

Continuing the Collaboration: Implementing the CWA 303(d) Program Vision

Jim Havard, Chief
Watershed Branch, EPA HQ
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Overview

- State-identified Draft Priorities
- CWA 303(d) Program Vision Updates
- Other Updates/Issues

State-Identified Draft Priorities

Big Picture

- A large majority of states have submitted their draft long-term priorities to EPA
- Priorities are in a variety of forms, and with a variety of focuses
 - Some states focus on designated uses, while others focus on causes of impairment
 - Some states submit priorities based on assessment units, while others use HUC12s or other approach
 - Examples of causes focused on by states include nutrients, pathogens
- EPA is continuing to work with states on their priorities and integrating the priorities in the data system; ATTAINS system of record starting with 2018 IR

State-Identified Draft Priorities

48 states and some territories submitted draft priorities and annual commitments under WQ-27 (November 2015)

Priority Pollutants

37 states - pathogens

35 states - nutrients

32 states - organic enrichment/oxygen depletion

22 states - metals other than Hg

19 states - pH/acidity/caustic conditions

Protection plans:

11 states have identified protection as a component of their long-term priorities

WI has the greatest amount of acreage (~14 million for nutrients and ~10 million for sediment)

8 states – nutrients

of acres is overwhelmingly nutrients, followed by pathogens

- Nutrients ~ 30 million acres
- Pathogens ~ 18 million acres

Designated Uses (info available for 12 states)

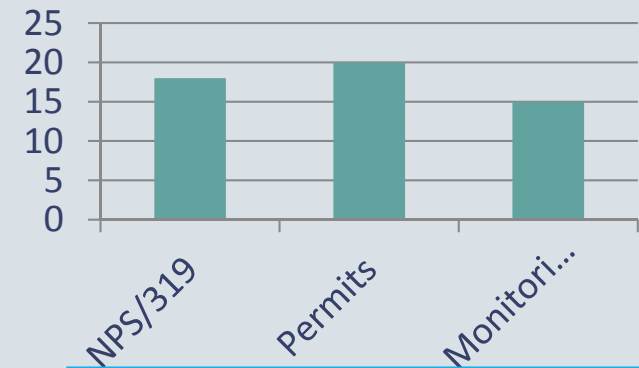
- 9 states - fish/shellfish/wildlife
- 6 states – recreation
- 4 states – aquatic life
- 2 states – public water supply
- 1 state – agriculture

Advancing Vision Goals

Using Resources Strategically for Results

Prioritization

- 303d Vision priorities provided a platform for integration across CWA and non-CWA programs
- A range of state public engagement approaches on 303d Vision priorities
- Many states made use of EPA's Recovery Potential Screening Tool
- Focus on addressing priorities



Role of Other CWA Programs in Selecting/Reviewing 303d Program Priorities
(From EII's summary of 44 State CWA 303d Prioritization Frameworks)

Advancing Vision Goals

Planning for Restoration and Protection

Alternatives

- States and EPA working on identifying alternative restoration approaches using the 2016 Integrated Reporting memo
- Alternatives being explored include permit and other approaches
- Interest in use of watershed based plans (WBPs) for NPS dominated impairments
- Collaboration between Nebraska and EPA Region 7 to watershed based plans as alternatives under CWA 303d
- Importance of cross program coordination
 - EPA Region 6 process for coordinated reviews of WBPs by 319 and 303d programs

Advancing Vision Goals

Planning for Restoration and Protection (cont.)

Protection

- EPA to develop Protection framework informational materials (e.g., white paper or memo) for states to address concept, scope and expectations for 303(d) measures
- Complete Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessments in 2016 to provide 48 states with a systematic basis to plan protection
- Array of approaches being considered by states
- Information booth on RPS tool and HW Assessment

Advancing Vision Goals

Evaluating Progress towards Watershed Protection and Restoration

Assessment

- Coordination with the monitoring program is happening in the states and at EPA.
- States identified a need for additional examples of effectiveness monitoring.
- States emphasized that water quality monitoring data produced from all sources under EPA grants should be reported in the Water Quality Portal.
- States and EPA plan to compile and share approaches for promoting collection and use of citizen data to fill data and information gaps.

Advancing Vision Goals

Building Connections

Engagement

- Continue to identify and support approaches to engaging stakeholders and the public on program implementation – several cooperative agreements
 - Continuing national workshops with states/tribes/territories
 - NEWIPCC: Webinar in the Spring focused on Modeling Applications to Integrate TMDLs and Permitted MS4s; second webinar on September 8 will focus on Engagement "Building Consensus for Better Water Quality Outcomes"
 - Exploring ways to better engage nongovernmental Stakeholders (e.g, WEF, River Rally); next steps

Advancing Vision Goals

Building Connections (cont.)

Integration

- Continue to work with the nonpoint source program and monitoring program on Alternatives, Protection and Assessment Goals and identify other opportunities for program integration
 - Michigan developing a Hybrid TMDL/WBP document to facilitate agricultural BMP implementation
- Strengthen linkages to other programs and agencies (e.g., Permits, Water Quality Standards, Superfund, Source Water Protection, land management agencies)

TMDLs and the Vision

- TMDLs remain the primary tool
- Vision goals (e.g., Integration and Engagement) help improve development and implementation of TMDLs

Other Updates/Issues

External Forces

Emerging Issues

- Improving the connections between stormwater permits and TMDL WLAs by advancing tools that offer "implementation-friendly" approaches
- In January 2016, EPA proposed a rule to establish a process for tribes to obtain Treatment in a Similar Manner as States for the 303(d) Program, and is now in the deliberative phase regarding finalizing the rule
- Modeling capacity and tech transfer for 303(d) activities
- Hydrology Futures (see next slide)

Hydrology "Futures" Climate Change Project – An EPA/USGS Partnership

Goal: Develop and disseminate estimates of plausible future hydrology under climate change

Timeframe of Analysis: 2020-2100, monthly time steps

Coverage: Coterminous US, divided into over 110,000 Hydrologic Response Units (HRUs)

Inputs: Temperature and precipitation estimates from over 220 downscaled Global Climate Model/greenhouse gas emission scenario combinations

Key Outputs: Streamflow, run off, snow water equivalence, soil moisture

Data Availability: Web portal, to be launched later in 2016

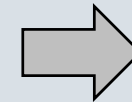
Applications: Results can provide insight into likely TMDL "shelf life" and facilitate climate change vulnerability assessments for water utilities, crop growth, forest health, wetlands, and water quality such as nutrient runoff, to name a few

Appendix

CWA 303(d) Program Vision

“The Clean Water Act Section 303(d)

Program provides for **effective integration** of implementation efforts to **restore and protect** the nation’s aquatic resources, where the nation’s waters are **assessed**, restoration and protection objectives are **systematically prioritized**, and **Total Maximum Daily Loads and alternative approaches** are adaptively implemented to achieve water quality goals with the **collaboration** of States, federal agencies, tribes, stakeholders, and the public”



Six Goals:

- Prioritization
- Assessment
- Protection
- Alternatives
- Engagement
- Integration