

Priority Framework Process and Watershed Selection

Identifying opportunities
for success



The Vision

- Focuses on implementation
- EPA expects the State to establish long-term water program priorities (10 year) in the context of overall water quality goals.
- TMDL program integrates other programs by setting point and non-point pollutant targets.
- Linking priorities to focus resources to address priority waters through assessments, TMDLs (or alternative restoration), protection, implementation, and follow-up monitoring.

Long-term Priorities Consistent with the Vision

- Identify highest priorities waters for TMDL development;
- May include early restoration or protection
- Not required, but basis for program measure (106 grant)

Considerations for setting Long-term Priorities

- Number of waters affected by particular pollutant
- Public health risk
- Specific regional priorities
- Integration with other programs
- Designated uses of primary interest to public
- Likelihood of successful restoration
- Availability of monitoring data or models
- Relative complexity of TMDLs
- Waters identified for protection

Mississippi's Prioritization Framework

- Visioning Workshop October 2014
- Final Plan February 2015
- Steering Committee established

Identifying Target Watersheds



The diagram is a funnel-shaped pyramid divided into three horizontal sections. The top section is the narrowest and contains the text 'Factor Profiles'. The middle section is wider and contains 'Target Focus Areas'. The bottom section is the widest and contains 'Candidate Focus Areas'. The entire funnel is filled with a light blue color. To the left of the funnel is a thick, dark blue horizontal bar. Above the bar, the title 'Identifying Target Watersheds' is written in a dark teal font. The background features a light green L-shaped graphic on the left side.

**Factor
Profiles**

**Target Focus
Areas**

**Candidate Focus
Areas**

Factor Profiles

- 31 total data layers
- 5 new data layers created
- Categorized as Human Health/Programmatic Factors
- Weighted on scale of 1-10

Human Health Factors

- Groundwater Wells
- Source Water Protection Area
- Canoe Trails/Blueways/Ecotourism
- Demographic Index
- Public Water Supply
- Recreational Water
- Fish Consumption Advisory

Programmatic Factors

- Erosion Potential
- Landuse (Impervious/Forested/Crops/Pasture)
- Wetlands
- Impaired Waters (303d)
- Legacy Work (Ross Barnett Res., Porters Bayou)
- New Funding Opportunities
- Number and type of NPDES permits

Phase 2

- 31 Targeted Focus Areas make up the Factor Profile developed in Phase 1
- Factor Profile used to rank all 1,467 12- digit watersheds
- July SC meeting established weighting of screening factors
- Public Water Supply, Source Water Protection Areas, and Recreational Waters weight increased

August Steering Committee Meeting

- SC members identified 25 program priority watersheds from the top 100
- SC selected 21 watersheds as priorities

MS Priority Watersheds Final Draft

1	1.1	1.1.1	1.1.1.1	1.1.1.1.1
2	2.1	2.1.1	2.1.1.1	2.1.1.1.1
3	3.1	3.1.1	3.1.1.1	3.1.1.1.1
4	4.1	4.1.1	4.1.1.1	4.1.1.1.1
5	5.1	5.1.1	5.1.1.1	5.1.1.1.1
6	6.1	6.1.1	6.1.1.1	6.1.1.1.1
7	7.1	7.1.1	7.1.1.1	7.1.1.1.1
8	8.1	8.1.1	8.1.1.1	8.1.1.1.1
9	9.1	9.1.1	9.1.1.1	9.1.1.1.1
10	10.1	10.1.1	10.1.1.1	10.1.1.1.1
11	11.1	11.1.1	11.1.1.1	11.1.1.1.1
12	12.1	12.1.1	12.1.1.1	12.1.1.1.1
13	13.1	13.1.1	13.1.1.1	13.1.1.1.1
14	14.1	14.1.1	14.1.1.1	14.1.1.1.1
15	15.1	15.1.1	15.1.1.1	15.1.1.1.1
16	16.1	16.1.1	16.1.1.1	16.1.1.1.1
17	17.1	17.1.1	17.1.1.1	17.1.1.1.1
18	18.1	18.1.1	18.1.1.1	18.1.1.1.1
19	19.1	19.1.1	19.1.1.1	19.1.1.1.1
20	20.1	20.1.1	20.1.1.1	20.1.1.1.1
21	21.1	21.1.1	21.1.1.1	21.1.1.1.1
22	22.1	22.1.1	22.1.1.1	22.1.1.1.1
23	23.1	23.1.1	23.1.1.1	23.1.1.1.1
24	24.1	24.1.1	24.1.1.1	24.1.1.1.1
25	25.1	25.1.1	25.1.1.1	25.1.1.1.1
26	26.1	26.1.1	26.1.1.1	26.1.1.1.1
27	27.1	27.1.1	27.1.1.1	27.1.1.1.1
28	28.1	28.1.1	28.1.1.1	28.1.1.1.1
29	29.1	29.1.1	29.1.1.1	29.1.1.1.1
30	30.1	30.1.1	30.1.1.1	30.1.1.1.1
31	31.1	31.1.1	31.1.1.1	31.1.1.1.1
32	32.1	32.1.1	32.1.1.1	32.1.1.1.1
33	33.1	33.1.1	33.1.1.1	33.1.1.1.1
34	34.1	34.1.1	34.1.1.1	34.1.1.1.1
35	35.1	35.1.1	35.1.1.1	35.1.1.1.1
36	36.1	36.1.1	36.1.1.1	36.1.1.1.1
37	37.1	37.1.1	37.1.1.1	37.1.1.1.1
38	38.1	38.1.1	38.1.1.1	38.1.1.1.1
39	39.1	39.1.1	39.1.1.1	39.1.1.1.1
40	40.1	40.1.1	40.1.1.1	40.1.1.1.1
41	41.1	41.1.1	41.1.1.1	41.1.1.1.1
42	42.1	42.1.1	42.1.1.1	42.1.1.1.1
43	43.1	43.1.1	43.1.1.1	43.1.1.1.1
44	44.1	44.1.1	44.1.1.1	44.1.1.1.1
45	45.1	45.1.1	45.1.1.1	45.1.1.1.1
46	46.1	46.1.1	46.1.1.1	46.1.1.1.1
47	47.1	47.1.1	47.1.1.1	47.1.1.1.1
48	48.1	48.1.1	48.1.1.1	48.1.1.1.1
49	49.1	49.1.1	49.1.1.1	49.1.1.1.1
50	50.1	50.1.1	50.1.1.1	50.1.1.1.1



Legend

	County Boundary		2014 MSAD Watershed
	City Boundary		2012 MSAD Watershed
	Interstate		Stream
	US Highway		Lake/Reservoir
	State Highway		
	Railroad		



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What does this mean?

- Greater efficiency through collaboration
- Targeted work in priority watersheds (other work will continue)
- Additional monitoring, sampling, modeling
- Looking for partners
- Early restoration
- Permitting/Compliance

Schedule

- Selection process and screening criteria reviewed annually
- Flexibility retained for changing priorities (disasters, funding)
- Priorities developed on a 10 year timescale



Questions

