

2015-2019

South Carolina Nonpoint Source Management Plan



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. THE PROBLEM OF NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution occurs when rainfall or irrigation runs over land or percolates through the ground, picking up pollutants and carrying them into rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters. Unlike point source pollution, which can be traced to a defined source, nonpoint source pollution is diffuse, making it difficult to identify and control the source of the problem.

Nonpoint sources of pollution are important to control because they continue to be recognized as the nation's largest remaining cause of surface water quality impairments. NPS pollution may contain bacteria and nutrients from malfunctioning septic systems or animal waste, eroded soil from land disturbances, nutrients and pesticides from agricultural or urban areas, air pollutants from atmospheric deposition, and heavy metals and other toxins bound to soil particles. These pollutants, in turn, can impact human and aquatic health by causing beach closures and fish kills, impacting aquatic and marine habitat and making drinking water more difficult to treat.

B. HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Recognizing the growing problem of NPS pollution, in the late 1980s, Congress added nonpoint source provisions to the Clean Water Act (CWA) under Section 319. Among other provisions, Section 319 requires each state to develop and maintain a Nonpoint Source Management Program to comprehensively address nonpoint sources of pollution. The South Carolina program, which is administered by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), was originally approved by EPA in 1990. That year, Congress also enacted the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) to more specifically address the impacts of NPS pollution on coastal water quality. As a result, South Carolina developed a Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, which was later merged with the statewide NPS Management Program. Since the original program was developed, the Nonpoint Source Management Plan has been updated once, in 1999. South Carolina received full coastal program approval in 2008.

In 2013, EPA issued updated guidance for states to use in reviewing, revising and updating their NPS management programs. The guidance reflects a nation-wide focus on addressing water quality issues on a watershed basis and emphasizes a streamlined approach to implementing NPS reduction and prevention strategies. South Carolina's program has been updated to reflect this guidance along with other state and federal priorities.

C. ABOUT THE NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Carolina Nonpoint Source Management Plan provides a framework for addressing the major causes and sources of nonpoint source pollution in the state. It outlines the state's goals and objectives for mitigating nonpoint source pollution and the strategies, management measures, partnerships, funding sources and evaluation tools necessary to achieve those goals. The Plan also describes South Carolina's strategy for effectively utilizing Clean Water Act Section 319 funding.

This Nonpoint Source Management Plan was written and compiled by the Water Quality Division of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Bureau of Water with significant input from other DHEC staff. This plan includes strategies and programs conducted by DHEC as well as other local, state and federal agencies and organizations. DHEC would like to acknowledge and thank these cooperating organizations for their input and comments on this Management Plan.

D. LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Nonpoint Source Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with Federal and State regulations. DHEC has statutory authority to enforce the Nonpoint Source Management Program provisions of 33 U.S. Code § 1329 through the South Carolina Pollution Control Act, S.C. Code Ann. § 48-1-10 and the regulations and permitting programs promulgated pursuant to the Pollution Control Act. Additionally, the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act of 1977, S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-10 provides additional authority in the coastal counties of the State. For additional information, a full legal opinion prepared by the DHEC staff attorney is included in Appendix 1.

E. PROGRAM VISION

The South Carolina Nonpoint Source Program aims to control nonpoint sources of pollution in order to help restore and maintain high quality fishable, swimmable and drinkable waters throughout the state. In order to achieve this vision, the program will be guided by several overarching principles:

- The Program will focus on voluntary methods for reducing and preventing nonpoint source pollution.
- The Program will promote locally-driven nonpoint source reduction and prevention projects.
- The Program will address nonpoint source pollution through collaborative efforts and partnerships with local, regional, state and interstate entities, federal agencies, private sector organizations and citizens groups.
- The Program will use a combination of statewide programs and on-the-ground projects to achieve measurable improvements in water quality.
- The Program will be managed and implemented efficiently and effectively, taking advantage of opportunities to streamline processes when feasible.

F. BENEFITS OF LOCALLY-DRIVEN MEASURES

DHEC holds "local solutions to local problems" as a key Agency value. Effective nonpoint source prevention and reduction projects incorporate local knowledge about environmental practices as local citizens are often the first to notice changes in conditions that may affect water quality. Local stakeholders are also best suited to suggest effective methods for addressing nonpoint source pollution because they understand their communities' values and priorities. Ultimately, working cooperatively with local stakeholders increases the likelihood of lasting water quality improvements by crafting an approach unique to each community and situation.

II. NPS PLAN GOALS

DHEC has established the following six long-term goals which drive the policies and funding mechanisms for the NPS Program for this plan period. In order to quantitatively measure progress towards these goals, 15 objectives with 60 measurable milestones have also been developed that further define the direction and activities related to achieving the intent of each goal. Program objectives and milestones are found in Section VIII. Appendix 2 lists the applicable milestones designed to address each goal.

1. ASSESS, PRIORITIZE AND DEVELOP PLANS FOR WATERSHEDS AFFECTED BY NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION.

DHEC will continue to gather and use credible data to accurately identify those waters of the state whose designated uses are impaired by or need protection from nonpoint source pollution. The Department will prioritize watersheds for protection and water quality improvement activities and will continue to work with local stakeholders to develop comprehensive plans to address priority watersheds.

2. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS NPS POLLUTION.

DHEC will continue to provide technical assistance to implement efficient and effective watershed protection and improvement projects to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution.

3. STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS NPS POLLUTION.

DHEC will work to maintain and improve existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with other agencies, non-profit organizations and local watershed groups with complementary goals that also seek to reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality.

4. PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR NPS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

DHEC will continue to financially support and work to leverage additional resources for assessment, prioritization, planning, implementation and evaluation activities to strategically and efficiently reduce nonpoint sources of pollution.

5. DOCUMENT ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS OF NPS ACTIVITIES.

DHEC will develop and implement methods to accurately and efficiently track progress in achieving water quality improvements from best management practice implementation.

6. ADMINISTER THE NPS PROGRAM EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

DHEC will administer its Nonpoint Source Program efficiently and effectively with a focus on strengthening intra-agency coordination, demonstrating accountability and systematically evaluating program outcomes.

III. ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

DHEC is responsible for assigning designated uses to South Carolina waterbodies and establishing rules to protect those uses. The Department periodically assesses water quality to determine if waterbodies are meeting standards. Assessments result in an overview of the status of South Carolina's waterbodies for Clean Water Act reporting, provide data for determining whether waterbodies should be listed as impaired and to support the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and watershed-based plans to correct water quality problems.

A. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

[Water quality standards](#) serve as the basis for protecting and regulating the quality of South Carolina's waters. They define the goals for a water body by designating its uses, setting criteria to protect those designated uses and establishing an antidegradation policy to protect and maintain existing uses and high quality waters. More details on the State's monitoring programs can be found in Section VI.B.

B. STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Every two years, DHEC is required by the Clean Water Act to assess and report on the overall condition of the state's waters. The [305\(b\) report](#) presents a general statewide assessment of water quality conditions and water pollution control programs in South Carolina. DHEC also publishes [Watershed Water Quality Assessments](#) (WWQA) on a rotating basis, which contain information about specific watersheds and give a more complete picture of the waters referenced in the general assessment.

C. IMPAIRED WATERS

For those surface waters that do not meet water quality standards, Section 303(d) of the CWA requires all states to place those waterbodies on a comprehensive [list of impaired waters](#) (also known as the 303(d) list). The purpose of the list is to identify impaired waters so that the source of impairment can be described and corrective actions can be implemented to improve water quality.

Once a site is included on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, a [Total Maximum Daily Load](#) or TMDL must be developed. The goal of a TMDL is to identify potential pollution sources and calculate and quantify the reduction of those sources in order to meet water quality standards. After the approval of the TMDL, an implementation plan can be developed and implemented to reduce sources of pollution within a watershed and restore the full use of the waterbody.

The focus for DHEC's TMDL development, watershed planning, and 319 implementation activities will continue to be water quality impairments over the next five years. The goal of these efforts is water quality improvement and restoration, even as we look for opportunities to target protection of unimpaired waters.

Results from the most recent assessment and 303(d) list provided to EPA in 2014 are summarized in the table below. The results are shown for all fresh and salt waters combined. In terms of number of sites impaired, the most common cause of impairment in South Carolina waters continues to be bacteria. Sites listed due to mercury and PCBs in fish tissue are next followed by sites listed due to impaired benthic macroinvertebrate community. The next largest category is nutrients and nutrient-related response variables, which are all lake sites. Currently, South Carolina has established numeric nutrient criteria for

lakes larger than 40 acres only, so other waters are not assessed for nutrients. Combined with dissolved oxygen impairments, which in many cases may be nutrient-related, and turbidity, which can be associated with nutrient transport, nutrients and nutrient-related 303(d) listings represent a significant cause of impairment in South Carolina waters.

Parameter	Number of Impairments
Bacteria	281
Fish Tissue Mercury and PCBs	177
Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community	173
Phosphorus, Nitrogen, Chlorophyll-a, pH (Lakes)	163
Dissolved Oxygen	141
Turbidity	80
Metals	41
pH (Streams and Estuaries)	35
Ammonia	4
Total	1094

Sites Impaired by Parameter on the SC 2014 303(d) List

Fish tissue mercury and PCBs rank high based on the number of impaired sites in South Carolina; however, 319 program approaches are not viewed as the solution to these problems, so they are not currently considered nonpoint source program priorities. A large number of sites in South Carolina are listed as impaired due to poor benthic macroinvertebrate community. In most cases the specific cause is not determined. The 319 grant program will seek to address impaired benthic communities where sufficient information allows development of watershed based plans and identification of appropriate BMPs. Categorically, however, more information is needed about the causes of impairment and appropriate solutions before broadly targeting 319 implementation projects in this direction.

South Carolina’s 2014 305(b) report to EPA also identifies bacteria as the most prevalent cause of non-attainment in the state’s streams and rivers when calculated based on affected river miles. The 305(b) report also identifies nutrients and nutrient related parameters as the major cause of non-attainment in the state’s lakes based on affected acres. Turbidity and bacteria are the main causes of impairment in estuaries. These results are summarized in the tables below for streams, lakes, and estuaries, respectively.

Cause Category	Survey- Based Estimated Miles of Total Resource*	Lower 95 Percent Confidence Interval (Miles)	Upper 95 Percent Confidence Interval (Miles)
Dissolved Oxygen	1,932	841	3,023
Macroinvertebrate Community	1,377	343	2,412
pH	350	0	779
Turbidity	175	0	479
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	13,399	11,292	15,505

*24,436 miles est.

Rivers and Streams Impaired by Various Cause Categories in 2014 305(b) Report

Cause Category	Survey- Based Estimated Acres of Total Resource*	Lower 95 Percent Confidence Interval (Acres)	Upper 95 Percent Confidence Interval (Acres)
Total Phosphorus	32,192	14,184	50,199
pH	27,304	14,955	39,654
Chlorophyll <i>a</i>	8,605	0	17,927
Total Nitrogen	3,895	0	8,847
Dissolved Oxygen	659	286	1,032
Ammonia	55	0	148
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	1,396	0	3,219

*393,430 acres est.

Lakes Impaired by Various Cause Categories in 2014 305(b) Report

Cause Category	Survey- Based Estimated Square Miles of Total Resource*	Lower 95 Percent Confidence Interval (Square Miles)	Upper 95 Percent Confidence Interval (Square Miles)
Turbidity	47.7	34.2	61.3
Dissolved Oxygen	3.9	0	9.7
pH	3.2	0	8.7
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	10.3	0.9	19.7

*289 square miles est.

Estuaries Impaired by Various Cause Categories in 2014 305(b) Report

Based on the causes of impairment on the South Carolina 303(d) list of impaired waters and the results of DHEC’s statistical survey sampling documented in the 305(b) report, bacteria and nutrients, including related parameters, are currently the most widespread problems South Carolina waters which DHEC seeks to address through the 319 program. Nonpoint sources are significant contributors of bacteria and nutrients, and these pollutants will continue to be the main parameters of concern for DHEC’s nonpoint source program in the next five years.

D. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

In order to effectively address identified nonpoint sources of pollution, DHEC uses a watershed approach. Working on a watershed scale allows the Department to coordinate activities within a drainage basin so that impacts on water quality can be evaluated and addressed in a holistic manner. Each major basin in South Carolina has a [Watershed Manager](#) that supports watershed-based planning and water quality improvement projects to protect and restore waterbodies. Watershed managers work closely with community stakeholders to develop and implement plans to address nonpoint sources of pollution.

EPA requires the use of watershed-based plans for 319 implementation projects and has issued specific guidelines regarding what must be included in those plans. Watershed plans are also recommended whenever feasible for other projects to protect unimpaired waters and/or restore impaired waters. DHEC has developed a [suite of tools](#) to assist stakeholders in the creation and implementation of watershed-based plans.

E. WATERSHED PRIORITIZATION

As of 2014, DHEC and EPA Region 4 had established seven priority watersheds across the state. These include the following Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs):

- 03050109 (Saluda)
- 03060106 (Middle Savannah)
- 03050206 (Edisto)
- 030601100301 (May River)
- 030502080606 (Okatie River)
- 0304020106, 0304020107 (Black Creek)
- 030502090201, 030502090202 (Sewee-Santee)

These watersheds have been identified over the last several years by DHEC, EPA, and 319 project partners based on water quality, other state and federal priorities, and local interest. Additional staff time and priority in DHEC funding mechanisms have been directed to these watersheds.

