

2004 Assessments – Rainy River Basin

Professional judgment group transparency form for assessed streams

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Revision: 12/29/2003

Introduction to the Process Transparency Document

(For a full description of the process for assessing water quality in Minnesota under the Clean Water Act, see “Guidance Manual for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters”, MPCA, January, 2004.

This document is available from the MPCA or to read and download from the MPCA Web site at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/manuals/tmdl-guidancemanual04.pdf>)

In general, the assessment process compares monitoring data with applicable water quality standards by stream reach. The Professional Judgment Group is composed of assessment staff who know how the preliminary assessments were done, and monitoring staff who advise on the correct interpretation of monitoring data collected by them or their organization.

The stream assessment Process Transparency Document is designed to provide both a template for considering preliminary assessments at the major river basin Professional Judgment Group (PJG) meetings, and also to provide an enduring record of any special factors discussed or involved in making an assessment on a stream reach.

This document builds on two technical reports, a Data Summary Report and a Preliminary Assessment Report, which are produced in an automated manner using the assessment methodology described in the guidance document referenced above. Often, the application of the methodology produces an assessment that is reviewed without additional comment. When additional factors must be considered, or additional review is performed, or recommendations are made, these are noted on the Process Transparency Document, along with significant comments that reinforce or pertain to the assessment for the reach.

Use the “find” capability when using this document in electronic format to find a particular AUID or stream name. The order of the notes varies according to how they were used in the PJG meeting.

Abbreviation Key:

AUID	Assessment Unit Identification Code – incorporates the 8-digit HUC (ie. 07020001 517)
NS	Non-supporting
FS	Fully-supporting
PS	Partially-supporting
NA	Not Assessed
IAR	Integrated Assessment Reporting

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AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030001-536 **None 1.74** **South Kawishiwi R** **From Northern tip of Birch Lk to (from eastward branch of South Kawishiwi R to dam structure at SH-1)**
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) GOOD
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic recreation use—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) FAIR
Fish consumption use NA
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 2, attains AQL and swim, no data for consumption
Additional Comments _____

AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030001-510 **221 58.29** **Kawishiwi R** **Headwaters to South Kawishiwi R**
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) GOOD
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) GOOD
Fish consumption use NS
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 5
Additional Comments Dataset is from USGS station. James Fallon, USGS, notes: Station is at the outside edge of the BWCA; quarterly Benchmark station that lost funding in mid-90's and had a long earlier period of record. Funding reinstated now.

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AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030003-506 001 22.59 Rainy R (Rainy Lk) Rainy Lk (western portion)
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) FAIR
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment NA Final assessment _____
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Fish consumption use NA
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants mercury
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 2, attains AQL, no data for swim or consumption
Additional Comments see comments for next downstream reach – 09030004-502

AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030004-502 213 2.95 Rainy R Rainy Lk to International Falls dam
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) GOOD
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) FAIR
Fish consumption use NS
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 5
Additional Comments Nolan Baratono, PCA: There have been some beach closings upstream in Rainy Lake, especially on the Fort Francis side; significant algal bloom in Rainy Lake in Fall 2002.

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AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030004-503 113 12.44 Rainy R International Falls dam to Little Fork
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment FS ? Final assessment NA Based on _____
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment NA Final assessment NA _____
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Fish consumption use NS _____
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 5 _____
Additional Comments Too few observations for assessment

AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030004-501 001 40.5 Rainy R Black R to Rapid R
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) FAIR _____
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment PS Final assessment NA _____
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Fish consumption use NS _____
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 5 _____
Additional Comments Data quality good, but dataset is small.

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AUID **Seg** **Miles** **Reach Name** **Reach Description**
09030005-501 **001** **19.09** **Little Fork R** **Beaver Brook to Rainy R**

Aquatic life—preliminary assessment PS Final assessment NA Based on see comments
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances 2 of the 4 exceedances close to standard
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions little soil disruption from human activities
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data **Anecdotal evidence that sediment load in Little Fork R is typically greater than that of the adjacent watershed of Big Fork R. DNR fish survey found a “good quality” fishery in the Little Fork.**

Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment NA Final assessment _____
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Fish consumption use NS
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury,
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 5
Additional Comments **Because there are few bridge crossings in the watershed, monitoring points to date are limited. The group recommends further sampling for A. invertebrates to detect sediment impact to biota, B. more turbidity/TSS/ T-tube sampling at various points to detect a longitudinal extent of sediment load characteristic, and C. accumulate additional turbidity data from the Milestone sampling at LF-0.5. The PCA Rainy Basin Coordinator will work the Bioassessment Unit and consider a Special Studies proposal to accomplish A. , and with the Rivers and Streams Unit and citizen monitoring programs to direct efforts towards B. The Milestone Program will be collecting turbidity measurements on the reach in 2003 and 2005 (C).**

AUID **Seg** **Miles** **Reach Name** **Reach Description**
09030006-905 **NA** **--** **Rice River(Clubhouse Lk) nr Marcell-**

Aquatic life—preliminary assessment NA Final assessment NA Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Factors used, please describe _____
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____

Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment FS Final assessment NA
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Fish consumption use NA
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category _____
Additional Comments **Station location metadata insufficient to describe reach; lat-long plots at a campground at the shoreline, not on lake outlet or inlet. Probably swimming beach samples on lake.**

