to improve lake water quality. This requirement may be satisfied by either a) adopting an existing water quality plan, or b) by developing a water quality plan.

The following four components should be included in the water quality plan:

1. **Background on the development on the plan.** Describe why the plan was developed and by whom. Please include names of authors, individuals, and organizations that contributed to the design of the plan.
2. **Description of current water quality conditions.** Briefly describe the current chemical, physical, and biological condition of the lake as well as any observed or documented changes of these conditions over time. Please also include information on identified or suspected water quality stressors, if known.
3. **Statement of goals and objectives for improving water quality.** What short-term and long-term improvements are achievable for the lake?
4. **Description of actions to improve water quality.** What actions will be taken to achieve these goals?

A. Adopting an Existing Water Quality Plan

An existing water quality plan can be adopted to satisfy the grant requirement. Many water quality plans can be found online for viewing and downloading. Please consult your local watershed district, watershed commission, county, or city websites and officials to see if a plan already exists or is in development.

If you are adopting an existing plan, please make sure that the plan specifically names the lake and clearly outlines the four components listed above. If the existing plan does not contain all of the components, consider adopting the components that are included and provide a written supplement that includes those that are missing.

Examples of Existing Water Quality Plans

Lake Washington Improvement Association Plan 2005
http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com/pdfs/2005_management_plan.pdf

Water Resources Management Plan. Prepared for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District by Wenck Associates, Inc. <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/pdf/509plan.pdf>

Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Quality Plan. See also Section 6.0: Goals, Objectives, and Action Plans. http://www.co.douglas.mn.us/comp_local_water_plan.htm

The City of Osakis Comprehensive Plan, 2006. See also Chapter 4-Natural Resources.
<http://www.cityofosakis.com/welcome.html>

Lake Independence TMDL: Excess Nutrients. Prepared by Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission and Three Rivers Park District

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/reports/tmdl-lakeindependence-phosphorus.pdf>

A list of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) approved and in development can be found on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) website: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html>

B. Designing a Water Quality Plan

If the lake does not currently have a water quality plan, consider developing one. Having a water quality plan can be beneficial for the long-term health of the lake. A plan will provide documentation of goals, objectives, and actions for improving water quality. The process of designing a plan can initiate local involvement required for these actions to take place. Overtime, the plan can 1) be consulted to assess progress, 2) be revised to address new situations, and 3) provide documentation of activities completed.

Begin designing the plan by considering the four core components listed above. Keep in mind that a simple but well outlined plan can be just as effective as a highly detailed plan.

Online Resources

The following documents, available online, may assist in development of the water quality plan. Please also see examples of existing water quality plans above.

Lake Management Plan Overview by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

<http://www.minnehahacreek.org/LandMangementPlanOvervies.php>

Guide to Lake Protection and Management. See pages 15-17. Published by the Freshwater Society in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/lakes-guidetoprotection-2.pdf>

Shoreland Best Management Practices. University of Minnesota Extension.

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD6946.html>

Shoreland Management Resource Guide. Developed through cooperation between Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, and Board of Water and Soil Resources.

<http://www.shorelandmanagement.org/depth/index.html>

Alternative Storm Water Best Management Practices Guidebook. Valley Branch Watershed District.

<http://www.vbwd.org/bestpractices.htm>

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