In addition, in coordination with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), four 12-digit watersheds were selected for the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). These watersheds are receiving additional attention by NRCS for installation of agricultural BMPs and have been prioritized by DHEC for ongoing ambient water quality monitoring to document watershed response. The NWQI watersheds are:

- 030501091104 (Upper Little Saluda)
- 030502030101 (Chinquapin Creek)
- 030402020703 (Big Swamp)
- 030502060203 (Polk Swamp)

Recently, the DHEC watersheds program and TMDL program have identified additional watersheds where those programs will be focused in the next five years. In coordination with EPA region 4, the watersheds program has added the following HUCs to reflect increased activity in the Savannah basin:

- 03060103 (Upper Savannah)
- 03060109 (Lower Savannah)

The TMDL program has added the following HUCs in the Catawba basin due to reflect the priority of the Catawba nutrient TMDL development:

- 0305010115, 0305010301, 0305010302, 0305010303, 0305010304, 0305010305, 0305010306, 0305010401 (Catawba Basin)

The watersheds listed above and shown in the figure below represent DHEC’s existing priority watersheds for 2015. DHEC will continue to use priority points in the 319 projection selection process for proposals located in these watersheds while the new criteria are developed and additional priority watersheds are identified.



South Carolina’s Priority Watersheds in 2015

In recent years, increasing availability of detailed geospatial data representing a wide array of topographic, environmental, agricultural, and societal factors has created an opportunity to enhance watershed prioritization. Coupled with the recent trend of declining federal 319 dollars allocated to state programs, it is more important than ever to consider how thoughtful watershed prioritization can help focus nonpoint source efforts most efficiently and effectively.

DHEC’s Watersheds Program has been developing a GIS-based tool that uses key factors to highlight watersheds of interest throughout the state. This type of tool, and others under development by EPA, have the potential to form a new approach for prioritizing watersheds for 319 funding and possibly other programs. For the near term, specific milestones are outline in Objective 2 in Section VIII below. DHEC expects to continue work in the existing priority watersheds as the criteria for targeting future work is developed in coordination with DHEC’s watersheds and TMDL programs.

While a new prioritization framework is developed and new priority watersheds are identified, DHEC will give highest priority to implementation projects in watersheds with existing watershed based plans. In addition, DHEC will also continue solicit new watershed based plans and implementation project proposals in existing priority watersheds as identified above. Areas outside of existing priority watersheds will also be eligible for 319 grants as long as the project watersheds are covered by an approvable watershed based plan. The following table lists the existing watershed based plans which will be targeted in years 1, 2 and 3 of this 5-year management plan.

Watershed Based Plan	HUC CODES	Water Quality Parameter of Concern	Sources/BMPs
Huff Creek	030501090403	Bacteria Nutrients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Septic Upgrade • Pet waste
Turkey Creek	030402050401	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream Restoration • Constructed Wetlands/Infiltration Trenches + swales
Broad Creek	030601100302	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Determined
Gully Branch Creek	030402010902	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed wetland, • Various – pet waste stations, buffer zones, rain gardens, tree boxes
Murrells Inlet	030402080310	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infiltration trenches • Pet waste, rain gardens • Septic repairs • Constructed wetlands
Twenty-Five Mile Creek – Bacteria	03050104	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain gardens/barrels • Stream bank buffer strips • Pet waste stations • Agricultural various
Twenty-Five Mile Creek - Macroinvertebrates	03050104	Impaired Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural – various • Septic upgrades
Big Creek	030501090304 030501090305 030501090306 030501090307	Bacteria Nutrients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Septic Upgrade • Pet waste
Middle Saluda	030501090203	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Septic Upgrade • Pet waste

Watershed Based Plan	HUC CODES	Water Quality Parameter of Concern	Sources/BMPs
Gills Creek	03150110030	Bacteria Nutrients Dissolved Oxygen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream restoration Constructed Wetlands Filter trenches Rain gardens and barrels, tree boxes, permeable pavement
Crabtree	030402060803	Bacteria Sediment Nutrients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Septic Upgrade Pet waste
May River	030601100301	Bacteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septic upgrades Pet waste stations Stormwater retrofit

IV. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

South Carolina uses a combination of statewide programs and on-the-ground projects to address significant nonpoint sources of water quality pollution including agriculture, development, forestry, coastal activities, land disposal and mining. Programmatically, the state supports a variety of voluntary and regulatory programs and partnerships to improve water quality. Not all of the programs listed below receive 319 funding or count toward non-federal match requirements, but they directly impact potential sources of NPS pollution and are considered to be key elements in South Carolina’s overall NPS pollution reduction effort. DHEC also works at the project level to address NPS priorities through specific watershed improvement efforts, which are the primary focus of 319 funded projects and activities.

A. 319 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANTS

South Carolina receives an annual grant allocation from EPA to implement NPS reduction strategies described in this plan. This grant is the primary funding source for the NPS Program. A portion of these funds are passed on through a competitive grant process to stakeholder groups, government entities and other agencies interested in conducting projects that reduce or prevent NPS water pollution through the implementation of approved watershed-based plans. Grant proposals for NPS projects are solicited periodically throughout the year. Further information about 319 grants and the application process can be found on the [NPS Grants webpage](#) and in Section VII. Program Management.

B. COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

The Coastal Nonpoint Program (CNP) is an extension of the statewide Nonpoint Source Management program (319 Program) that fosters coordinated research, outreach and management activities to enhance state and local efforts to manage NPS pollution affecting South Carolina’s eight coastal zone counties. DHEC received full approval of the CNP in 2008.

DHEC's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) works to mitigate the impact of NPS pollution from development in coastal areas through [planning](#), [permitting](#) and [enforcement](#) activities. OCRM staff also work closely with the NPS program by serving on Section 319 Grant Proposal Review Committees to rank and award funding for proposals and attending project kick-off and demonstration meetings for coastal projects.

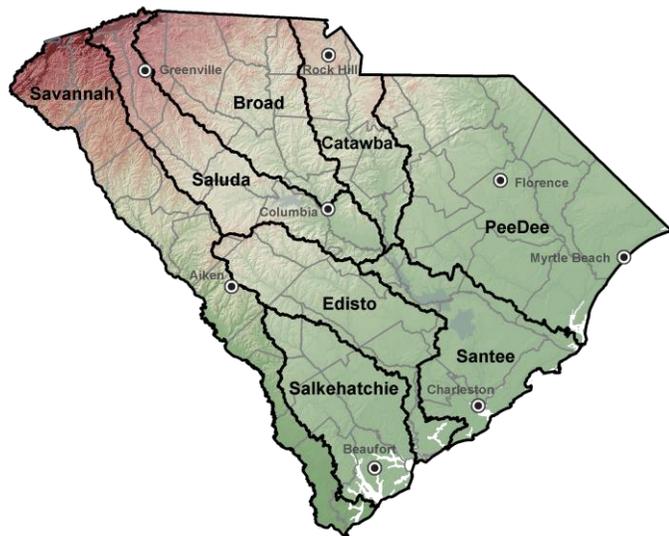
In partnership with SCDNR, SC SeaGrant and the SC Marine Association, OCRM staff oversee aspects of the [SC Clean Marina Program](#), part of an international effort to use best management practices to protect and improve water quality at marinas. The program provides a unique opportunity for marina owners and operators to protect water quality and be recognized for their efforts by meeting prescribed environmental performance criteria.

C. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Water quality maintenance and improvement requires addressing whole watersheds. DHEC divides South Carolina into 8 major watersheds – Broad, Catawba, Edisto, Pee Dee, Salkehatchie, Saluda, Santee and Savannah. Together, these watersheds contain over 30,000 stream miles, 300,000 acres of lake water and 200,000 acres of estuary.

South Carolina's watershed approach takes a holistic view of nonpoint source pollution, addressing all sources within a watershed using a suite of complementary practices. DHEC conducts water quality assessment and protection on a watershed basis to efficiently coordinate water quality maintenance and improvement activities, address congressional and legislative mandates and inform stakeholders of existing and future water quality issues. The NPS Program continues to look for ways to coordinate and target resources from multiple program areas in watersheds with NPS problems, helping to ensure that maximum water quality benefits are achieved.

To this end, each of the state's eight major basins has a Watershed Manager that supports watershed-based planning and water quality improvement projects to protect and restore South Carolina's waterways. Successful development and implementation of TMDLs and watershed plans depend upon the involvement and support of local stakeholders. Watershed managers work with DHEC staff, local governments, other state agencies, conservation organizations and others in addressing chronic NPS problems throughout the state through appropriate use of BMPs. Watershed managers aid in the development and implementation of pollution mitigation and watershed restoration activities (including TMDL implementation) and provide technical assistance in the identification, assessment and long-term management of NPS pollution problems affecting waters of the state, primarily through the 319 grant process.



South Carolina's Eight Major Watersheds

D. CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

[Champions of the Environment](#) is an annual grants awards program that provides funding to South Carolina K-12 students and teachers to implement environmental action and awareness projects in their school and communities. The program reaches hundreds of school-aged children, educators and members of the general public while promoting the grant program and NPS issues. Champions of the Environment is supported by a public-private partnership including local businesses, television stations and the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina.

E. ADVISORY PROGRAMS

FRESHWATER SWIMMING ADVISORIES

The Watershed Program educates citizens about current Nonpoint Source health risk advisories, how they can reduce their NPS contributions and encourage adherence to advisory guidelines. A website, outreach materials and 1-800 information line increase awareness of health risks associated with [swimming in impaired waters](#). They are also used as a springboard for increasing awareness of NPS issues and steps citizens can take to reduce their contributions to runoff pollution. Staff work with Central and Regional DHEC offices to address concerns from the public about these advisories.

SALTWATER SWIMMING ADVISORIES

In addition to freshwater swimming advisories, DHEC staff issue [advisories for saltwaters](#) in May through October to inform recreational users about potential bacteria risks from runoff pollution. DHEC routinely collects water samples at over 120 locations on South Carolina's beaches in accordance with federal standards. Advisories may be issued due to high bacteria counts or rainfall. DHEC uses multiple outlets to advertise advisory information including newspapers, television and advisory signs at affected beaches.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

DHEC collaborates with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to educate citizens about the potential risks of eating fish due to mercury and PCB contamination. DHEC collects and tests a variety of fish from South Carolina lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and offshore waters and issues recommendations about which types and how much fish is safe to eat from each waterbody. Advisory information is communicated to the public and at-risk groups via booklets, brochures, public service announcements and a comprehensive [website](#).

Fish Advisories are one component of DHEC's broader [Mercury Assessment and Reduction Initiative](#), which identifies ways that the public, industry, interested groups and government can collectively monitor, assess and address mercury in the environment and reduce mercury exposure.

F. REGIONAL NPS RESPONSE

Due to increased population growth and drastic changes in land usage, acute nonpoint source incidents are increasing in both frequency and potential water quality impacts. DHEC's [regional staff](#) investigate nonpoint source related complaints, including problems from silviculture, agriculture, stormwater and run-off from construction sites. When possible, staff focus on priority watersheds identified through collaboration with EPA, the 303(d) list, approved TMDLs and watershed reports.

Personnel attempt to prevent any further impact and work toward mitigation of offsite impacts with the responsible party and other interested entities. Uncooperative or recalcitrant parties are referred to the DHEC's Bureau of Water Enforcement Section for violations of the Pollution Control Act and the State's Antidegradation Regulations.

G. STATE REVOLVING FUND

The [State Revolving Fund](#) (SRF) program provides low-interest rate loans for building or repair to wastewater and drinking water systems and stormwater quality improvement projects. Through the Clean Water SRF in particular, a wide array of water quality improvement projects may be funded including green infrastructure projects, stormwater management controls and nonpoint source reduction projects. Nonpoint Source projects receive a lower interest rate (1% in 2014) to incentivize the use of this substantial funding resource.

The CWA requires that states develop a comprehensive list of potential projects eligible for funding from the CWSRF and rank them in priority order. Multiple DHEC programs provide input into the CWSRF ranking system, including the Nonpoint Source Program. In an effort to combine resources to improve water quality, proposed CWSRF projects that complement a water quality improvement effort that has received 319 funding are awarded additional points in the ranking system, making such projects a higher priority for SRF funding.

H. STORMWATER

Stormwater runoff from construction activities, industrial operations and storm sewer systems in urbanized areas has the potential to accumulate pollutants as it crosses the landscape. Most of these are considered point sources and must comply with both federal and state regulations to ensure that polluted stormwater does not have an adverse affect on the State's waters.

DHEC implements and enforces numerous laws, regulations and policies to limit and control adverse impacts of stormwater. The federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program is the primary driver for the majority of state and federal stormwater regulations. Under the NPDES Permit Program, stormwater discharges are labeled pollution sources and operators of these sources may be required to obtain an NPDES permit before they can discharge. More information on specific permitting activities for [construction](#), [industrial activities](#) and [municipal separate storm sewer systems](#) (MS4s) can be found on [DHEC's stormwater website](#).

The majority of stormwater regulations can be met by implementing site specific structural and non-structural best management [practices](#) (BMPs) and/or through municipal [pollution prevention](#) programs. The South Carolina Department of Transportation also maintains standard technical [specifications for sediment and erosion control](#) practices for roads and highways.

I. ONSITE WASTEWATER

South Carolina households generate nearly 3 billion gallons of sewage each year. About 60 percent of homes are served by public or community sewer systems. The rest — more than 1 million households — rely on septic tanks located on their property. In an average year, 10 to 30 percent of septic systems fail to work properly, usually because of poor maintenance.

Improperly functioning septic systems can be a significant source of NPS pollution, particularly in rural areas. Because incorrectly installed septic tanks can harm water quality and make people sick, South Carolina law requires [site approvals](#) and [permits](#) for all septic systems for new construction. South Carolina also requires septic tank professionals to obtain a license before installing or pumping out septic tanks.

DHEC staff provide technical assistance to landowners regarding proper installation and maintenance of septic systems to help alleviate or correct water quality problems. Staff also work closely with 319 projects where failing septic systems are contributing to NPS pollution problems.

