

Restoring Impaired Waters in Wisconsin: ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECTS

Management actions that can be used for Environmental Accountability Projects include:

- Watershed plans where implementation has begun or will begin soon (plans must include the nine key elements required by US EPA).
- State or local regulations that restrict animal access to the water body to reduce pathogen problems.
- Superfund supported clean-ups, phase-out of pollutants of concern, and hazardous waste collection programs.
- Dam removal and flow alterations.

Current Environmental Accountability Projects in Wisconsin include:

Contaminated Sediment Sites & Pollutants

- Grubers Grove Bay: Mercury
- Little Menomonee Superfund Site: PCBs
- Jordan & Pine Creek: PCBs
- Lower Fox River & Green Bay: PCBs

Other Current EAPs:

- Otter Creek: Bacteria
- Bass Lake: Phosphorus

What is an Environmental Accountability Project?

An Environmental Accountability Project (EAP) is a strategy for restoring an impaired water that can be used when the cause of the impairment is fairly simple and well understood. The EAP approach allows for direct implementation actions rather than undertaking the more rigorous approach of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) which is required in more complex situations, where multiple sources of pollution are involved. The goal of EAPs and TMDLs is to remove a water body from the Impaired Waters List (303(d)). The EAP framework is recognized by the



US EPA and gives Region 5 states the option to be flexible with their resources to achieve water quality

EAPs are implementation strategies that include best management practices such as buffer strips (picture on right), that can decrease runoff and prevent severe bank erosion to improve water quality in the stream.



Key milestones and dates must be set when the states submit an EAP to the US EPA. If milestones or dates are not met, EPA will require the states to move the project to a TMDL track. The project manager, cost of the project, and funding sources should be identified as well as the date the water body is expected to be taken off the 303(d) list.

For more information on EAPs visit our website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/EAP.html>

EAPs may be submitted to: Nicole.Richmond@wisconsin.gov



States in US EPA Region 5 that are doing EAPs: MN, IL, IN, WI and OH