

Water Division Goals for 2009-11 Biennium

Objective 1: Protect waters through the Public Trust Doctrine.

Dams & Floodplains

DF 1	Staff have the resources they need to implement effective Dam and Floodplain Programs.
PM 1	Develop and distribute critical guidance, education materials, and initiatives related to effective implementation of the programs. A revolving priority ranking list will be established and maintained by the Dam Floodplain Team. Each team member will be an active participant on at least on subcommittee or workgroup, helping to assure products are completed in a timely manner.
PM 2	Review NR116 and recommend changes necessary to improve the effectiveness and implementation of floodplain zoning at the local level. These improvements will include incorporating Supreme Court decisions and FEMA standards, updating engineering standards and floodway development standards, providing more options for nonconforming structures, and incorporating measures to reduce workload and strengthen ties with the Dam Safety Program. 1) Complete initial Pink sheet Package, August 31, 2009. 2) Negotiate language for changes to meet federal minimum standards, Sept 30, 2009. 3) Present list of suggested changes to PMT and Bureau Management, December 31, 2009. (Additional steps will be added as project progresses.
DF 2	Program staff assure that minimum state and federal zoning regulations are enforced by local communities through local ordinances.
PM 1	Complete a minimum of 10 Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) annually, 2 in each region.
PM 2	Significant contacts with communities related to interpretation and implementation of floodplain zoning ordinances will be documented in the Community Database. Each WME will be responsible for documentation of at least on Community Assistance Contact (CAC) annually.
PM 3	Complete 10 zoning workshops for local officials annually.
PM 4	Review 80 zoning ordinances annually. Central office will provide coordination for the reviews and assist regional staff with any reviews they agree to conduct.
DF 3	Digital floodplain mapping for the state is developed by 2010 through partnership with FEMA.
PM 1	Complete the mapping process by the deadlines established in the 2007 and 2008 (and possible 2009) CTP agreements with FEMA.
PM 2	Work with FEMA Region V staff to establish process for delegation of LOMR review responsibility to the state's floodplain program.

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Dams & Floodplains (continued)

DF 4	Dam programs which protect rights in public trust waters while also protecting life, health and property from unsafe dams are maintained by assuring timely dam safety inspections, remediation of deficient dams, and issuance of statutorily required permits.
Division PM 1	Each WME will inspect, at a minimum, 10% of the large, significant or high hazard, state regulated dams in their area of responsibility annually that are due for inspection. All reports from these inspections will be completed and sent to dam owner within 3 months of the inspection.
PM 2	Develop and implement a process to identify a condition rating for dams and track progress on bringing deficient structures into compliance through rehabilitation or removal. 1) Complete required database modifications and guidance by December 2009. 2) Train staff by March 2010. 3) Track and evaluate staff usage on a quarterly basis.
PM 3	Develop a statewide policy on dam removal. Present draft policy elements and dam ranking criteria to the WT Board by July 15, 2009. Develop action items based on the response to the proposed policy by Dec. 31, 2009.

Mississippi River

MR 1	Effective communication and coordination is assured within the state and all interstate and interagency efforts that serve to satisfy the dual purpose needs of commercial navigation and a viable riverine ecosystem on the Upper Mississippi River System.
PM 1	Evaluate Army COE Mississippi River channel maintenance and management activities regulated under 30.202, and 30.12 State Statutes. Potential activities during this biennium depend on federal funding allocations, but may include reviewing plans and specifications for work on the Lock and Dam 3 embankment modifications and unloading dredged material at Fisher and Corps Islands to upland sites.

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Waterways Protection

WP1	Chapter 30 permits are reviewed in a clear, consistent fashion that results in timely decisions and protection of the public interest in navigable waters.
PM 1	Decisions for exemptions, general permits and individual permits meet statutory deadlines. These decisions will be tracked quarterly by the Waterways PMT.
PM 2	Achieve consistent and accurate implementation of database guidance through initial application intake and subsequent data management. Develop and implement protocol for measuring consistency on a quarterly basis by December 31, 2009.
PM 3	Evaluate use of Mediasite, Live Meeting or other electronic format, and begin developing training modules for waterway and wetland permitting in appropriate electronic format by December 31, 2009. Deliver all required training modules to staff making permitting decisions within 2 years of their date of hire.
Division PM 4	Complete guidance, application process and communication plan to fully implement pier registration program by September 30, 2009. Complete rulemaking to fully implement pier legislation by July 1, 2010, in order to meet statutory time limits for pier registration.
WP 2	Compliance monitoring and enforcement are effectively used to evaluate and respond to permit compliance and resource impacts.
Division PM 1	Conduct annual standardized compliance monitoring focused on a targeted sample of 15% of all general permits and individual permits by September 30 each year. Report results and recommendations by December 31 each year.
PM 2	Develop and implement an adaptive statewide enforcement strategy by September 30, 2009. Update Enforcement Handbook chapter to reflect strategy and current guidance by July 1, 2010.

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Waterways Protection (continued)

WP 3	Diverse, natural shoreline habitat, natural scenic beauty and other public rights are protected by setting and implementing minimum statewide shoreland zoning standards that provide protection at least equal to the current rules.
PM 1	Develop implementation plan for revised NR 115, including timelines and messages for public outreach, by July 1, 2009. Implement plan according to established timelines. Complete revisions to NR 115 by December 31, 2009.
PM 2	Design a compliance monitoring program to evaluate implementation of NR 118 by June 30, 2010. Implement monitoring plan and report results by June 30, 2011.
PM 3	Each region spends the equivalent of 10% of each WMS' time providing NR 115 technical assistance and oversight to support county shoreland zoning administration.
WP 4	The public receives clear information about the rationale for waterway regulation, best management practices, process steps for permitting, and timeline and basis for regulatory decisions.
PM 1	Complete needs assessment for improvements to Waterway and Wetland web pages by September 30, 2009. Prepare one-year implementation plan for web updates, including timelines and priorities, by December 31, 2009. Fully implement plan by December 31, 2010.
PM 2	Develop a plan for ongoing management and upgrades to the Waterway and Wetland permitting database by September 30, 2009, and begin to implement plan by December 31, 2009. Conduct an assessment of costs, benefits and feasibility of integrating with other agency databases by June 30, 2010. Implement plan for consolidation, if appropriate, by June 30, 2011.
PM 3	Implement project plan for web-based electronic applications by December 31, 2009. Develop web-based mapping tools for navigability and ordinary high-water mark determinations by June 30, 2010.
PM 4	Develop prioritized list of application forms and supporting brochures needing revision by September 30, 2009, and revise 4 application forms and supporting brochures annually thereafter.