In addition to DHEC technical assistance, since 2009, the [Duke Energy Foundation](#) has provided funding to 319 grant recipients to assist low-income homeowners with septic system repairs. These funds enable homeowners to reduce or eliminate their required match, which has increased the number of systems which could be repaired in each watershed. Each repaired system improves not only the quality of life for the homeowner, but also the quality of water for everyone in the watershed.

J. AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL PERMITTING

State Law and Regulations require owners/operators of most animal feeding operations (AFOs) to obtain [permits](#) for the handling, storage, treatment (if necessary) and disposal of the manure, litter, and dead animals generated at their facilities. In addition to the state permit, AFOs are required to have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit if they have a discharge to surface water. Other agricultural activities such as peach packing, stock yards, slaughter houses, and meat markets may also be required to have agricultural permits depending upon their specific situation.

Owners of agricultural facilities are assisted by DHEC in achieving and maintaining compliance with their permits. Enforcement actions are taken, when necessary, to attain compliance with permits, water quality standards, and state laws and regulations.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and voluntary technical assistance to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to help sustainably manage natural resources. In particular, the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to farmers to install or implement structural and management conservation practices that can improve water quality. While EQIP is administered by the USDA-NRCS, state priorities are established with input from a [State Technical Committee](#) (STC) which is comprised of representatives from federal and state conservation agencies, including DHEC Nonpoint Source Program staff, agricultural producers, nonprofit organizations and agribusiness.

In addition to statewide collaboration, local NRCS staff provides technical assistance for many 319 projects. Many 319-funded projects also leverage EQIP funds to provide additional financial assistance and incentive to farmers and landowners installing management practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Most recently, DHEC has worked with NRCS to select watersheds and monitor water quality improvements under the [National Water Quality Initiative](#) (NWQI). Through the NWQI, NRCS works with farmers in selected watersheds throughout the nation to reduce nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment and bacteria from agricultural land. DHEC and NRCS have chosen four targeted watersheds in South Carolina where on-farm conservation investments can deliver significant water quality improvements. In addition, when possible, these watersheds were selected to complement existing 319 projects in order to maximize water quality benefits. DHEC is also providing water quality monitoring in these watersheds to document any water quality improvements.

K. PESTICIDES

DHEC PESTICIDE PERMITTING

Application of pesticides to surface waters of the State requires a permit under the federal Clean Water Act. DHEC issued a [general permit](#) to allow owners and operators to have a means to carry out important activities to control unwanted pests and vegetation and comply with the Clean Water Act and state rules. While some of the State's surface waters can be dry during dry times of the year, a discharge to those areas still requires a permit to legally allow the activity.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY PESTICIDE REGULATION

Clemson University's [Department of Pesticide Regulation](#) promotes the safe and proper use of pesticides. The Department of Pesticide Regulation is the enforcement and investigative authority in South Carolina for pesticide use and alleged misuse in accordance with state and federal law and regulations. Clemson's programs include applicator licensing and education, pesticide container recycling, integrated pest management in schools, endangered species protection and the worker protection program.

L. WETLANDS

Under CWA [Section 404](#), a permit is required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) evaluates permit applications for construction activities that occur in the nation's waters, including wetlands.

[Section 401](#) requires that the State issue certification for any activity which requires a federal permit and may result in a discharge to state waters such as these issued by the USACE. U.S. Coast Guard Permits and federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits also require states to take water quality certification action. During review of applications for water quality certification, DHEC assesses an activity's purpose, alternatives and dependence on water. Certification is denied if the activity will adversely affect existing or designated uses. The federal permit cannot be issued if certification is denied.

M. FORESTRY

The South Carolina Forestry Commission implements a statewide, coordinated [Best Management Practices](#) Program (BMP) for forestry related activities, which is supported in part by an annual 319 grant. The BMP program focuses on a proactive approach to preventing NPS pollution through aerial detection of harvesting sites and courtesy exams by specially trained Forestry BMP Specialists. The courtesy exams provide forest landowners with site-specific [BMP information](#) that can be included in timber sale contracts.

The program includes a water quality BMP training program for timber harvesters. The program also incorporates an enforceable mechanism to assure compliance with the BMPs. Close cooperation with DHEC is essential on sites referred for enforcement action and in correcting problems to ensure compliance with water quality requirements.

N. GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is the source of drinking water for 40% of South Carolina's population and is used by agricultural, industrial and commercial entities. Recognizing that restoration of contaminated groundwater is an expensive and technologically complex, DHEC focuses on protecting the quality and quantity of the state's groundwater resources through [permitting and reporting](#), [underground injection control](#) and [private well](#) inspection programs.

SOURCE WATER AND WELLHEAD PROTECTION

DHEC provides Source Water Assessments to public water supply systems that contain information about how susceptible a drinking water source may be to contamination, which can be used to mitigate potential NPS pollution. DHEC and the [SC Rural Water Association](#) provide technical assistance to communities developing and implementing source water protection plans based on the results the assessments.

O. LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management helps protect surface waters and groundwater through a variety of programs to remediate potential pollution sources from [dry cleaning sites](#), above and [underground storage tanks](#) and [hazardous, infectious](#) and [radioactive waste](#). The Bureau also administers programs to properly [dispose of](#) and [recycle](#) solid waste, which can contribute to NPS pollution.

P. MINING

In 1974, the S.C. Mining Act was passed to ensure all mined lands would be returned to some useful purpose and for the protection of people and the environment. The Act defines mining as the removal of ores from the ground for sale (i.e., granite quarries) or for use in a business (i.e., brick manufacturing). There are several types of surface mining done in South Carolina: open pit (i.e., granite, vermiculite), strip mines (i.e., sand, clay, gravel) and sand dredging from river bottoms.

South Carolina issues two types of mine permits, individual and general, and one mineral exploration certificate. Mine permits and certificates are issued through the Section of Mining and Reclamation in DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management. Non-metal mineral mining is permitted through the Bureau of Water's [stormwater division](#).

V. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

A key element to the success of the NPS Program is close partnering with outside organizations. This occurs at both a programmatic level, and at a watershed stakeholder level for specific project implementation. Programmatic partners work with DHEC to implement strategies that are common to both organizations mission. While the NPS Program works with a wide array of partners as needed, the longest-standing current partnerships involve the following organizations:

- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Clemson University](#)
- SC Forestry [Commission](#)
- [US Geological Survey](#)
- [SC Department of Natural Resources](#)

At a watershed level, most NPS projects are led by a local entity in partnership with various governmental agencies, in addition to DHEC, that have programs which target reducing NPS pollution as part of their overall mission and program goals. These entities have provided technical support, helped establish relationships with stakeholders, and provided additional funding for some projects. DHEC has successfully collaborated with organizations on NPS related projects including:

- [SC Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#)
- [Clemson University Extension](#)
- [US Forest Service](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [US Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- Local governmental agencies
- Regional councils of governments

To expand on its history of successful partnerships, DHEC will seek to broaden its base of partners to include entities such as Farm Bureau, Cattlemen’s and other agriculture, regional and national wildlife organizations, and civic clubs. DHEC will also strive to renew closer programmatic partnerships with governmental entities such as the SC Department of Agriculture, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers. These strategies should ensure a broader base of stakeholder support for watershed-based plan implementation and identify new entities that have a history of working with partners to potentially participate in the 319 program. In addition, these strategies would assist DHEC in the process of identifying new priority watersheds based on the partners’ knowledge of NPS issues in their region of the state, their primary missions related to conservation issues, and their connections with stakeholders they have worked with on projects. They would also increase the ability of the program to leverage resources to better address NPS pollution statewide

VI. PLAN EVALUATION

The Nonpoint Source Program uses a variety of environmental and administrative measures to determine success in reducing and mitigating the impacts from NPS pollution. Ultimately, the NPS Program strives to achieve water quality standards in waterbodies affected by NPS pollution as documented through water quality monitoring efforts described below. Although water quality standards attainment is the goal of the NPS Program, it may take years to achieve and can be difficult to demonstrate in the short term given the variability of natural systems, resources available to address the problems and the extent and nature of the problem. Therefore, interim measures of success beyond water quality monitoring results are also important measures of progress in achieving improvements at the watershed scale.

A. PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATION

South Carolina tracks NPS Plan implementation progress and interim improvements through measures of success for each Program annual milestone (see Section VIII). South Carolina also reports on progress toward achieving NPS Program goals through an [annual report](#) to EPA and 319 grant closeout reports. DHEC also develops [success stories](#) to document water quality improvements resulting from 319-funded implementation efforts. In addition, the NPS Program tracks project-specific measures of success as outlined in [EPA's strategic plan](#) including the amount of pollutant load reductions resulting from 319-funded projects (WQ-9) and the number of NPS-impaired waterbodies that are fully or partially restored (WQ-10).

DHEC will use all measures of success to refine and adapt the NPS Program to changing programmatic, financial and water quality conditions. DHEC will review the NPS Management Program at least every five years and revise program components as necessary. As the Program seeks to better document results of NPS implementation activities, it will work to refine its methods to more accurately and efficiently track and evaluate progress toward improving water quality.

B. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Water quality monitoring data provides information necessary to assess the quality of the state's waterbodies and evaluate the effectiveness of protection and improvement efforts. Data allows decision-makers to determine water program priorities and keeps the public up to date on important water quality trends and accomplishments.

319 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT MONITORING

Water quality monitoring is an important part of evaluating 319 implementation projects. The ultimate goal is attainment of water quality standards and removal of the waterbody from the 303(d) list of impaired waters. Full restorations and delistings are often difficult to achieve due to the variety of sources that may be contributing to the impairment and because upstream improvements may be attenuated at downstream monitoring sites, so it is also important to document improvement as well as attainment.

SCDHEC monitors all 319 –funded watershed projects at the existing DHEC water quality monitoring site(s) for the parameter(s) of concern during the life of the project and for 1-2 years after the project is completed. Monitoring frequency is once per month. Project monitoring data is assessed to identify 319 Success Stories and for SCDHEC's 303(d) list of impaired waters.

SURFACE WATER MONITORING

Beyond the data gathered for implementation efforts described above, DHEC collects data from a statewide network of ambient monitoring sites, which determines long-term water quality trends, assesses attainment of water quality standards, identifies locations in need of additional attention and provides background information for planning and evaluation. Data is collected from ongoing, fixed-locations and statewide probability-based sites, each designed to provide data at different spatial and temporal scales. For a detailed discussion of each of these components, please see the most recent version of the [State of South Carolina Monitoring Strategy](#) or visit [the surface water monitoring webpage](#). Data collected is used for various purposes, including identifying waters not fully meeting designated uses due to nonpoint source pollution, assessing the effectiveness of NPS controls, and assisting in enforcement activities.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

FISH TISSUE MONITORING

DHEC collects fish from South Carolina lakes, streams, rivers, and estuaries to monitor the levels of contaminants in fish tissue. The data is used each year to calculate consumption rates for the [South Carolina Fish Consumption Advisory](#).

MACROINVERTEBRATE PROGRAM

Aquatic macroinvertebrate communities can be useful indicators of water quality because they respond to integrated stresses over time. Macroinvertebrate monitoring provides information about the general biological condition of state waters that may be subject to point and nonpoint source impacts. DHEC's Aquatic Biology Section uses this data to support a variety programs, including the NPS Program.

PHYCOLOGY PROGRAM

The phycology program studies algae to help examine water quality. Algae need sunlight, water and nutrients to survive and grow, however too much of these nutrients, such as phosphorous and nitrogen, can cause excess algal growth, which can cause problems for fish and other aquatic organisms living in the water. Some algae can also produce toxins that can be harmful to both human health and the environment. To estimate how much algae is in the water, chlorophyll-a is measured and assessed in lakes throughout the state to determine if the lakes are meeting water quality standards or if they may be impaired due to nutrient enrichment. Chlorophyll-a measures with a high reading indicate the waterbody could be in poor health. By limiting the amount of phosphorous and nitrogen put into the water, our surface waters can remain healthy.

SHELLFISH MONITORING

DHEC's [Shellfish Sanitation Program](#) collects data to ensure that shellfish (oysters, clams, and mussels) and the areas from which they are harvested meet the health and environmental quality standards provided by federal guidelines and state regulations. DHEC monitors over 450 stations in 25 management areas along South Carolina's coast for fecal coliform bacteria. To protect public health, each area is assigned a [classification](#) to indicate whether and under what conditions shellfish harvesting is allowed based on current water quality data.

Temporary shellfish bed closures often occur due to excess bacteria from nonpoint sources of pollution. The Shellfish Program tracks [potential sources of NPS pollution](#) in coastal areas and promotes water quality restoration of state waters designated for shellfish harvesting.

PARTNER MONITORING DATA

DHEC works with and accepts data from other State and local organizations to make decisions and focus resources. For example, DHEC has considered quality-assured data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Santee Cooper Public Service Authority and the environmental departments in Georgia and North Carolina for 303(d) listing consideration. The Department has developed a [guidance document](#) to explain the different types, sources and uses of external data and ensure data consistency [based](#) on those uses.

VII. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) outlines two major programs to address nonpoint sources of pollution, a management program and a grant program, both of which require significant administrative oversight by states to implement. Each year, states receive funding appropriated under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act to implement these programs. The funds are an important resource for restoring and protecting waterbodies, particularly in South Carolina where there are few other resources for this purpose. EPA guidelines require at least 50% of funds to be set aside for watershed implementation projects through the grant program. The remaining funds are used for program management activities including planning, technical assistance, enforcement and monitoring.

While often referred to interchangeably, the NPS program is actually broader in scope than the 319 grant program. The following chart helps illustrate the differences and similarities between the management and grant programs.

