Nutrient Work Group Technical Subcommittee Meeting

June 10, 2021



Welcome!

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- Only TSC Members may participate during discussions
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Agenda

Nutrient Work Group Technical Subcommittee Meeting

- Introductions and Roll Call
- Rulemaking Framework Overview
- Adaptive Management Program Flowchart
- Flowchart Details
- Close of Meeting
 - Future Listening Sessions
 - Next Meeting Topics
 - Open Public Discussion and Q&A





Introductions DEQ Staff

- Michael Suplee, Water Quality Science Specialist
- Rainie DeVaney, Discharge Permitting Section Supervisor
- Amy Steinmetz, Water Quality Division Administrator
- Jon Kenning, Water Protection Bureau Chief
- Galen Steffens, Water Quality Planning Bureau Chief
- Myla Kelly, WQ Standards & Modeling Section Supervisor
- Kristy Fortman, Watershed Protection Section Supervisor
- Darrin Kron, WQ Monitoring & Assessment Section Supervisor



Nutrient Work Group Technical Subcommittee Members

Interest Group	Representative	Substitute
Point Source Discharger: Large Municipal Systems (>1 MGD)	Dave Clark	
Point Source Discharger: Middle-Sized Mechanical Systems (<1 MGD)	Vacant	
Point Source Discharger: Small Municipal Systems with Lagoons	Rika Lashley	
Point Source Discharger: Non-POTW	Shane Lacasse	
Municipalities	Amanda McInnis	
Mining	Vacant	
Farming-Oriented Agriculture	John Youngberg	Rachel Cone
Livestock-Oriented Agriculture	Vacant	
Conservation Organization - Local	Vacant	
Conservation Organization – Regional		
Conservation Organization – Statewide	Sarah Zuzulock	
Environmental Advocacy Organization		
Water or Fishing-Based Recreation	Vacant	
Federal Land Management Agencies	Andy Efta	Thor Burbach
Federal Regulatory Agencies	Tina Laidlaw or Erik Makus	
State Land Management Agencies	Jeff Schmalenberg	
Water Quality Districts / County Planning Departments	Pete Schade	
Soil & Water Conservation Districts – West of the CD	Vacant	
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Wastewater Engineering Firms	Coralynn Revis	
Timber Industry	Julia Altemus	

Rulemaking Framework

Overview

Rulemaking Framework Activities

Summary of principal activities needing completion prior to rulemaking

Activity	Main Nutrient Work Group	Sub- committee	Complete By (6 NWG meetings planned)	Date (2021)
Discuss Key Components of Adaptive Management Program	Х		Meeting 1	5/27
Work on details of Adaptive Management Program and Plans, including procedural aspects, rolling review, adaptation		Х	Prior to Meeting 2	6/10
Define overall Adaptive Management Program. Initial discussion of watershed-scale framework	Х		Meeting 2	6/23
Work on details of watershed-scale framework; address approach for complex watersheds containing multiple point sources or which drain to lakes		Х	Prior to Meeting 3	TBD
Adaptive Management Program scale framed. Initial discussion of response variables and harm-to-use thresholds.	Х		Meeting 3	7/28
Work of details of response variables, harm-to-beneficial use thresholds, where measured, how often, etc.		Х	Prior to Meeting 4	TBD
Complete response variable discussion. Initial discussion of process for identifying point source long-term nutrient targets, accounting for all factors impacting waterbody.	Х		Meeting 4	8/25
Work on details for identifying point source long-term nutrient targets		Х	Prior to Meeting 5	TBD
Complete discussion of point source long-term nutrient targets. Initial discussion of AMP-TMDL relationship.	Х		Meeting 5	9/22
Work on details of AMP-TMDL integration		Х	Prior to Meeting 6	TBD
Complete discussion of AMP-TMDL relationship. Complete discussion of outstanding issues prior to rulemaking.	Х		Meeting 6	10/27

Adaptive Management Program Flowchart

Adaptive Management Program





AMP Flowchart Details To Whom the Adaptive Management Program Applies

All watersheds that include point sources discharges of nutrients must have an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) under the program. One AMP can include multiple permittees in a watershed. The analysis and conclusions of the AMP will drive facility specific actions for permittees to reduce nutrient contributions. The program may prioritize statewide watersheds based on today's available data. This will be updated periodically as new data are collected & evaluated.



Permittee submits monitoring plan under their Adaptive Management Plan

The plan lays out monitoring and analysis of response variables upstreamand downstream of facility <u>and</u> at the watershed scale. Locations, frequency, etc. must be defined. Plan may incorporate existing related watershed information from DEQ's Monitoring & Assessment and TMDL programs, or others. (*Details on response variables will be addressed at later NWG meetings.*) Source identification and quantification (watershed inventory) may be initiated.



Per monitoring plan, permittee assesses health of watershed and receiving waterbody via applicable response variables/thresholds

Findings from the Monitoring Plan should answer the question "Based on response variables/thresholds are nutrients negatively impacting the watershed?" Permittees in impacted watersheds will be required to move to Box 3 in flowchart; those in unimpacted watersheds may be required to conduct nutrient monitoring and continue to protect existing water quality. The monitoring plan must also include details to demonstrate water quality improvements through time.



Permittee begins stakeholder engagement, watershed inventory, identifying the most commonly limiting nutrient

Find partners in the watershed to improve water quality. The permittee may need to formalize commitment from partners through contracts or memorandums of agreement. Describe the watershed by including a comprehensive source identification, stream flows, existing water quality data.



Permittees analyze sources and loads

The permittee must quantify the TN and TP loads for each source identified through the watershed inventory, for both point and non-point sources. For example, Wisconsin uses PRESTO.



Permittee develops action items and goals for reductions

Describe optimization efforts, best management practices, treatment improvements, etc. identified as opportunities to improve water quality. Each of these action items need to identify the responsible party, financial commitments, and timeframes to achieve. Estimate load reductions for each action items for all sources.

Discussion items related to Box 5:

Identifying the phosphorus target reduction (*future NWG meetings will address in detail*)



Permittee implements actions, assesses effects on waterbody. Recommends adjustments, if needed.

Discussion items related to Box 6:

Allow for experimentation with different treatment processes/discharge N:P ratios and allow for instream evaluation of receiving waterbody effects.



Are narrative standards achieved?

Based on the established monitoring plan and response variable thresholds, determine if the watershed is meeting the narrative standards. If not, the permittee will be required to conduct additional steps, on a case-by-case basis, including re-evaluating sources in the watershed, reanalyzing pollutant loading and source contributions, and implementation of additional actions items.



Open Discussion of Proposed AM Program

 Technical Subcommittee Members only please







Public Comment & Close of Meeting



Questions/ Comments

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Participants

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Next Meetings

- Nutrient Work Group:
 - Wednesday, June 23 from 9-11 AM
 - Operating Scale of Adaptive Management Program
- Technical Subcommittee Meeting
 - Date forthcoming
 - Watershed scale framework





Thanks for Joining Us

Contact: Mike Suplee, <u>MSuplee@mt.gov</u> Rainie Devaney, <u>RDevaney@mt.gov</u>

To submit comments or questions



Submit Comments or Questions

http://deq.mt.gov/water/resources/nutrientworkgroup