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AUID	Seg	Miles	Reach Name	Reach Description
09030006-505	009	39.5	Big Fork R	Moose Brook to Coon Cr
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment <u>PS</u> Final assessment <u>FS</u> Based on _____				
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) <u>GOOD</u>				
Factors used, please describe				
A. Timing of exceedances _____				
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____				
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____				
D. Naturally occurring conditions <u>substantial natural wetland influence</u>				
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____				
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____				
G. Additional data _____				
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment <u>FS</u>				
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) <u>GOOD</u>				
Fish consumption use _____				
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) <u>Y</u> Which pollutants <u>Mercury</u>				
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) <u>Y</u> Which pollutants <u>Mercury</u>				
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) <u>Y</u> Which pollutants <u>Mercury</u>				
Delisting status (if applicable) _____				
IAR category <u>5</u>				
Additional Comments <u>Dick Lacher, Big Fork RiverWatch: low DO due to natural influence of wetland inflow</u>				

AUID	Seg	Miles	Reach Name	Reach Description
09030006-504	007	39.05	Big Fork R	Deer Cr to Caldwell Br
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment <u>FS</u> Based on _____				
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) <u>GOOD</u>				
Factors used, please describe				
A. Timing of exceedances _____				
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____				
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____				
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____				
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____				
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____				
G. Additional data _____				
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment <u>FS</u>				
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) <u>GOOD</u>				
Fish consumption use <u>NS</u>				
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) <u>Y</u> Which pollutants <u>Mercury</u>				
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) <u>Y</u> Which pollutants <u>Mercury</u>				
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) <u>Y</u> Which pollutants <u>Mercury</u>				
Delisting status (if applicable) _____				
IAR category <u>5</u>				
Additional Comments <u>portion of additional recent dataset that was not included in this preliminary assessment continues to indicate full support</u>				

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AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030006-503 004 24.92 Big Fork R Reilly Brook to Sturgeon R
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment **FS** _____ Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ **GOOD** _____
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment __ **FS** _____
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ **GOOD** _____
Fish consumption use **NS** _____
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) **Y** Which pollutants **Mercury** _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) **Y** Which pollutants **Mercury** _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) **Y** Which pollutants **Mercury** _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category **5** _____
Additional Comments _____

AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030006-502 002 38.08 Big Fork R Sturgeon R to Bear R
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment **FS** _____ Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ **GOOD** _____
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment __ **FS** _____
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ **GOOD** _____
Fish consumption use **NS** _____
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) **Y** Which pollutants **Mercury** _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) **Y** Which pollutants **Mercury** _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) **Y** Which pollutants **Mercury** _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category **5** _____
Additional Comments _____

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AUID	Seg	Miles	Reach Name	Reach Description
09030006-501	001	9.63	Big Fork R	Bear R to Rainy R
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment FS _____ Based on _____				
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ GOOD _____				
Factors used, please describe				
A. Timing of exceedances _____				
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____				
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____				
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____				
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____				
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____				
G. Additional data _____				
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment FS _____				
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ GOOD _____				
Fish consumption use NS _____				
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____				
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____				
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury _____				
Delisting status (if applicable) _____				
IAR category 5 _____				
Additional Comments _____				

AUID	Seg	Miles	Reach Name	Reach Description
09030007-501	001	1.41	Rapid R	East Fk Rapid R to RainyR
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment FS _____ Based on _____				
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____ GOOD _____				
Factors used, please describe				
A. Timing of exceedances _____				
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____				
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____				
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____				
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____				
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____				
G. Additional data _____				
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment NA _____ Final assessment _____				
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____				
Fish consumption use NA _____				
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____				
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____				
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) N Which pollutants _____				
Delisting status (if applicable) _____				
IAR category 2 _____				
Additional Comments _____				

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AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
*****09030008-504 007 7.82 Rainy R Rapid R to Baudette R**
Fish consumption use NS
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
IAR category 5
Comments **station representing this reach was mapped here in error. Location and dataset, except for FCA status, applies to next downstream reach, 09030008-503, which follows. *****

AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030008-503 005 4.49 Rainy R Baudette R to Winter Road R
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) GOOD
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment FS
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) FAIR
Fish consumption use NS
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) Y Which pollutants Mercury
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 5
Additional Comments _____

AUID Seg Miles Reach Name Reach Description
09030008-502 002 7.79 Winter Road R Peppermint Cr to Rainy R
Aquatic life—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment FS Based on _____
AQL assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) GOOD
Factors used, please describe
A. Timing of exceedances _____
B. Magnitude of exceedances _____
C. Seasonality of exceedances _____
D. Naturally occurring conditions _____
E. Combination of narrative and numeric standards _____
F. Known point and nonpoint influences in the watershed _____
G. Additional data _____
Aquatic Rec Use—preliminary assessment _____ Final assessment NA
AR assessment quality (Excellent, good, fair, poor) _____
Fish consumption use NA
1998 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2002 TMDL listing (Y/N) N Which pollutants _____
2004 Impairment listing(Y/N) _____ Which pollutants _____
Delisting status (if applicable) _____
IAR category 2
Additional Comments _____