NPS Management Program	319 Grant Program
Identifies the BMPs and measures to reduce pollutant loadings from nonpoint sources	Outlines application requirements
Identifies programs to achieve implementation of the BMPs	Identifies how grant funds will be allocated
Includes a schedule with milestones for program implementation	Identifies priorities for grant funds
Identifies sources assistance and funding and how they will be used	Requires annual reporting to the EPA regarding progress toward milestones, reductions in loadings and applicable water quality improvements

South Carolina's Nonpoint Source Coordinator has the primary responsibility of ensuring and tracking implementation of both the Management Program and the Grant Program. Programmatic implementation is tracked and reported to EPA each December in the NPS [Annual Report](#). Close coordination with a variety of DHEC programs such as coastal NPS, agriculture permitting, stormwater, TMDLs, wetlands protection and onsite wastewater is essential. NPS staff are actively working with other program areas (e.g. TMDLs) to align priorities and promote additional efficiencies where possible.

Outside of DHEC, the program partners with EPA, SC Forestry Commission, USDA NRCS, SC Department of Natural Resources, Clemson University and many other organizations with NPS ties. While South Carolina currently enjoys a number of close partnerships, it is a goal of this plan to develop and strengthen new partnerships in the face of reduced resources.

The NPS Management Plan must evolve over time as funding and water quality priorities change. This plan update marks a significant departure from the last plan developed in 1999. To have an effective and efficient program, it is critical for program planning and updating to occur more regularly. DHEC will regularly review the objectives and milestones in this plan as part of the annual application process and will update the management plan no less than every five years.

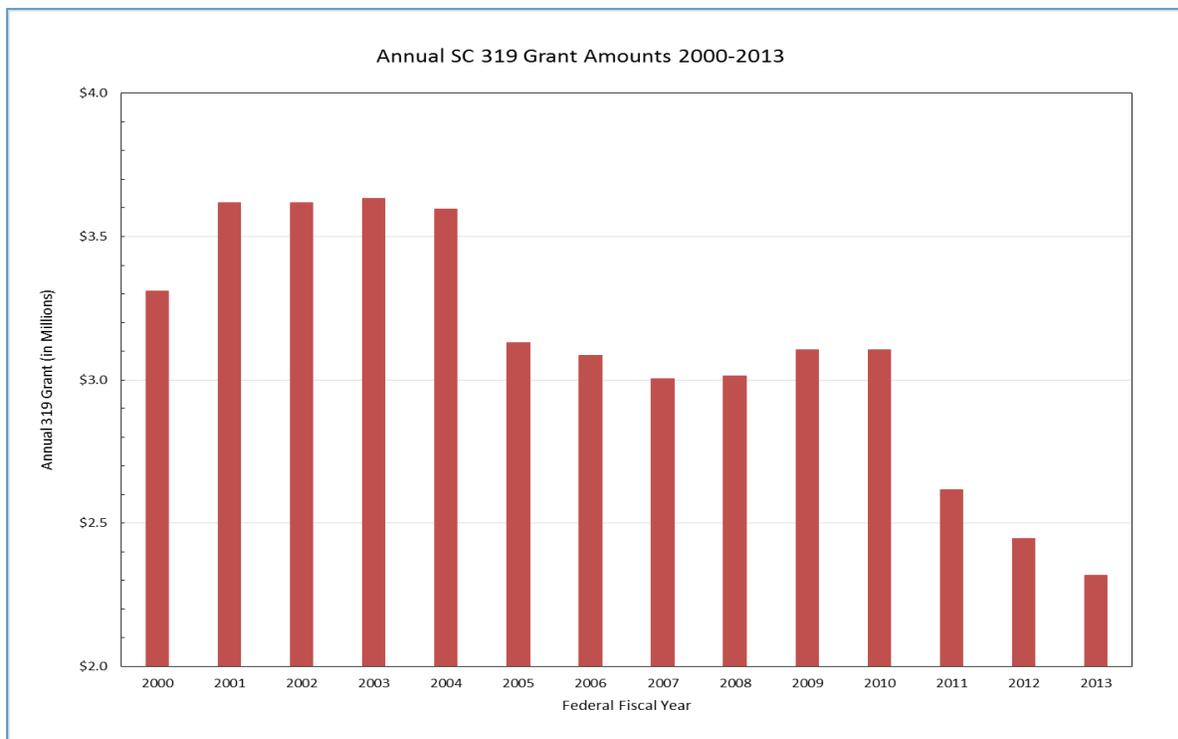
A. 319 GRANT MANAGEMENT

EPA revised the guidelines for 319 grants in 2013. The new guidelines split the annual award evenly into two parts: NPS Program funds and Watershed Project funds. NPS Program funds may be spent to support the full array of activities outlined in this management plan. Watershed Project funds, however, may only be spent on implementation of watershed-based plans.

South Carolina uses its Watershed Project funds to provide grants to eligible organizations to fully or partially implement watershed-based plans. These projects primarily fund the implementation of structural and non-structural best management practices to reduce sources of or protect waterbodies from NPS pollution. Details on 319 grant-funded projects can be found in South Carolina's NPS [Annual Report](#).

The remaining 319 funding is utilized primarily for statewide staff funding to carry out myriad duties relating to implementing other components of the NPS Plan. These include water quality monitoring and assessment, TMDL and watershed-based plan development, compliance and enforcement activities, technical assistance and overall grant management. These activities are identified in Section VIII. Plan Objectives and Milestones. State, fee or other federal funding is in place to implement remaining required NPS efforts such as wetland protection, mining and source water protection.

Federal funding for 319 grants has been decreasing steadily over recent fiscal years. For example, SC received \$3,632,800 in 2003 and \$2,319,000 in 2013. This has reduced the number of NPS activities that the state can address, as well as the number of watershed-based plans that can be implemented. Along with reduced resources has come increased accountability for not only 319 grants, but other related programs such as TMDLs. South



The annual grant amount SC has received for the 319 program has been decreasing significantly over recent fiscal years.

Carolina has worked to streamline 319 grants and to free up as many resources as possible to direct to watershed-based plan implementation. This plan reflects continued work towards that effort, including prioritization of watersheds and additional coordination with other programs.

DHEC employs a Nonpoint Source Coordinator and a 319 Grant Coordinator who have the responsibility of overseeing the grant program. In general, the NPS Coordinator is responsible for technical oversight of the grant and its coordination with the larger NPS Program as a whole, while the Grant Coordinator handles contractual and financial oversight of subgrants to outside organizations (i.e. watershed-based plan projects). In addition to these two positions, a section manager, administrative assistants, a grant manager and five watershed managers also have a direct daily role in the implementation and oversight of the grant.

PROJECT SELECTION

Cooperating agencies and organizations throughout the state have become highly involved in the watershed-based plan implementation process. One or several organizations can jointly implement a plan in a given watershed using the Section 319 funds. Projects to be implemented by outside agencies and organizations are selected using a competitive proposal process. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is released at least once per year through various meetings, workshops, web site, mailings, and advertisements in the publication South Carolina Business Opportunities, a biweekly publication with wide circulation.

Applicants must follow specific guidelines, which are published on the SCDHEC [web site](#) to develop a proposal. The proposed project must implement all or a portion of watershed-based plan for an approved TMDL, impaired waterbody or threatened waterbody; the objective must be to reduce the pollutant load so as to allow streams in the watershed to meet water quality standards. NPS staff and watershed managers are available to assist applicants in developing proposals.

Currently, most watersheds in the state are eligible for implementation funding, provided the watersheds are covered by approved or approvable watershed based plans to address water quality impairments due to nonpoint sources, however the seven priority watersheds do receive bonus points during the review process. For 2015, additional priority watersheds are identified as noted above, and DHEC will be starting to identify where protection projects may be appropriate. DHEC is working to establish a new prioritization system which will better target available funds. As this plan period progresses, Watershed Project funds will be directed to these priority areas.

Eligible project proposals are reviewed by an interagency committee of seven professionals from various DHEC water programs (5 members) as well as other organizations who represent different areas of expertise concerning nonpoint source pollution (2 members). Members are selected to minimize any potential bias. Any staff or organizations which have provided assistance in the proposal development process, or those who represent an area or entity involved with a project do not participate (e.g. the Saluda Watershed Manager would not participate if a proposal is submitted within the Saluda Watershed). The committee meets to discuss their review and the proposals, then selects which projects will be funded and stipulates any needed changes or conditions.

Following committee selection, applicants must make requested changes. DHEC reviews these changes and forwards the finalized workplans to EPA Region 4 for review and final approval. Once this has been completed, DHEC will then issue a grant agreement and purchase order for each project. The time from issuing a solicitation to awarding a contract takes approximately 4-5 months.

It is worth noting that project selection in South Carolina occurs *after* the annual award has been received. This allows stakeholders to apply for and receive funding relatively quickly, which helps keep momentum in a watershed. Other states engage in a selection process prior to their initial grant application to EPA. As there is a very lengthy delay between initial application to EPA and receipt of final award, this would mean that applicants would wait well over one year between applying for funding and award of a contract. This is not practical in South Carolina and, as such, DHEC will continue to utilize a placeholder project in the annual workplan for issuance of these projects. EPA will approve each project workplan prior to funding as outlined in the process above.

PROJECT TRACKING

NPS staff closely monitor all 319-funded projects. The project(s) which includes program implementation via DHEC staff is tracked through annual reporting, analysis of staff time and regular communication with applicable staff. Projects outside of DHEC (i.e. grant agreements) are subject to detailed quarterly reporting and annual site visits, at a minimum. Reports include financial information, documentation of BMPs installed and progress towards defined milestones. All grant recipients are provided custom electronic reporting workbooks to streamline reporting and ensure consistency. Watershed Managers and NPS staff regularly communicate with all grant recipients and provide assistance, as needed. Further, as DHEC provides water quality monitoring for all watershed projects, NPS staff must also routinely examine the collected data to evaluate success and/or assist in directing grantees where further work is needed.

REPORTING

EPA guidelines require regular reporting for 319 grant-funded activities. Information on all 319-funded projects must be uploaded to the [Grants Reporting and Tracking System](#) (GRTS) annually. This includes details on project objectives and funding levels, as well as BMPs installed and estimated pollutant load reductions, as applicable. The program must also prepare an [Annual Report](#) each December to document progress towards meeting the goals of the NPS Management Plan. This report also includes information on open watershed projects as well as any documented water quality improvements.

As the overall goal of the entire NPS program is water quality improvement, perhaps the most valuable reporting tool is the documentation of project success stories. DHEC analyzes water quality data collected for watershed projects to determine if any water quality improvements have occurred. This information is then compiled with project details to generate an article to be posted on the [EPA success story website](#). South Carolina generates stories for both full restoration where water quality standards have been attained and for partial restoration, where standards are not attained, but significant improvement has been made. The program has an annual commitment of two full restoration success stories (EPA measure WQ-10) each year and will also document partial restoration, as needed.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

South Carolina is committed to efficient management of all 319 grants. NPS Program funds, which make up half of the annual award, are directed towards DHEC staff or contracts to support annual implementation of the program. With the exception of limited funding reserved for longer-term grant management, these funds are drawn down quickly and expended in just over one year. Utilizing the funds in this manner helps keep South Carolina's unliquidated obligations (ULOs) low.

Further, within one year of receipt of a new grant, DHEC solicits and obligates the remaining half of the annual award (i.e. Watershed Project funds) for watershed-based plan implementation. While project implementation typically takes three years, DHEC staff monitor expenditures and work with grantees to ensure the funds will be spent in a timely fashion. Should grantees be unable to spend all awarded funding, NPS staff will reassign that funding to another project with EPA's guidance. This strategy also assists in limiting ULOs and large balances at the end of a grant period.

Beyond limiting ULOs, DHEC staff closely track expenditures of all grant funds. DHEC staff time for both grant-funded work and match is documented in the DHEC's Personnel Cost Accounting System, or PCAS. These reports are regularly reviewed to ensure proper staff funding has been assigned. Grantees submit invoices no less than quarterly and provide full backup documentation of their expenditures.

B. RESOURCE LEVERAGING AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

In addition to Federal funding provided by the CWA, South Carolina provides state funds to carry out NPS activities. Section 319 requires federal funds to be matched 40% non-federal funds for both program management and watershed project activities. Match includes cash and in-kind services used for NPS activities as long as they are not sustained by another federal source. Planned match activities outside of watershed-based plan implementation projects are noted in Section VIII. Note that eligibility requirements under Section 319 apply equally to federal and matching funds.

The state also leverages other federal funding sources to complement NPS activities. Examples of leveraged funds include Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), USDA EQIP and the Duke Energy Foundation. DHEC is continually looking for additional opportunities for leveraging, particularly with regard to the SRF program. Recent legislation expands funding options under Clean Water SRF and NPS staff will be working in this planning period to utilize these options to the fullest extent possible.

C. RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The South Carolina Nonpoint Source Program will continue to focus Section 319 funding on water quality improvements in impaired waters and will move towards directing funding to newly identified priority waters through this planning cycle. While the program will focus on implementing watershed-based plans to correct water quality impairments, DHEC also recognizes the ecological and economical benefit of protecting unimpaired waters. The cost effectiveness of protecting unimpaired waters is particularly important in South Carolina where 319 funds are the predominant mechanism for addressing threats or impairments from NPS pollution.

Allocation of funding by the Nonpoint Source Program will reflect these priorities by spending the majority of funds to correct water quality impairments. DHEC will also make an effort to use a limited amount of funds on staff time to determine how to protect unimpaired waters, then develop watershed plans for protection, with the long-term goal of funding watershed-based plan implementation that includes BMPs for both protection and water quality improvement. See Objective 3 in Section VIII for intended progression on this topic.

