

Stormwater Steering Committee Charter Revised December 21, 2004

Project Description (Problem and Goal Statement)

Protecting Minnesota's waters requires addressing the problem of stormwater runoff, which is rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through any type of land carrying natural and/or human-made pollutants into surface or ground waters.

The Stormwater Steering Committee (SSC) is a group of public and private stakeholders charged with building on the work of the MN Stormwater Design Team, to inform, advise, and coordinate stormwater management efforts across the state. An immediate goal of the SSC is to enhance the effectiveness of existing and emerging state and local stormwater regulatory management programs, in order to build an efficient and understandable regulatory and implementation framework. Long-term goals include conducting stormwater program planning and implementation on a watershed basis.

The SSC will focus on, and provide subcommittee support for, activities within the current stormwater regulatory and implementation framework of the MPCA and other State agencies. As part of its larger goals, the SSC will provide support for other programs with stormwater components such as:

- A) impaired waters;
- B) federal funding programs;
- C) shoreland management;
- D) ground water recharge;
- E) drinking water source water protection;
- F) nondegradation;
- G) surface water management plans,;
- H) wetland management;
- I) watershed organizations;
- J) the MN Nonpoint Source Management Plan; and
- K) other research.

Scope (Issues that will be addressed. Identify any specific limits.)

- The SSC will provide technical expertise and recommendations for: education; inspection; enforcement; proposed regulatory initiatives' monitoring; training programs; program management; and watershed management.
- The SSC will establish a forum to improve cooperation/coordination between governmental units. SSC members will act as liaisons to their respective agencies/entities to achieve the committee's goals.
- The SSC will address developing links or merging stormwater management requirements with other state or local water resource programs and the Impaired Waters Program.

- The SSC will seek to establish real and perceived fairness in sharing the burden of improving water quality among all responsible groups and individuals.
- The SSC will seek to address source control as well as runoff control, to address the causes of polluted runoff instead of simply seeking to control the pollution after it has been carried by the runoff.
- The SSC will establish subcommittees to address key areas to:
 - a) Establish and maintain a comprehensive Stormwater Management Manual;
 - b) Provide opportunities for groups and individuals to raise and advocate for regulatory issues that may need solutions in rulemaking or other regulatory effort and to inform any efforts undertaken in response by government entities;
 - c) Establish and maintain a Web-based stormwater repository for education research and information ;
 - d) Promote a watershed approach to stormwater management;
 - e) Accommodate use of the state's natural resources (i.e. housing/business developments, recreation, etc.), while preventing degradation of invaluable water resources;
 - f) Identify research needs and leverage resources to meet those needs;
 - g) Coordinate a statewide stormwater monitoring program; and
 - h) Assist in providing input into the development of the Industrial Stormwater Permit.