BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
PLANNING & STANDARDS DIVISION

AUG 31 2011

| 9 Element Watershed Based Plan Component Checklist for CWA Grant Funding[1] |
|---|
| **Watershed Management Plan Title: Saugatuck River Watershed Based Plan** |
| **Waterbody ID, Hydrologic Unit Code, Watershed Boundary Data Set, or Hydrologic Response Unit: Hydrologic Unit Code: 01100006** |
| **River Basin: Southwest Coast** |
| **County(ies): Fairfield County, CT** |
| **Title of TMDL:**<br><br>a) A TMDL for This Watershed is ("X" as applicable): ( ) Approved ( ) In Draft<br>b) No TMDL Has Been Developed to Date: ( x ) |
| **Comments:**<br>**Phase I has focused on assessing baseline conditions in the watershed, identifying sources and causes of impairments, and beginning to develop management measures projects aimed at reducing the impacts of non-point source pollution. Phase II will focus on finalizing projects and management measures, developing implementation schedules, miles stones, monitoring and performance criteria, and further development of outreach and education. Work on Phase II is expected to begin in Fall 2011.** |

[1]In order to be eligible for CWA Section 319 incremental* grant (watershed protection) funding - or to submit a Section 319 grant proposal - a copy of the EPA approved 9 element watershed based plan and this completed checklist must be on file with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. Components and formatting of this checklist may change in response to federal grant funding, grant guideline revisions, or other program initiatives or purposes as deemed appropriate by EPA/CT-DEP. Note that preparation or submittal of an EPA 9 Element watershed based plan, or this checklist, does not obligate the EPA or CT DEP to partially or fully fund any part of a watershed based plan or recommended implementation project.

* Incremental grant background: Congress enacted Section 319 of the Clean Water Act in 1987, establishing a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution. During the last several years EPA has been working with the States to strengthen its support for watershed-based environmental protection by encouraging
local stakeholders to work together to develop and implement watershed-based plans appropriate for the particular conditions found within their communities. In particular, EPA and the States have focused attention on waterbodies listed by States as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Toward this end States must use $100 million ($1 million for Connecticut) of Section 319 funds (referred to as "incremental funds") to develop watershed-based plans that address nonpoint source impairments in watersheds that contain Section 303(d)-listed waters and implement recommendations incorporated in these plans.

| Component (C)<br>Best Management Practices | Yes | No | Chapter, Section, Table, List, etc. | Page No.(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. The plan provides locations where *potential* BMPs may be implemented.<br>Comments | x | | Identification of Management Actions | Table 2, Figure 2, Appendix A: Project Descriptions |
| II. The plan identifies *potential* BMPs to be installed in "critical" areas.<br>Comments: This is a requirement of the Watershed Based Plan | x | | Identification of Management Actions | Targeting: Table 1 Figure 1, Appendix A: Project Descriptions |

| Component (D)<br>Financial and Technical Assistance | Yes | No | Chapter, Section, Table, List, etc. | Page No.(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I: The plan provides estimates of the financial and technical assistance that will be needed to implement the plan.<br>This is a requirement of the Watershed Based Plan.<br>Comments: This section will include BOTH estimates and potential funding sources for project implementation costs AND Annual maintenance costs of the project.<br><br>*Cost estimates have been developed for installation of structural BMPs. Estimates have not been developed for maintenance or general recommendations (i.e. education), and funding sources have not yet been identified. This will completed as part of Phase II.* | x | | Identification of Management Actions; Appendices C and D | Appendix A: Project Descriptions, App. C, App. D |
| II: The plan identifies sources and authorities that will be relied upon to implement the plan.<br>Comments:<br><br>*This will be addressed in Phase II.* | | x | Phase II | |

| Component (E)<br>Education and Outreach | Yes | No | Chapter, Section, Table, List, etc. | Page No.(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. The plan provides an information/education component that will enhance public understanding of the plan and encourage their early and continued participation in project development.<br>Note: This education and outreach component must link the information to model demonstration or pilot projects that | x | | Goals & Strategies<br><br>Identification of Management | p. 5<br><br>p. 8 |

**Watershed Management Plan Component Checklist**
**for CWA Grant Funding***
**Acknowledgment**

I/we, the undersigned, believe that the watershed plan addresses Elements "a-i" of the EPA approved watershed based plan model elements - particularly those elements pertaining to broadly estimating pollutant load reductions that may result from implementation of best management practices - as presented in the, "*Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories.* Federal Register. October 23, 2003. (Volume 68, Number 205. pp. 60658-60660). http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2003/October/Day-23/w26755.htm

I/we acknowledge that information provided by this checklist is based on a dynamic watershed based plan. Certain components of the 9 element watershed based plan (and this checklist) may need to be updated as data and information improves.

The signatory(ies) below are under no obligation to partially or fully fund or implement a watershed based plan, or any part thereof, unless funded by an EPA/CT-DEP approved Section 319 grant in accordance with an approved Section 319 workplan.

This checklist is submitted for CWA Section 319/CT-DEP Nonpoint Source Program grant program purposes by:

_____ _____

Signature/Title Date

_____ _____

Signature/Title Date

*This CWA Grant Funding Source includes, but is not limited to, CWA Section 319 grant funding.