VIII. PLAN OBJECTIVES AND MILESTONES

South Carolina has established a detailed set of objectives and milestones in order to track progress towards meeting the goals of this plan. DHEC believes that these strategies direct the program to activities most likely to result in water quality improvements as well as efficient spending of 319 grant funds. Annual measures are sorted in this section by objective, however Appendix 2 lists measures by year. These measures will be included in the annual workplan for the state’s 319 grant and will be reported on in the NPS Annual Report.

This section also roughly identifies the intended funding mechanisms for these activities. While the specific dollar amounts and ratios will be adjusted through the plan period due to budget and guidance changes, it was important to clarify which activities were planned to receive 319 grant funds. The objective tables use dots to illustrate funding. The dots represent the following:

-  Solid blue circle: This activity will be funded in part or wholly by 319 grant funds.
-  Green cross-hatch circle: This activity will be paid for using either state or applicable fee funds and will be counted towards the 40% required match on 319 grants.
-  Yellow hollow circle: This activity is paid for using other funding. This could be another federal grant (e.g. Section 106), state funding matching another program, other fee funds, etc. Work paid by other funds will not count towards required match.

OBJECTIVE 1. ACCURATELY IDENTIFY WATERBODIES AFFECTED BY NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION.

The Program will continue to collect water quality data to identify waterbodies not fully meeting standards due to nonpoint sources of pollution and include those waters on the State’s 303(d) list. Nonpoint sources of pollution will be further identified and described through applicable TMDL and Sanitary Survey development processes.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program	Annual
		b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring	Annual
		c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology	Annual
		d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October	Annual

	<p>2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina’s Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting</p>	<p>a) Solicit external data for inclusion in 303(d) assessment</p>	2, 4
		<p>b) Assess all DHEC data plus appropriate external data to determine impairment status for 303(d), typically 2000 sites per 2-year cycle and assess all statistical survey sites for the 305(b) report, typically 450 sites per 2-year cycle</p>	2, 4
		<p>c) Prepare and public notice draft 303(d) lists for 2016 and 2018, address public comments, deliver 303(d) list to EPA for approval and the 305(b) report together comprising the Integrated Report</p>	2, 4
		<p>d) Prepare ADB-compatible spreadsheet and GIS data files associated with 303(d) list and deliver to EPA</p>	3, 5
	<p>3. Identify candidate watersheds for nonpoint source TMDLs</p>	<p>a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance</p>	Annual
	<p>4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data</p>	<p>a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications</p>	Annual
		<p>b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas</p>	Annual
		<p>c) Generate a trend report for annual shellfish harvesting classifications</p>	4

OBJECTIVE 2. BETTER TARGET NPS PROGRAM RESOURCES TO ADDRESS WATERSHEDS IMPAIRED BY NPS POLLUTION.

As South Carolina has few resources beyond 319 grants to address water quality impairments from nonpoint sources, DHEC will make an effort to use those limited funds more efficiently by focusing resources in identified priority watersheds.

DHEC is reviewing methods for prioritizing new watersheds. The NPS Program will evaluate the use of this priority tool currently being developed by DHEC’s watersheds program to better integrate nonpoint source priorities across Bureau of Water programs (e.g. TMDLs). Staff will also work collaboratively with external partners to develop and implement watershed-based plans for priority watersheds and provide as-needed technical assistance regarding pollution reduction strategies.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
●	5. Identify new prioritization criteria to meet the goals of the Nonpoint Source Program	a) A finalized, working prioritization scheme and description	1
		b) Creation of a formal list of new priority watersheds	2
●	6. Work with watershed partners to develop watershed-based plans for new priority watersheds	a) Annually develop watershed-based plans in at least 1 newly identified priority watershed	Annual, Beginning Year 3
●	7. Solicit and award 319 grants for implementation of watershed-based plans in new priority watersheds	a) Annually award projects in at least 1 newly identified priority watershed. Priority in years 1, 2, and 3 will be watersheds with existing watershed based plans.	Annual, Beginning Year 4

OBJECTIVE 3. WORK TOWARD PROTECTION OF UNIMPAIRED WATERSHEDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Program will work towards protection of unimpaired watersheds by identifying, prioritizing and developing plans to prevent nonpoint source of pollution from impairing them. Staff will determine criteria for defining unimpaired watersheds and identify which watersheds in South Carolina meet the definition. Those identified watersheds will then be prioritized based on additional criteria. DHEC will collaborate with stakeholders to identify opportunities for protecting priority unimpaired watersheds and encourage incorporation of those strategies in existing or developing watershed plans.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	8. Define and identify unimpaired watersheds	a) A working definition of unimpaired watersheds and a list of watersheds meeting the definition	1
	9. Develop a system to prioritize unimpaired watersheds	a) A description of prioritization scheme and a prioritized list of watersheds	2
	10. Work with watershed partners to include strategies for protecting priority unimpaired watersheds in watershed-based plans	a) Incorporate protection strategies into at least 1 watershed-based plan for an impaired watershed	4

OBJECTIVE 4. DEVELOP CORRECTIVE ACTION STRATEGIES FOR WATERBODIES IMPACTED BY NPS POLLUTION.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to develop TMDLs for waterbodies not meeting water quality standards. TMDLs provide information on the sources, load reductions and potential management practices needed to restore impaired waters. Watershed-based plans build on TMDL planning efforts by outlining strategies to achieve modeled load reductions.

Staff will work with internal and external stakeholders to develop improvement plans for waterbodies impaired by NPS pollution including TMDLs and watershed-based plans. Staff will also provide training on and end products using GIS to support TMDL develop and watershed planning.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	2
		b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria	Annual Beginning Year 3
	12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL implementation plan containing additional required planning elements for “implementation-ready” project. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.	Annual Beginning Year 4

	<p>12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans</p>	<p>b) As part of the annual solicitation (milestone 14 below), fund 1 watershed-based plan implementation project for an “implementation-ready” TMDL. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.</p>	<p>5</p>
	<p>13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection</p>	<p>a) Identify alternate avenues for watershed-based plan development beyond 319</p> <p>b) Create tools to assist in stakeholder-led development of watershed-based plans (manuals, load reduction calculators, etc)</p> <p>c) Serve as facilitator for watershed-based plan development, as needed</p> <p>d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2-3</p> <p>3-5</p> <p>Annual</p>

OBJECTIVE 5. ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO REDUCE NPS IMPACTS THROUGH WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS.

A key component of South Carolina’s NPS strategy is facilitating the implementation approved watershed-based plans through the use of Watershed Project funds. The project selection process is fully outlined in Section VII.A. As the work in Objective 2 is completed, this funding will be directed towards the newly identified priority watersheds.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	<p>14. Issue a statewide solicitation for watershed-based plan implementation proposals, including coastal areas</p>	<p>a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. Priority in years 1, 2, and 3 will be watersheds with existing watershed based plans. By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.</p>	<p>Annual*</p>

	15. Convene an intra-agency review committee to select projects based on NPS Program priorities	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)	Annual
	16. Award funding to committee-selected projects	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.	Annual*

OBJECTIVE 6. EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF 319 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS.

The NPS Program is committed to effectively assessing and documenting the impacts of 319-funded implementation projects on water quality through the collection and analysis of water quality samples. In addition to continued monitoring efforts, DHEC will develop additional means to gather meaningful information to document the success of 319-funded projects.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	17. Develop and implement monitoring studies in watersheds where 319 projects have been or will be implemented	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval	Annual
		b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed	Annual
  	18. Analyze samples collected by monitoring staff at 319 implementation sites	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol	Annual
	19. Assess projects and document any water quality improvements	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories	Annual
	20. Assess all 319 project monitoring data, including historical data, to inform review of current 319 monitoring strategy	a) Compile, review, and document all available monitoring data for historical and recently completed 319 projects	1

	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	a) Meet with and present data review to DHEC monitoring programs; initiate working group to optimize 319 monitoring strategy and methods; incorporate working group results into State Monitoring Strategy	2
		b) Meet with DHEC 303(d) assessment program and revise 303(d) assessment methodology related to 319 project data	3

OBJECTIVE 7. PROVIDE COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE, TRACK AND ENFORCE PERMITS

Regulatory programs to ensure proper installation and maintenance of management practices related to agricultural facilities, construction sites, urban runoff, failing septic systems, wetlands, hydrologic modification, logging and highway projects are integral to South Carolina’s NPS management strategy. DHEC will issue and track permits, providing compliance assistance as much as possible to mitigate NPS impacts. Enforcement follow-ups will occur on an as-needed basis.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	22. Issue permits, perform inspections and make recommendations for improvement of stormwater-related programs	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.	Annual
		b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.	Annual
	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	a) Prepare or review agricultural waste permits statewide (typically 50-100 permits per year).	Annual
		b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.	Annual

	<p>24. Follow up on referrals for non-compliance with agricultural, land application permits, MS4s, stormwater permits, onsite wastewater and violations of the SC Pollution Control act related to nonpoint source activities</p>	<p>a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.</p>	<p>Annual</p>
	<p>25. Ensure proper installation of onsite wastewater systems and provide technical assistance as needed.</p>	<p>a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.</p>	<p>Annual</p>
	<p>26. Through 401 water quality certifications, evaluate appropriate BMPs for wetland and water quality protection.</p>	<p>b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.</p>	<p>Annual</p>
	<p>26. Through 401 water quality certifications, evaluate appropriate BMPs for wetland and water quality protection.</p>	<p>a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs</p>	<p>Annual</p>
	<p>27. Renew Forestry Commission contract to implement a Statewide Forestry BMP Compliance Program. Follow-up on any referrals for water quality impacts.</p>	<p>a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.</p>	<p>Annual</p>
	<p>28. Maintain a database to track permits, inspections and compliance and enforcement actions</p>	<p>a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement</p>	<p>Annual</p>

OBJECTIVE 8. ADDRESS AND TRACK RESPONSES TO NPS INCIDENTS AND COMPLAINTS.

DHEC Regional personnel are the primary responders to addressing acute NPS incidents and complaints in conjunction with other Bureau of Water staff. Local stakeholders and routine inspections typically bring acute NPS problems to DHEC’s attention. Regional staff will continue to coordinate closely with staff from compliance and enforcement, watersheds, monitoring and the NPS program to resolve these acute problems. Regional staff will also assist in addressing chronic problems identified through monitoring and watershed assessment and in other 319-funded activities as needed.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	29. Respond to acute NPS complaints from the public and MS4s	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.	Annual
	30. Coordinate compliance and enforcement action when voluntary remediation to remediate acute NPS incidents is unsuccessful	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.	Annual
	31. Track NPS investigations using established electronic systems	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	Annual

OBJECTIVE 9. PROMOTE AWARENESS OF NPS PROBLEMS AND BUILD CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE NPS OUTREACH IMPLEMENTATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITIES.

The NPS Program recognizes the importance of effective and comprehensive outreach strategies in successfully achieving the state's NPS management goals. Through a focused approach, DHEC staff will continue to help build the capacity of local stakeholders to manage nonpoint source of pollution through educational materials, information resources, technical and financial assistance.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	32. Increase awareness of health risks associated from swimming in impaired waters and educate citizens about how to reduce those risks and their NPS contributions to local waters	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website	Annual
	33. Increase awareness of atmospheric deposition of mercury and the associated health risks through annual Fish Consumption Advisory information.	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.	Annual
		b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (30,000 copies) and revise website	Annual
	34. Promote NPS awareness through the Champions of the Environment grant awards program	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.	Annual

	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type	Annual
		b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events	Annual
		c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina	Annual
	36. Provide technical assistance and water quality information to stakeholders to support the effective management of NPS pollution	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.	Annual
		b) Produce Watershed Water Quality Assessments (WWQA) for one of SC's eight major watersheds. Post updated information and maps online.	Annual

OBJECTIVE 10. COORDINATE NPS REDUCTION EFFORTS WITH USDA AGENCIES.

The South Carolina NPS Program works closely with USDA programs, particularly the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to coordinate priorities, funding and technical expertise. With common goals and complementary funding streams, this partnership is a major asset to the NPS program. The Program has recently expanded this partnership through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). NRCS staff select watersheds annually to receive additional NWQI funding in consultation with NPS staff. DHEC, in turn, provides water quality monitoring at established sites within the selected watersheds.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	37. Formalize partnership with NRCS	a) Establish a formal MOU for cooperation	3
	38. Assess water quality impacts of agricultural conservation practices on pollutant loading in NWQI watersheds	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.	Annual

●	39. Participate in the NRCS State Technical Committee	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.	Annual
●	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.	Annual
b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist		Annual	
c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.		Annual	

OBJECTIVE 11. INCREASE COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STATE, FEDERAL AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERS TO IMPROVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT OF NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
● ●	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor’s South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	a) Work with partners to ensure the GSAA's BMP compendium is finalized and distributed through appropriate channels in the state.	1
b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.		Annual	
c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders		Annual	

	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures	Annual
		b) Re-establish inter-agency ADV Task Force	1
		c) Identify opportunities and barriers associated with centralized repository for marine debris information	2
		d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners	2-5
 	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts	Annual
		b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round	Annual

OBJECTIVE 12. ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS NPS POLLUTION.

