

Watershed-Based Plan Check List

This check list is intended to assist DHEC and stakeholders in reviewing and evaluating watershed-based plans and to provide consistency among watershed-based plans in South Carolina. This list should be consulted during the watershed planning process to ensure all required elements are adequately addressed. Please contact your watershed manager with questions regarding this checklist or the watershed planning process.

Element A: Causes and Sources of Pollution	
Are sources of pollution identified, mapped and described? Are causes identified?	
Are loads from identified sources quantified?	
Are sources broken-down by subwatershed, if applicable?	
Are data sources, estimates and assumptions sufficient, cited and verifiable?	
Are existing data gaps identified? Is there a plan to address data gaps?	

Element B: Anticipated Load Reductions	
Will expected load reductions ensure water quality standards and other plan goals are met?	
Are expected load reductions linked to pollution sources identified in Element A?	
Is the complexity of modeling appropriate for the watershed characteristics, the scale and complexity of the impairment and the available water quality data?	
Are the estimates, assumptions and data used in the analysis explained, cited and verifiable?	

Element C: Nonpoint Source Management Measures Identified	
Does the plan describe BMPs that will address the causes of pollution identified in Element A?	
Have critical and priority areas been identified?	
Is the rationale given for the selection of BMPs?	
Are BMPs applicable to the pollutant causes and sources? Are they feasible?	
Are the BMPs linked to load reductions identified in Element B?	
Have BMPs been mapped?	
In selecting and siting the BMPs, are the estimates, assumptions and data used technically sound?	

Element D: Technical and Financial Assistance	
Are sources of needed technical assistance included?	
Does the plan describe the anticipated involvement of assisting organizations or volunteers?	
Are cost estimates included? Are they reasonable?	
Does the cost estimate include all planning and implementation costs?	
Are potential funding sources listed? Is there an estimated contribution from each funding source?	

Element E: Education and Outreach	
Does the plan identify relevant stakeholders?	
Are there sustainable mechanisms to keep the public informed about the plan and its implementation?	
Does the plan include methods to engage stakeholders and landowners in participation and implementation? Do education measures affect behavior change?	
Does the education process prepare stakeholders for BMP operation and maintenance after implementation is complete?	
Was there active and diverse public participation in the plan's development?	

Element F: Implementation Schedule

Does the schedule include a logical sequence of implementation actions needed to meet plan goals?	
---	--

Is the schedule appropriate based on the complexity of the impairment and size of the watershed?	
--	--

Element G: Milestones

Are identified milestones measurable and attainable?	
--	--

Does the plan identify incremental milestones with anticipated completion time-frames?	
--	--

Does the plan include progress evaluations and possible adjustments or revisions as needed?	
---	--

Are the milestones linked to the schedule in Element F?	
---	--

Element H: Load Reduction Evaluation Criteria

Are criteria measurable and quantifiable?	
---	--

Does the criteria effectively measure progress toward load reduction goals?	
---	--

Are target achievement time-frames identified?	
--	--

Does the plan include a process to determine if anticipated reductions are met?	
---	--

Element I: Monitoring

Does the plan describe how monitoring will be used to evaluate the effectiveness (in reducing loads to the waterbody) of the implementation efforts?	
--	--

Will the monitoring plan effectively measure the evaluation criteria identified in Element H?	
---	--

Are the monitoring methods, including parameters, number of sites and frequency of sampling, appropriate and adequate?	
--	--

Will the monitoring method link the load reductions from implementation to improvements in the waterbody?	
---	--