**- Attachment -**
**9 Element Watershed Based Plan Component Checklist**
**Helpful Notes and Examples**

Note: Pollutant load reductions for most on-the-ground management measures can usually be estimated using desktop models or water quality monitoring data for BMPs such as stream bank restoration, cover crops, buffers, nutrient management, seeding and mulching, etc. Estimates of load reduction associated with education and outreach (public involvement; behavior/attitudes changes), technical assistance, land-use ordinances, habitat/biological responses, etc., may not be easily discernable. *However, demonstration projects and pilot projects would have pollutant load reduction models for stakeholders to follow.*

Note: Pre- and post-BMP implementation nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment load reduction estimates, *as applicable to the project,* are *required* for Section 319 grant funding.

**Component (C): Best Management Practices**

I. Location of Potential BMPs: This section refers to the *anticipated* locations, if known (pre-BMP implementation). *Potential* sites should be identified using a narrative description; photos, land use/topographic map, etc. Lat/Long and GPS coordinates should also be included, if BMP sites are obvious and definite.

*Example*:
TMDL Causes: Siltation, Nutrients
TMDL Sources: Agriculture, Pasture Grazing
BMP Location: Farmland Approx. (X) Miles (*direction*) of (*Town*), *Tributary to* (*Name*) River.

II. Description of Potential BMPs: The plan should provide a management practice description; numbers, types, etc. in Critical Areas of Concern in the Watershed
*Example:*
Problem: Approx. 75 head of beef cattle with unrestricted access to the (*name of impaired waterbody*), grazing on 30 acres of unimproved pasture land.
*Solution:* Install NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 914. Livestock Fencing: 6,680 feet.

Note: Because some "best" management practices may involve the establishment of committees, hiring coordinators, planning, monitoring/assessments, developing local ordinances, regulation/enforcement, providing technical assistance, establishing citizen volunteers, conducting outreach/training, Load Reductions Estimates as a result of these types of measures may be difficult to quantify. It is acknowledged that BMPs are *estimates* and *may* need to be modified over time as new information is derived, land use's change, and as the watershed plan is implemented. CT-DEP supports 319 grant outreach and education projects that include demonstration projects and pilot projects for stakeholders to more fully understand the process of NPS implementation.

**Component (D): Financial and Technical Assistance**

I. Estimates of the financial and technical assistance
*Example 1*:

stories; displays, fairs/festivals; tours/field days; agency/citizen cooperation in selection, design, and implementation of management measures, conservation practice "sign-ups" etc.

Implementation Efforts may also be more "*site specific focused*" or "*small-scale*". These projects may include "pilot projects" to encourage additional, larger projects within a specific community, "small scale projects" to address a portion of a larger project site, or "site specific/mini-watershed projects" to address a focused watershed in the larger scale Watershed Based Plan.

**Component (F): Plan Implementation Schedule**
An implementation schedule refers to tasks that ensure that the watershed plan's goals and objectives will be achieved in an expeditious manner.
*Example A:*
Milestone 1: Stakeholder will hire a Watershed Project Coordinator by date.
Milestone 2: *10,000 Rain Gardens* will be installed by the Stakeholder by date.

*Example B:* Management measures in "**F**" and "Interim" milestones in "**G**" below may be combined into a "Milestone Table" or List, as presented below:

| No. | Activities and Interim Practices to Assure that Project Implementation is Timely and Reasonable | Milestone Schedule | Responsible Entity |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Milestone: Conduct an area-wide watershed project outreach campaign to inform citizens about the project, its benefits, to encourage enthusiasm and input, and to build and sustain project support for the duration of the project period | Begin: MM/DD/YY End: MM/DD/YY | FRWA with DEP support |
| 1a. | Interim Measure: Develop a stakeholder "contact list" to provide quarterly communication via telephone, e-mail, | Begin: MM/DD/YYEnd: MM/DD/YY | FRWA/Subcontractor FRWA |
| 1b. | website, personal contact, meetings, etc. | Begin: | |
| 1c. | Interim Measure: Document all correspondence with stakeholders, citizen info. request, and records of meetings for the duration of the project period | MM/DD/YY End: MM/DD/YY | FRWA |
| | Interim Measure. Coordinate the development and distribution of newsletter articles, brochures, etc, with the Watershed Project Steering Committee | Begin: MM/DD/YY End: MM/DD/YY | |
| 2. | Etc. | | |
| 2a. | Etc. | | |

**Component (G): Interim Milestones**

g) The development of load reduction success indicators (to include meeting water quality standards) will be a collaborative effort among watershed stakeholders. Evaluation criteria developed by stakeholders may be reviewed (*semiannually/annually*) as BMPs are installed.
h) Establishment and implementation of monitoring activities will be coordinated with watershed project partners pre- and post-BMP implementation. Load reduction success may be based on an evaluation of available data and information collected over time. If load reduction criteria are not progressing as expected, stakeholders may revise and re-distribute the watershed plan within (X) months of the evaluation.
i) If monitoring indicates load reduction expectations are not being achieved incrementally for the resources available/expended, watershed stakeholders may investigate the effectiveness of selected BMP practices, and may revise the watershed plan.

Note: All plans/proposals that include an environmental monitoring component and submitted for 319 grant funding, must have an approved Quality Assurance Plan before Clean Water Act funding (including but not limited to Section 319 funding) can be expended.

**Component (I): Plan Implementation Effectiveness**

I. Effectiveness monitoring "over time" may include on-site visits (citizens/resource agency/professional BMP installation or site assessments), documentation of BMP types/numbers/sites; cooperative stakeholder reviews of watershed plan/TMDLs; installation of new/innovative/improved BMPs not proposed in the original plan; water quality monitoring scheme presented in "H" above, etc.

Notes: A process for Revisions to the WBP must be added included in this section to explain how planning efforts will be revised if implementation is not as effective as originally calculated.