The Program will continue to strengthen DHEC’s relationships with programmatic partners such to assess the potential to integrate their programs with DHEC’s NPS program. DHEC will also seek to broaden its partnership base with stakeholder groups by increasing outreach efforts promoting the Program’s goals and objectives and encouraging applications to the NPS grant program.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	44. Identify potential programmatic partners with similar program goals to the NPS program	a) Identify 5 potential new partners, which have a programs or program components related to NPS pollution.	1
		b) Meet with program officials from 3 partners to determine potential for securing funding and technical support for DHEC’s NPS program	2

●	45. Increase participation by programmatic partners in the NPS Program	a) 1 new programmatic partner will participate on the annual NPS review committee to select projects for funding	3
	45. Increase participation by programmatic partners in the NPS Program	b) Enter into a formal partnership via letter of intent, memorandum of understanding or contract with 1 additional programmatic partner	5
●	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	a) Identify 10 new potential stakeholders and events to promote the Program and project opportunities	1
		b) Identify 5 opportunities to make presentations to local groups in the vicinity of past and current NPS projects	2
		c) Conduct 5 general promotional events per year to local interest groups and potential stakeholders	2-3
●	47. Encourage new entities to become involved in NPS projects	a) Inform 5 stakeholder organizations about the specifics of the Program and grant opportunities	4
		b) Solicit 5 leadership groups of interested organizations to partner on a project or apply for funding as the lead entity in watershed-based plan implementation	5

OBJECTIVE 13. LEVERAGE STATE REVOLVING FUND MONEY TO ADDRESS WATERBODIES AFFECTED BY NPS POLLUTION.

Clean Water SRF provides loans for construction of wastewater and stormwater systems and many other water quality improvement projects. Potential projects are ranked using a detailed scoring system. This system gives more points for addressing water quality impairments, TMDLs, priority watersheds and/or watersheds with recent 319 funding.

NPS projects are eligible for SRF funding and actually receive a lower incentivized rate (1% in June 2014). Under certain circumstances, it is also possible for SRF loans to be used as non-federal match. The cost for development of a watershed-based plan may even be recoverable under a loan should a portion of it be implemented with SRF. To date, a limited number of NPS projects have been funded with SRF, but NPS and SRF staff are actively working to identify and reduce barriers to the use of this much larger funding resource.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.	Annual
		b) Participate in revision of SRF Priority Ranking System. Work to include criteria which targets NPS projects and watershed-based plan implementation.	3
	49. Prioritize SRF projects according to their potential to improve water quality and complement existing NPS reduction efforts	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.	Annual
	50. Use SRF funds to implement NPS reduction projects	a) Identify and work toward further incentives for using SRF funds for NPS reduction projects	1-3
		b) Fund at least one NPS project per year with SRF	3-5
		c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL	Annual

OBJECTIVE 14. STRENGTHEN NPS PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH REGULAR REPORTING ON THE STATE’S NPS ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

South Carolina recognizes the importance of measuring and tracking progress toward reducing NPS pollution to improve and maintain the quality of state’s waters. DHEC uses a variety of measures to document progress.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
●	51. Develop success stories for fully or partially restored waterbodies primarily impaired by NPS pollution	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.	Annual
●	52. Use the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) to report on progress of active 319 projects	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA’s February 15 annual deadline in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	Annual
●	53. Estimate load reductions for active and recently completed 319 projects	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following amounts each year: -7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a) -2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b) -1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c) -5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent <i>E. coli</i> reduction	Annual
		b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	Annual
●	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	a) Establish a GIS layer to track all BMP installations paid for with 319 grant funds for all new projects.	3
		b) Update map as BMPs are installed.	4-5
●	55. Prepare Annual Report to Congress on progress in meeting NPS Program goals	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.	Annual

OBJECTIVE 15. PROVIDE EFFICIENT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

As outlined in Section VII, DHEC will work towards managing the NPS and 319 grant programs as efficiently as possible. This includes monitoring of grants and subawards, proper fiscal accountability, reporting and continued programmatic evaluation.

FUNDING	MILESTONE	MEASURE	YEAR
●	56. Submit annual 319 grant application	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year	Annual
●	57. Complete grant close-out packages	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period.	1 – FY07 & FY08 2 – FY10 3 – FY11 & FY12 4 – FY13 5 – FY14
●	58. Ensure consistency with national and regional goals and requirements through participation in trainings, conferences and meetings	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting	Annual
●	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection	Annual
b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures		Annual	
c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline		Annual	
●	60. Regularly review NPS Management Plan for effectiveness and applicability to programmatic needs	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation	Annual
b) Perform full plan review and update plan as needed		5	

IX. SOUTH CAROLINA NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM CONTACTS

DELANEY FAIRCLOTH

SC Nonpoint Source Coordinator
SCDHEC Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 898-1904
fairclids@dhec.sc.gov

WADE CANTRELL

303(d), TMDL and Nonpoint Source Section Manager
SCDHEC Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 898-3548
cantrewm@dhec.sc.gov

KANDY ROGERS

Grant Coordinator
SCDHEC Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 898-4213
rogerskj@dhec.sc.gov

For more information, visit our website: www.scdhec.gov/water

LEGAL MEMORANDUM

To: Wade Cantrell, Manager 303(d), TMDL & Nonpoint Source Section
From: Stephen P. Hightower, Esquire
Assistant General Counsel for Bureau of Water and Special Enforcement
Date: June 20, 2014
Re: Enforcement of Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Program

A legal memorandum has been requested to discuss the State law authority available to enforce the Nonpoint Source (“NPS”) Water Pollution Program (“Program”) established by Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1329 (2013). In 1990, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) approved the State program established to implement the NPS Program in South Carolina. After reviewing State statutory and regulatory authority and with due consideration thereof, I find that the following are relevant to this matter and provide the support necessary to meet the goals of the NPS Program.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (“SCDHEC” or the “Department”) has statutory authority to enforce the NPS Program through the South Carolina Pollution Control Act (“PCA”), S.C. Code Ann. § 48-1-10 *et seq.* (2008 & Supp. 2013) and the regulations and permitting programs promulgated pursuant thereto. In the coastal counties of the State, NPS Program is enforced pursuant to the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act of 1977 (“CZMA”), S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-10 *et seq.* (2008 & Supp. 2013), which authorizes the Department’s Office of Coastal Resource Management (“OCRM”) to enforce the NPS Program through the PCA, the regulations and permitting programs promulgated thereto as well as providing additional specific authority applicable only in the coastal counties.¹

The PCA provides the Department with broad authority to abate pollution from all sources. Under the PCA, “[i]t is unlawful for a person, directly or indirectly, to throw, drain, run, allow to seep, or otherwise discharge into the environment of the State organic or inorganic matter, including sewage, industrial wastes, and other wastes, except in compliance with a permit issued by the department.” S.C. Code Ann. § 48-1-90(A)(1). The statute also grants the Department the authority to issue administrative orders and institute legal proceedings, including proceedings for injunctive relief, to enforce the provisions of the Acts. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 48-1-50(3) and (4); S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-50(I). The remedies requested in an action to enjoin violations may incorporate management measures to restore water quality as necessary. S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-

¹ In *Spectre, LLC v. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control*, 386 S.C. 357, 688 S.E.2d 844 (2010), the South Carolina Supreme Court held that all state permits can be administered and enforced in the coastal counties of the state pursuant to the CZMA. *Spectre, LLC* 386 S.C. at 371, 688 S.E.2d at 851.

160. In addition, any person found in violation is subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. S.C. Code Ann. § 48-1-320 and 330; S.C. Code Ann. § 48-39-170. Furthermore, the PCA provides that the Department may promulgate regulations guiding the procedures permits under the PCA, and that the Department may take all necessary or appropriate actions to secure to the State the benefits of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act) or the Federal Air Quality Act and other Federal and State acts concerning air and water pollution control. S.C. Code Ann. § 48-1-30 and § 48-1-50(17), respectively.

In addition to the general statutory authority provided in the PCA, the Department has promulgated regulations to cover many potential sources of non-point source pollution. Among these are regulations for the following permitting activities: agricultural facilities, R.61-43, codified at 4 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-43 (2011); silvicultural activities, R.6 1-9.122.27, codified at 3 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.122.27 (2011); land disturbance and erosion control (R.72-100 through 445, codified at 9 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 72-100 – 72445 (2012); NPDES stormwater discharges, R.61-9.122.26 and 122.28, codified at 3 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.122.26 (2011) and 3 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.122.28 (2011 and Supp. 2013), respectively; hazardous waste TSD activities, R.61-79, which is codified at 6 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-79.124-79.264 (2012) and 7 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-79.265-79.273.61 (2012); solid waste TSD activities, R.61-107, codified at 8 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-107 (2012); on-site domestic waste disposal activities, R.61-56 and R.61-57, codified at 4 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-56 (2011 and Supp. 2013) and 4 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-57 (2011), respectively; underground petroleum storage tanks, R.61-92 and R.61-98, codified at 7 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-92 (2012) and 8 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-98 (2012), respectively; aquaculture activities, R.6 1-9-122.25, codified at 3 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. (2011); and mining operations, R. 89-10 *et seq.*, codified at 9 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 89-10 (2012). Permits granted under these regulations contain management measures to abate or control pollution. The Department is empowered to enforce these permit conditions and to compel compliance with the provisions of the PCA.

Finally, if the controls available to the Department at present are not sufficient to address non-point source pollution, the Department has authority under the PCA to craft additional regulations as necessary to prevent the degradation of water quality. In conclusion, the Department has broad authority to prevent and control all sources of pollution in the State through the provisions of the PCA, CZMA and the regulations and permitting programs provided through those statutes.

APPENDIX 2: CHART OF MEASURES BY GOAL

GOAL 1. ASSESS, PRIORITIZE, AND DEVELOP PLANS FOR WATERSHEDS AFFECTED BY NPS POLLUTION

Objective	Milestone	Measure
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	a) Solicit external data for inclusion in 303(d) assessment
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	b) Assess all DHEC data plus appropriate external data to determine impairment status for 303(d), typically 2000 sites per 2-year cycle and assess all statistical survey sites for the 305(b) report, typically 450 sites per 2-year cycle
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	c) Prepare and public notice draft 303(d) lists for 2016 and 2018, address public comments, deliver 303(d) list to EPA for approval and the 305(b) report together comprising the Integrated Report
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	d) Prepare ADB-compatible spreadsheet and GIS data files associated with 303(d) list and deliver to EPA
1	3. Identify candidate watersheds for nonpoint source TMDLs	a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	c) Generate a trend report for annual shellfish harvesting classifications
2	5. Identify prioritization criteria to meet the goals of the Nonpoint Source Program	a) A finalized, working prioritization scheme and description

2	5. Identify prioritization criteria to meet the goals of the Nonpoint Source Program	b) Creation of a formal list of newly identified priority watersheds
2	6. Work with watershed partners to develop watershed-based plans for priority watersheds	a) Annually develop watershed-based plans in at least 1 newly identified priority watershed
2	7. Solicit and award 319 grants for implementation of watershed-based plans in priority watersheds	a) Annually award projects in at least 1 newly identified priority watershed
3	10. Work with watershed partners to include strategies for protecting priority unimpaired watersheds in watershed-based plans	a) Incorporate protection strategies into at least 1 watershed-based plan for an impaired watershed
3	8. Define and identify unimpaired watersheds	a) A working definition of unimpaired watersheds and a list of watersheds meeting the definition
3	9. Develop a system to prioritize unimpaired watersheds	a) A description of prioritization scheme and a prioritized list of watersheds
4	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance
4	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria
4	12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL implementation plan containing additional required planning elements for "implementation-ready" project. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	a) Identify alternate avenues for watershed-based plan development beyond 319
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	b) Create tools to assist in stakeholder-led development of watershed-based plans (manuals, load reduction calculators, etc)
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	c) Serve as facilitator for watershed-based plan development, as needed
6	19. Assess projects and document any water quality improvements	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	b) Meet with DHEC 303(d) assessment program and revise 303(d) assessment methodology related to 319 project data

7	25. Ensure proper installation of onsite wastewater systems and provide technical assistance as needed.	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.
7	26. Through 401 water quality certifications, evaluate appropriate BMPs for wetland and water quality protection.	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs
7	27. Renew Forestry Commission contract to implement a Statewide Forestry BMP Compliance Program. Follow-up on any referrals for water quality impacts.	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.
9	32. Increase awareness of health risks associated from swimming in impaired waters and educate citizens about how to reduce those risks and their NPS contributions to local waters	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website
9	33. Increase awareness of atmospheric deposition of mercury and the associated health risks through annual Fish Consumption Advisory information.	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type
10	38. Assess water quality impacts of agricultural conservation practices on pollutant loading in NWQI watersheds	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	c) Identify opportunities and barriers associated with centralized repository for marine debris information
11	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round
12	47. Encourage new entities to become involved in NPS projects	b) Solicit 5 leadership groups of interested organizations to partner on a project or apply for funding as the lead entity in watershed-based plan implementation

13	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.
13	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	b) Participate in revision of SRF Priority Ranking System. Work to include criteria which targets NPS projects and watershed-based plan implementation.
GOAL 2. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS NPS POLLUTION		
Objective	Milestone	Measure
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	d) Prepare ADB-compatible spreadsheet and GIS data files associated with 303(d) list and deliver to EPA
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas
3	10. Work with watershed partners to include strategies for protecting priority unimpaired watersheds in watershed-based plans	a) Incorporate protection strategies into at least 1 watershed-based plan for an impaired watershed
3	8. Define and identify unimpaired watersheds	a) A working definition of unimpaired watersheds and a list of watersheds meeting the definition
3	9. Develop a system to prioritize unimpaired watersheds	a) A description of prioritization scheme and a prioritized list of watersheds
4	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance
4	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria
4	12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL implementation plan containing additional required planning elements for "implementation-ready" project. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.
4	12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans	b) As part of the annual solicitation (XX below), fund 1 watershed-based plan implementation project for an "implementation-ready" TMDL
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	a) Identify alternate avenues for watershed-based plan development beyond 319

