



WRAPS Report Incorporation into Water Plans

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This document provides a general overview of connections between a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Report and a water plan, and outlines the requirements for local governments to incorporate the elements of a WRAPS report into their local water planning process. It is important to connect local water management programs and activities and WRAPS Reports because each informs the other. Water plan in this document refers to County Water Plans, Watershed District Plans, Watershed Management Organization Plans, and One Watershed, One Plan.

Reports Available through the MPCA & the WRAPs Process

- **Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies Report (WRAPS):** This report summarizes the reports listed below, and uses that information to determine what actions are needed to address water quality. The report includes current and past assessments, diagnostic and TMDL work, water quality goals, and outlines ways to prioritize actions and strategies for continued implementation towards those goals. The WRAPS also provides:
 - Water quality goals/targets for each assessed water;
 - Identification of critical sources areas based on pollutant loading and/or hydrologic parameters (peak flows and volumes); and,
 - Recommended strategies and timelines needed to fully meet restoration and protection goals.

How to use the WRAPS report in water planning:

The information in the WRAPS report can be valuable to understanding the broader watershed-wide water quality issues by providing information such as the relative magnitude and type of contributing pollutant sources. The WRAPS may also incorporate statewide water quality plans, such as the Nutrient reduction Strategy and sediment strategy reports where available; potentially streamlining the development of local water plan priorities. WRAPS strategies for implementation should be incorporated into a water plan. If WRAPS strategies are not identified as local priorities, the plan must include a description of why not.

- **Monitoring and Assessment Report:** Identifies the results and status of sampled waters within the watershed over the most recent 10 year period and collects baseline information on a watershed's physical characteristics. The report provides valuable information on the specific resources monitored and assessed as well as any long-term trends within the watershed. Key information found in the report includes:
 - Locations of permitted groundwater and surface water withdrawals and summaries of groundwater quality and quantity in the watershed;
 - Biological condition (fish and macroinvertebrates) for streams and rivers;
 - Habitat information documented during each fish sampling visit;
 - Stream channel stability information;
 - Water chemistry results representing the outlet of the minor watersheds; and,
 - A summary of lake water quality results.

How to use the Monitoring and Assessment Report in water planning:

The information in the report provides characterization of the watershed. Data collected behind the report (such as the physical characteristics) can be valuable for land and water resources inventory and subsequent prioritization of resources in a plan. Additionally, understanding of the monitoring section of the report can assist with development of ongoing monitoring actions within the water plan.

- **Stressor Identification Report:** Summarizes the key causes or “biotic stressors” contributing to impaired fish and aquatic macroinvertebrate communities and includes a comprehensive review of existing biological, chemical, and physical data to assess the stressors on stream health (examples: Low oxygen, too much sedimentation, temperature, and lack of habitat).

How to use the Stressor Identification Report in water planning:

Stressors identified in the report should be identified as concerns or issues within the water plan. If these biotic stressors are not identified as priorities, the plan should describe why not. Management actions in the implementation sections of water plans should address the stressors to the extent possible.

- **TMDL Report:** After impaired waters are listed, the MPCA addresses each of these impaired waters with a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL process identifies all sources of the pollutant and determines how much each source must reduce its contribution in order to meet the standard. Each project may contain one or more waterbodies or segments of a waterbody. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive without violating water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant’s sources. TMDLs directly impact MS4s with required pollutant load reductions.

How to use the TMDL in water planning:

The source reduction strategies form the basis of the TMDL implementation plan, which is completed within one year after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves a TMDL study. The TMDL can be used to set pollution reduction goals (examples: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Sediment) to be achieved through implementation of the water plan. The TMDL will also provide insight into capital projects and BMPs that may be implemented within a watershed to address impairments.

Connecting WRAPS to the Water Planning Process

The following table provides a general overview of the water plan development process and how a WRAPS Report connects with those steps. Note that not all the steps are part of every planning process and not every WRAPS is complete, and that local water plans will address many items beyond those in the WRAPS.

	Planning Process Step	WRAPS Connection
Planning Startup	Initial meetings of local government planning staff to discuss planning process	In the meeting, include a discussion of the current status of the WRAPS, which pieces are complete, and anticipated timing for completion.
	Advisory committee or water plan task force meeting(s) shortly prior to plan initiation	Communicate with MPCA staff about providing a WRAPS overview to the committee and board.
	Local government adopts Resolution to Update Plan	Consider including a commitment to the WRAPS in the resolution to update the plan.
	Local government requests input on the plan and/or Priority Concerns Scoping Document (PCSD)	Anticipate comments will reference WRAPS Report.

County Water Planning PCSD	Local government develops the PCSD	Discuss approach for incorporating WRAPS and/or schedule WRAPS presentation with MPCA Project Manager to advisory committee.
	Local government response to comments on the PCSD	Ensure critical issues identified in response letters from all stakeholders are addressed as appropriate.
	Presentation of PCSD to BWSR Region Planning Committee	Specifically note how the PCSD addresses critical issues identified in the WRAPS in presentation to BWSR board committee.
Plan development	Hold advisory committee or task force meetings and a plan kickoff meeting regarding development of the water plan.	Communicate with MPCA staff about providing a WRAPS overview to the advisory committee early in the process and/or at the plan kickoff.
	Draft the water plan.	Go back to response letter submitted during plan start up and make sure items in letter are being addressed in the water plan. Coordinate with BWSR and MPCA staff if questions about the WRAPS.
	Public hearing held on the water plan	No specific connection to the WRAPS Report.
Final Plan	Submit the final water plan to BWSR.	BWSR reviews plan against statute, rule, and policy requirements and agency letters.
	Presentation of the final plan to the BWSR Regional Planning Committee.	Specifically note how the water plan addresses critical issues identified in the WRAPS report to the BWSR board committee.

WRAPS & BWSR Support for Local Government

The following table describes BWSR's role in assisting local governments with the WRAPS and water plan development processes:

WRAPS Phase	BWSR Support to Local Governments
Intensive Watershed Monitoring and Assessment	Facilitate communications between state agency and local staff as needed.
Stressor Identification Report	Facilitate communications between state and local staff as needed.
TMDL Report	Provide technical and policy leadership/assistance to local staff during development of TMDLs.
WRAPS Report	Provide technical and policy leadership/assistance to local staff during development of WRAPS.
Civic Engagement Cohorts	Participate in the cohort and provide assistance as requested.