

## **A. Project Description**

Follow-Up monitoring is a “placeholder” monitoring program that reserves project funding to monitor for impaired waters, or Clean Water Act Section 303(d), assessments. Many of Wisconsin’s water quality standards (WQS) require multiple visits (multiple days, months or years) to make an assessment decision. Every year sites are monitored, through a variety of monitoring programs, with minimal data collection that is used to “flag” problem waters. Hence, some staff time and project funding are required every year to follow up on “flagged” waters where the data suggest there is an impairment but there are insufficient data to make that determination based on the State’s minimum data requirements. Follow Up monitoring project funds may be used to 1) meet minimum data requirements for “flagged” parameter or 2) used to monitor and identify possible stressors when biology is “Poor”.

The process for Follow-Up monitoring includes Central Office staff members developing an initial priority list of sites and parameters to be monitored by field staff. Field staff review the list every winter and prioritize among the sites in their area as “high”, “medium” or “low” priority. Field staff make these determinations based on data representativeness (flood sample, gear breakdown, etc.), data appropriateness (IBI applied to wrong Natural Community, etc.) and their own scheduled work (are staff conducting other work the area, etc.). Central Office staff release the final site list to Field staff through the Monitoring Activity Sheets.

## **B. Project History**

Follow-Up monitoring was historically driven by the “Local Needs” (or Competitive Projects) process where District staff identified waters needing additional data for impairment decisions. In 2013, a program was supported by an EPA Monitoring Initiative Grant to fund additional data collection at a number of stream sites. These sites were identified as phosphorus 5P “Watch Waters” where either total phosphorus and biology data were not representative of the site (i.e. flooding issues) or biologic data were missing for bio-confirmation of a TP impairment (see Section 7.4 of WisCALM). In 2014, the Follow-Up monitoring program was deployed as an extension of the 5P monitoring project, with many of the same parameters monitored. The future of Follow-Up monitoring will likely include total phosphorus and biology monitoring, but will also be expanded to other parameters based on assessment needs. In past iterations of this program DNR and Water Action Volunteers (WAV) have been able to cooperatively sample a single site. This may be a possibility in the future as well. For example, WAV members may be able to collect monthly TP while DNR biologists collect fish and/or macroinvertebrate samples. The current WAV coordinator is listed below:

Kris Stepenuck Water Action Volunteers Coordinator 608-264-8948 kris.stepenuck@wisconsin.gov
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## C. Project Locations

Project locations exist across the State and change every year. Sites will have some historic data depending on what parameter was used to “flag” the site. Some consideration is given to distributing sites equitably among staff but in most cases is not fully possible due to the uneven distribution of land use stressors to streams.

## D. Day and Time of Monitoring

Monitoring for the Follow-Up program will have different requirements based on the parameter of interest. In the recent past, total phosphorus (six monthly samples May-Oct), fish community (one sample May-Sept) and macroinvertebrate samples (one sample Oct-Nov) have been collected through this effort.

## E. Field Activities

Field Activities for this project are dependent on parameters. The following example schedule assumes that monthly total phosphorus, fish and macroinvertebrate sampling are need for a single site.

- 1) Mock monitoring schedule:
  - a. May – Total Phosphorus
  - b. June – Total Phosphorus
  - c. July – Total Phosphorus and Fish Assemblage
  - d. August – Total Phosphorus
  - e. September – Total Phosphorus
  - f. October – Total Phosphorus and Macroinvertebrate Assemblage

## F. SOPs

Staff and volunteer monitors are responsible for reading and following the appropriate SOPs for the water quality parameters being collected as part of Follow-Up monitoring. SOPs are found in the SWIMS system as electronic documents. All SOPs used in a survey must be electronically attached to the study description in SWIMS.

## G. Safety

Safety precautions of a general nature should be recognized. When monitoring in spring use caution when entering the stream as flows may be higher and cause a dangerous wading situation. Collecting samples in extremely hot and humid weather carries the risk of dehydration and heat stroke. Staff must have appropriate electrofishing and CPR training according to the current Bureau wide safety policies.

## H. Data Management

All data collected for the Follow-Up monitoring will be stored in SWIMS or the Fish and Habitat Database (FH). Quantitative habitat and fish community results need to be entered into the FH database maintained by the Bureau of Fisheries management. Contact the Fisheries database coordinators for instructions and access information. All other data will be stored in SWIMS.

Field chemistry will be entered directly by the State Lab of Hygiene as long as the data are recorded on the lab slip. Macroinvertebrate data will be entered into SWIMS by the UW Stevens Point Aquatic Biomonitoring Laboratory after identification.

## I. Study Results, Data Access and Sharing

Follow-up monitoring results are often seamlessly incorporated into the biennial report to Congress, the “Integrated Clean Water Act” report water quality assessments. These assessments are conducted in the year prior to reporting the data online and in database sharing to USEPA. Condition assessments following procedures articulated in Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (WisCALM) are conducted and the results are uploaded into the Waterbody Assessment Tracking and Electronic Reporting System (WATERS). Follow up monitoring may not require a formal final report, but only that the data are fully integrated into SWIMS, Fish DB and WATERS in a timely fashion. Write up of the results occur during the Watershed Planning phase of the monitoring, assessment and planning cycle. Results may be displayed in the Surface Water Data Viewer and the Water Condition viewer, as well as online Water Detail and Watershed Detail Pages.

## J. Updates and Tracking

Version Number	Date	Sections	Name	Approval
1.0	02/26/2015	All	Streams Tech Team	Mike Shupryt, Team Leader

This document is available electronically on the WDNR’s website. [\[CLICK HERE\]](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan.

If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-267-7694 for more information.



WDNR PUB-WY-018-2015

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

101 S. Webster Street • PO Box 7921 • Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
608-266-2621