4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	b) Create tools to assist in stakeholder-led development of watershed-based plans (manuals, load reduction calculators, etc)
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files
5	15. Convene an intra-agency review committee to select projects based on NPS Program priorities	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)
6	17. Develop and implement monitoring studies in watersheds where 319 projects have been or will be implemented	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	b) Meet with DHEC 303(d) assessment program and revise 303(d) assessment methodology related to 319 project data
7	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	a) Prepare or review agricultural waste permits statewide (typically 50-100 permits per year).
7	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.
7	24. Follow up on referrals for non-compliance with agricultural, land application permits, MS4s, stormwater permits, onsite wastewater and violations of the SC Pollution Control act related to nonpoint source activities	a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.
7	25. Ensure proper installation of onsite wastewater systems and provide technical assistance as needed.	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.
7	25. Ensure proper installation of onsite wastewater systems and provide technical assistance as needed.	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.
7	26. Through 401 water quality certifications, evaluate appropriate BMPs for wetland and water quality protection.	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs
9	32. Increase awareness of health risks associated from swimming in impaired waters and educate citizens about how to reduce those risks and their NPS contributions to local waters	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website

9	33. Increase awareness of atmospheric deposition of mercury and the associated health risks through annual Fish Consumption Advisory information.	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.
9	33. Increase awareness of atmospheric deposition of mercury and the associated health risks through annual Fish Consumption Advisory information.	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (35,000 copies) and revise website
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina
9	36. Provide technical assistance and water quality information to stakeholders to support the effective management of NPS pollution	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	a) Work with partners to ensure the GSAA's BMP compendium is finalized and distributed through appropriate channels in the state.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	c) Identify opportunities and barriers associated with centralized repository for marine debris information
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners

14	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	a) Establish a GIS layer to track all BMP installations paid for with 319 grant funds for all new projects.
14	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	b) Update map as BMPs are installed.
15	58. Ensure consistency with national and regional goals and requirements through participation in trainings, conferences and meetings	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting
GOAL 3. STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS NPS POLLUTION		
Objective	Milestone	Measure
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	a) Solicit external data for inclusion in 303(d) assessment
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	a) Identify alternate avenues for watershed-based plan development beyond 319
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	b) Create tools to assist in stakeholder-led development of watershed-based plans (manuals, load reduction calculators, etc)
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	c) Serve as facilitator for watershed-based plan development, as needed
4	13. Aid stakeholders in the development of watershed-based plans and/or other improvement strategies and BMP selection	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files
5	14. Issue a statewide solicitation for watershed-based plan implementation proposals, including coastal areas	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. Priority in years 1, 2, and 3 will be watersheds with existing watershed based plans. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.
5	15. Convene an intra-agency review committee to select projects based on NPS Program priorities	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)
5	16. Award funding to committee-selected projects	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	a) Meet with and present data review to DHEC monitoring programs; initiate working group to optimize 319 monitoring strategy and methods; incorporate working group results into State Monitoring Strategy

7	25. Ensure proper installation of onsite wastewater systems and provide technical assistance as needed.	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.
7	27. Renew Forestry Commission contract to implement a Statewide Forestry BMP Compliance Program. Follow-up on any referrals for water quality impacts.	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.
9	34. Promote NPS awareness through the Champions of the Environment grant awards program	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina
9	36. Provide technical assistance and water quality information to stakeholders to support the effective management of NPS pollution	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.
10	37. Formalize partnership with NRCS	a) Establish a formal MOU for cooperation
10	39. Participate in the NRCS State Technical Committee	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	a) Work with partners to ensure the GSAA's BMP compendium is finalized and distributed through appropriate channels in the state.

11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	b) Re-establish inter-agency ADV Task Force
11	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts
11	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round
12	44. Identify potential programmatic partners with similar program goals to the NPS program	a) Identify 5 potential new partners, which have a programs or program components related to NPS pollution.
12	44. Identify potential programmatic partners with similar program goals to the NPS program	b) Meet with program officials from 3 partners to determine potential for securing funding and technical support for DHEC's NPS program
12	45. Increase participation by programmatic partners in the NPS Program	a) 1 new programmatic partner will participate on the annual NPS review committee to select projects for funding
12	45. Increase participation by programmatic partners in the NPS Program	b) Enter into a formal partnership via letter of intent, memorandum of understanding or contract with 1 additional programmatic partner
12	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	a) Identify 10 new potential stakeholders and events to promote the Program and project opportunities.
12	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	b) Identify 5 opportunities to make presentations to local groups in the vicinity of past and current NPS projects
12	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	c) Conduct 5 general promotional events per year to local interest groups and potential stakeholders

12	47. Encourage new entities to become involved in NPS projects	a) Inform 5 stakeholder organizations about the specifics of the Program and grant opportunities
12	47. Encourage new entities to become involved in NPS projects	b) Solicit 5 leadership groups of interested organizations to partner on a project or apply for funding as the lead entity in watershed-based plan implementation
13	50. Use SRF funds to implement NPS reduction projects	a) Identify and work toward further incentives for using SRF funds for NPS reduction projects
13	50. Use SRF funds to implement NPS reduction projects	b) Fund at least one NPS project per year with SRF
15	58. Ensure consistency with national and regional goals and requirements through participation in trainings, conferences and meetings	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting

GOAL 4. PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR NPS PROJECTS AND PROGRAM

Objective	Milestone	Measure
2	5. Identify prioritization criteria to meet the goals of the Nonpoint Source Program	b) Creation of a formal list of newly identified priority watersheds
2	7. Solicit and award 319 grants for implementation of watershed-based plans in priority watersheds	a) Annually award projects in at least 1 newly identified priority watershed
4	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance
4	11. Use best available information to develop nonpoint source TMDLs for priority impaired watersheds	b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria
4	12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL implementation plan containing additional required planning elements for "implementation-ready" project. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.
4	12. Use best available information to develop and implement TMDL implementation plans	b) As part of the annual solicitation (XX below), fund 1 watershed-based plan implementation project for an "implementation-ready" TMDL
5	14. Issue a statewide solicitation for watershed-based plan implementation proposals, including coastal areas	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. Priority in years 1, 2, and 3 will be watersheds with existing watershed based plans. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.
5	16. Award funding to committee-selected projects	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.

7	27. Renew Forestry Commission contract to implement a Statewide Forestry BMP Compliance Program. Follow-up on any referrals for water quality impacts.	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners
11	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round
12	45. Increase participation by programmatic partners in the NPS Program	a) 1 new programmatic partner will participate on the annual NPS review committee to select projects for funding
12	47. Encourage new entities to become involved in NPS projects	b) Solicit 5 leadership groups of interested organizations to partner on a project or apply for funding as the lead entity in watershed-based plan implementation
13	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.
13	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	b) Participate in revision of SRF Priority Ranking System. Work to include criteria which targets NPS projects and watershed-based plan implementation.
13	49. Prioritize SRF projects according to their potential to improve water quality and complement existing NPS reduction efforts	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.
13	50. Use SRF funds to implement NPS reduction projects	a) Identify and work toward further incentives for using SRF funds for NPS reduction projects
13	50. Use SRF funds to implement NPS reduction projects	b) Fund at least one NPS project per year with SRF
13	50. Use SRF funds to implement NPS reduction projects	c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL
15	56. Submit annual 319 grant application	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year
15	57. Complete grant close-out packages	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period.
15	58. Ensure consistency with national and regional goals and requirements through participation in trainings, conferences and meetings	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting

15	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection
15	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures
15	60. Regularly review NPS Management Plan for effectiveness and applicability to programmatic needs	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation
15	60. Regularly review NPS Management Plan for effectiveness and applicability to programmatic needs	b) Perform full plan review and update plan as needed

GOAL 5. DOCUMENT ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS OF NPS ACTIVITIES

Objective	Milestone	Measure
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology
1	1. Assess statewide water quality through consistent monitoring	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	a) Solicit external data for inclusion in 303(d) assessment
1	2. Develop, maintain and distribute South Carolina's Integrated Report including Part 1: 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and Part 2: Section 305(b) Assessment and Reporting	b) Assess all DHEC data plus appropriate external data to determine impairment status for 303(d), typically 2000 sites per 2-year cycle and assess all statistical survey sites for the 305(b) report, typically 450 sites - 2-year cycle
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas
1	4. Implement and update sanitary surveys based on coastal water quality monitoring data	c) Generate a trend report for annual shellfish harvesting classifications

6	17. Develop and implement monitoring studies in watersheds where 319 projects have been or will be implemented	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval
6	17. Develop and implement monitoring studies in watersheds where 319 projects have been or will be implemented	b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed
6	18. Analyze samples collected by monitoring staff at 319 implementation sites	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol
6	19. Assess projects and document any water quality improvements	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories
6	20. Assess all 319 project monitoring data, including historical data, to inform review of current 319 monitoring strategy	a) Compile, review, and document all available monitoring data for historical and recently completed 319 projects
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	a) Meet with and present data review to DHEC monitoring programs; initiate working group to optimize 319 monitoring strategy and methods; incorporate working group results into State Monitoring Strategy
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	b) Meet with DHEC 303(d) assessment program and revise 303(d) assessment methodology related to 319 project data
7	22. Issue permits, perform inspections and make recommendations for improvement of stormwater-related programs	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.
7	22. Issue permits, perform inspections and make recommendations for improvement of stormwater-related programs	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.
7	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	a) Prepare or review agricultural waste permits statewide (typically 50-100 permits per year).
7	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.
7	25. Ensure proper installation of onsite wastewater systems and provide technical assistance as needed.	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.
7	28. Maintain a database to track permits, inspections and compliance and enforcement actions	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement

8	29. Respond to acute NPS complaints from the public and MS4s	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.
8	30. Coordinate compliance and enforcement action when voluntary remediation to remediate acute NPS incidents is unsuccessful	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.
8	31. Track NPS investigations using established electronic systems	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events
9	36. Provide technical assistance and water quality information to stakeholders to support the effective management of NPS pollution	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.
10	38. Assess water quality impacts of agricultural conservation practices on pollutant loading in NWQI watersheds	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	b) Re-establish inter-agency ADV Task Force
14	51. Develop success stories for fully or partially restored waterbodies primarily impaired by NPS pollution	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.
14	52. Use the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) to report on progress of active 319 projects	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.
14	53. Estimate load reductions for active and recently completed 319 projects	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following amounts each year: -7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a) -2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b) -1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c) -5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction
14	53. Estimate load reductions for active and recently completed 319 projects	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.
14	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	a) Establish a GIS layer to track all BMP installations paid for with 319 grant funds for all new projects.

14	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	b) Update map as BMPs are installed.
14	55. Prepare Annual Report to Congress on progress in meeting NPS Program goals	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.
15	56. Submit annual 319 grant application	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year
15	57. Complete grant close-out packages	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period.
15	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline

GOAL 6. ADMINISTER THE NPS PROGRAM EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Objective	Milestone	Measure
5	14. Issue a statewide solicitation for watershed-based plan implementation proposals, including coastal areas	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. Priority in years 1, 2, and 3 will be watersheds with existing watershed based plans.*By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.
5	15. Convene an intra-agency review committee to select projects based on NPS Program priorities	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)
6	20. Assess all 319 project monitoring data, including historical data, to inform review of current 319 monitoring strategy	a) Compile, review, and document all available monitoring data for historical and recently completed 319 projects
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	a) Meet with and present data review to DHEC monitoring programs; initiate working group to optimize 319 monitoring strategy and methods; incorporate working group results into State Monitoring Strategy
6	21. Review current 319 monitoring strategy and methods and revise as needed to most effectively assess 319 project water quality using available resources	b) Meet with DHEC 303(d) assessment program and revise 303(d) assessment methodology related to 319 project data
7	22. Issue permits, perform inspections and make recommendations for improvement of stormwater-related programs	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.

7	22. Issue permits, perform inspections and make recommendations for improvement of stormwater-related programs	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.
7	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	a) Prepare or review agricultural waste permits statewide (typically 50-100 permits per year).
7	23. Permit, inspect and provide technical assistance for agricultural facilities.	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.
7	27. Renew Forestry Commission contract to implement a Statewide Forestry BMP Compliance Program. Follow-up on any referrals for water quality impacts.	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.
7	28. Maintain a database to track permits, inspections and compliance and enforcement actions	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement
8	29. Respond to acute NPS complaints from the public and MS4s	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.
8	31. Track NPS investigations using established electronic systems	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement
9	32. Increase awareness of health risks associated from swimming in impaired waters and educate citizens about how to reduce those risks and their NPS contributions to local waters	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website
9	33. Increase awareness of atmospheric deposition of mercury and the associated health risks through annual Fish Consumption Advisory information.	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (35,000 copies) and revise website
9	34. Promote NPS awareness through the Champions of the Environment grant awards program	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type
9	35. Decrease marine debris through voluntary partnerships and programs such as Adopt-a-Beach and the Clean Marine Program	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events
10	37. Formalize partnership with NRCS	a) Establish a formal MOU for cooperation
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.

10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist
10	40. Leverage USDA resources to complement existing 319 efforts	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	a) Work with partners to ensure the GSAA's BMP compendium is finalized and distributed through appropriate channels in the state.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.
11	41. Collaborate with other state, federal and university partners through the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA) to develop recommendations on knowledge transfer and BMP implementation	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders
11	42. Enhance and track marine debris removal efforts through collaboration with state and regional partners	b) Re-establish inter-agency ADV Task Force
11	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts
11	43. Coordinate management activities between the 6217 and 319 programs	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round
12	44. Identify potential programmatic partners with similar program goals to the NPS program	a) Identify 5 potential new partners, which have a programs or program components related to NPS pollution.
12	44. Identify potential programmatic partners with similar program goals to the NPS program	b) Meet with program officials from 3 partners to determine potential for securing funding and technical support for DHEC's NPS program
12	45. Increase participation by programmatic partners in the NPS Program	b) Enter into a formal partnership via letter of intent, memorandum of understanding or contract with 1 additional programmatic partner
12	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	a) Identify 10 new potential stakeholders and events to promote the Program and project opportunities.
12	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	b) Identify 5 opportunities to make presentations to local groups in the vicinity of past and current NPS projects

12	46. Increase the visibility of the Program and public awareness about NPS projects	c) Conduct 5 general promotional events per year to local interest groups and potential stakeholders
12	47. Encourage new entities to become involved in NPS projects	a) Inform 5 stakeholder organizations about the specifics of the Program and grant opportunities
13	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.
13	48. Coordinate with SRF staff to encourage implementation of NPS Plan goals	b) Participate in revision of SRF Priority Ranking System. Work to include criteria which targets NPS projects and watershed-based plan implementation.
13	49. Prioritize SRF projects according to their potential to improve water quality and complement existing NPS reduction efforts	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.
14	51. Develop success stories for fully or partially restored waterbodies primarily impaired by NPS pollution	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.
14	52. Use the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) to report on progress of active 319 projects	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.
14	53. Estimate load reductions for active and recently completed 319 projects	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following amounts each year: -7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a) -2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b) -1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c) -5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction
14	53. Estimate load reductions for active and recently completed 319 projects	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.
14	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	a) Establish a GIS layer to track all BMP installations paid for with 319 grant funds for all new projects.
14	54. Document 319 implementation practices using GIS	b) Update map as BMPs are installed.
14	55. Prepare Annual Report to Congress on progress in meeting NPS Program goals	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.
15	56. Submit annual 319 grant application	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year

15	57. Complete grant close-out packages	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period.
15	58. Ensure consistency with national and regional goals and requirements through participation in trainings, conferences and meetings	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting
15	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection
15	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures
15	59. Administer 319 grants including issuing and ensuring compliance with grant agreements, processing payments and monitoring non-federal match	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline
15	60. Regularly review NPS Management Plan for effectiveness and applicability to programmatic needs	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation
15	60. Regularly review NPS Management Plan for effectiveness and applicability to programmatic needs	b) Perform full plan review and update plan as needed

APPENDIX 3: CHART OF MEASURES BY YEAR

Year 1 Measures (2015)

Obj	Milestone	Measure	Year
1	1	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program	1
1	1	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring	1
1	1	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology	1
1	1	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October	1
1	3	a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	1
1	4	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications	1
1	4	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas	1
2	5	a) A finalized, working prioritization scheme and description	1
3	8	a) A working definition of unimpaired watersheds and a list of watersheds meeting the definition	1
4	13	a) Identify alternate avenues for watershed-based plan development beyond 319	1
4	13	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files	1
5	14	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.	1
5	15	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)	1
5	16	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.	1
6	17	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval	1
6	17	b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed	1
6	18	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol	1
6	19	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories	1
6	20	a) Compile, review, and document all available monitoring data for historical and recently completed 319 projects	1
7	22	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.	1

7	22	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.	1
7	23	a) Prepare or review 150 state agricultural waste permits.	1
7	23	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.	1
7	24	a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.	1
7	25	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.	1
7	25	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.	1
7	26	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs	1
7	27	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.	1
7	28	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	1
8	29	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.	1
8	30	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.	1
8	31	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	1
9	32	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website	1
9	33	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.	1
9	33	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (35,000 copies) and revise website	1
9	34	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.	1
9	35	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type	1
9	35	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events	1
9	35	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina	1
9	36	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.	1
9	36	b) Produce Watershed Water Quality Assessments (WWQA) for one of SC's eight major watersheds. Post updated information and maps online.	1

10	38	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.	1
10	39	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.	1
10	40	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.	1
10	40	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist	1
10	40	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.	1
11	41	a) Work with partners to ensure the GSAA's BMP compendium is finalized and distributed through appropriate channels in the state.	1
11	41	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.	1
11	41	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders	1
11	42	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures	1
11	42	b) Re-establish inter-agency ADV Task Force	1
11	43	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts	1
11	43	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round	1
12	44	a) Identify 5 potential new partners, which have a programs or program components related to NPS pollution.	1
12	46	a) Identify 10 new potential stakeholders and events to promote the Program and project opportunities.	1
13	48	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.	1
13	49	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.	1
13	50	a) Identify and work toward further incentives for using SRF funds for NPS reduction projects	1
13	50	c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL	1
14	51	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.	1
14	52	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline	1
14	53	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following: 7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a), 2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b), 1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c), 5E+13 CFU of fecal	1

		coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction	
14	53	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	1
14	55	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.	1
15	56	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year	1
15	57	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period. (Year 1: FY08 & FY09, Year 2: FY10, Year 3: FY 11 & FY12, Year 4: FY13, Year 5: FY14)	1
15	58	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting	1
15	59	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection	1
15	59	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures	1
15	59	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline	1
15	60	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation	1

Year 2 Measures (2016)

Obj	Milestone	Measure	Year
1	1	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program	2
1	1	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring	2
1	1	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology	2
1	1	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October	2
1	2	a) Solicit external data for inclusion in 303(d) assessment	2
1	2	b) Assess all DHEC data plus appropriate external data to determine impairment status for 303(d), typically 2000 sites per 2-year cycle and assess all statistical survey sites for the 305(b) report, typically 450 sites per 2-year cycle	2
1	2	c) Prepare and public notice draft 303(d) lists for 2016 and 2018, address public comments, deliver 303(d) list to EPA for approval and the 305(b) report together comprising the Integrated Report	2
1	3	a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	2
1	4	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications	2

1	4	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas	2
2	5	b) Creation of a formal list of priority watersheds	2
3	9	a) A description of prioritization scheme and a prioritized list of watersheds	2
4	11	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	2
4	13	b) Create tools to assist in stakeholder-led development of watershed-based plans (manuals, load reduction calculators, etc)	2
4	13	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files	2
5	14	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.	2
5	15	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)	2
5	16	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.	2
6	17	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval	2
6	17	b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed	2
6	18	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol	2
6	19	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories	2
6	21	a) Meet with and present data review to DHEC monitoring programs; initiate working group to optimize 319 monitoring strategy and methods; incorporate working group results into State Monitoring Strategy	2
7	22	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.	2
7	22	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.	2
7	23	a) Prepare or review 150 state agricultural waste permits.	2
7	23	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.	2
7	24	a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.	2
7	25	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.	2
7	25	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.	2
7	26	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs	2

7	27	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.	2
7	28	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	2
8	29	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.	2
8	30	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.	2
8	31	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	2
9	32	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website	2
9	33	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.	2
9	33	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (35,000 copies) and revise website	2
9	34	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.	2
9	35	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type	2
9	35	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events	2
9	35	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina	2
9	36	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.	2
9	36	b) Produce Watershed Water Quality Assessments (WWQA) for one of SC's eight major watersheds. Post updated information and maps online.	2
10	38	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.	2
10	39	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.	2
10	40	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.	2
10	40	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist	2
10	40	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.	2
11	41	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of	2

		relevant coastal management trends and developments.	
11	41	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders	2
11	42	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures	2
11	42	c) Identify opportunities and barriers associated with centralized repository for marine debris information	2
11	42	d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners	2
11	43	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts	2
11	43	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round	2
12	44	b) Meet with program officials from 3 partners to determine potential for securing funding and technical support for DHEC's NPS program	2
12	46	b) Identify 5 opportunities to make presentations to local groups in the vicinity of past and current NPS projects	2
12	46	c) Conduct 5 general promotional events per year to local interest groups and potential stakeholders	2
13	48	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.	2
13	49	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.	2
13	50	a) Identify and work toward further incentives for using SRF funds for NPS reduction projects	2
13	50	c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL	2
14	51	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.	2
14	52	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline	2
14	53	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following: 7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a), 2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b), 1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c), 5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction	2
14	53	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	2
14	55	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.	2
15	56	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year	2

15	57	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period. (Year 1: FY08 & FY09, Year 2: FY10, Year 3: FY 11 & FY12, Year 4: FY13, Year 5: FY14)	2
15	58	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting	2
15	59	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection	2
15	59	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures	2
15	59	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline	2
15	60	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation	2

Year 3 Measures (2017)

Obj	Milestone	Measure	Year
1	1	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program	3
1	1	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring	3
1	1	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology	3
1	1	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October	3
1	2	d) Prepare ADB-compatible spreadsheet and GIS data files associated with 303(d) list and deliver to EPA	3
1	3	a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	3
1	4	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications	3
1	4	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas	3
2	6	a) Annually develop watershed-based plans in at least 1 priority watershed	3
4	11	b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria	3
4	13	b) Create tools to assist in stakeholder-led development of watershed-based plans (manuals, load reduction calculators, etc)	3
4	13	c) Serve as facilitator for watershed-based plan development, as needed	3
4	13	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files	3
5	14	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.	3
5	15	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)	3
5	16	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.	3

6	17	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval	3
6	17	b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed	3
6	18	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol	3
6	19	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories	3
6	21	b) Meet with DHEC 303(d) assessment program and revise 303(d) assessment methodology related to 319 project data	3
7	22	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.	3
7	22	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.	3
7	23	a) Prepare or review 150 state agricultural waste permits.	3
7	23	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.	3
7	24	a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.	3
7	25	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.	3
7	25	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.	3
7	26	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs	3
7	27	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.	3
7	28	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	3
8	29	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.	3
8	30	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.	3
8	31	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	3
9	32	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website	3
9	33	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.	3
9	33	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (30,000 copies) and revise website	3

9	34	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.	3
9	35	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type	3
9	35	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events	3
9	35	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina	3
9	36	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.	3
9	36	b) Produce Watershed Water Quality Assessments (WWQA) for one of SC's eight major watersheds. Post updated information and maps online.	3
10	37	a) Establish a formal MOU for cooperation	3
10	38	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.	3
10	39	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.	3
10	40	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.	3
10	40	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist	3
10	40	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.	3
11	41	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.	3
11	41	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders	3
11	42	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures	3
11	42	d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners	3
11	43	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts	3
11	43	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round	3
12	45	a) 1 new programmatic partner will participate on the annual NPS review committee to select projects for funding	3
12	46	c) Conduct 5 general promotional events per year to local interest groups and potential stakeholders	3
13	48	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.	3

13	48	b) Participate in revision of SRF Priority Ranking System. Work to include criteria which targets NPS projects and watershed-based plan implementation.	3
13	49	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.	3
13	50	a) Identify and work toward further incentives for using SRF funds for NPS reduction projects	3
13	50	b) Fund at least one NPS project per year with SRF	3
13	50	c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL	3
14	51	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.	3
14	52	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline	3
14	53	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following: 7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a), 2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b), 1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c), 5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction	3
14	53	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	3
14	54	a) Establish a GIS layer to track all BMP installations paid for with 319 grant funds for all new projects.	3
14	55	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.	3
15	56	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year	3
15	57	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period. (Year 1: FY08 & FY09, Year 2: FY10, Year 3: FY 11 & FY12, Year 4: FY13, Year 5: FY14)	3
15	58	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting	3
15	59	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection	3
15	59	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures	3
15	59	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline	3
15	60	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation	3

Year 4 Measures (2018)

Obj	Milestone	Measure	Year
1	1	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program	4
1	1	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring	4
1	1	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology	4
1	1	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October	4
1	2	a) Solicit external data for inclusion in 303(d) assessment	4
1	2	b) Assess all DHEC data plus appropriate external data to determine impairment status for 303(d), typically 2000 sites per 2-year cycle and assess all statistical survey sites for the 305(b) report, typically 450 sites per 2-year cycle	4
1	2	c) Prepare and public notice draft 303(d) lists for 2016 and 2018, address public comments, deliver 303(d) list to EPA for approval and the 305(b) report together comprising the Integrated Report	4
1	3	a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	4
1	4	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications	4
1	4	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas	4
1	4	c) Generate a trend report for annual shellfish harvesting classifications	4
2	6	a) Annually develop watershed-based plans in at least 1 priority watershed	4
2	7	a) Annually award projects in at least 1 priority watershed	4
3	10	a) Incorporate protection strategies into at least 1 watershed-based plan for an impaired watershed	4
4	11	b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria	4
4	12	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL implementation plan containing additional required planning elements for "implementation-ready" project. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.	4
4	13	c) Serve as facilitator for watershed-based plan development, as needed	4
4	13	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files	4
5	14	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.	4
5	15	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)	4
5	16	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.	4
6	17	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval	4

6	17	b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed	4
6	18	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol	4
6	19	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories	4
7	22	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.	4
7	22	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.	4
7	23	a) Prepare or review 150 state agricultural waste permits.	4
7	23	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.	4
7	24	a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.	4
7	25	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.	4
7	25	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.	4
7	26	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs	4
7	27	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.	4
7	28	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	4
8	29	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.	4
8	30	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.	4
8	31	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	4
9	32	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website	4
9	33	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.	4
9	33	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (35,000 copies) and revise website	4
9	34	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.	4
9	35	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type	4

9	35	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events	4
9	35	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina	4
9	36	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.	4
9	36	b) Produce Watershed Water Quality Assessments (WWQA) for one of SC's eight major watersheds. Post updated information and maps online.	4
10	38	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.	4
10	39	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.	4
10	40	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.	4
10	40	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist	4
10	40	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.	4
11	41	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.	4
11	41	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders	4
11	42	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures	4
11	42	d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners	4
11	43	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts	4
11	43	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round	4
12	47	a) Inform 5 stakeholder organizations about the specifics of the Program and grant opportunities	4
13	48	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.	4
13	49	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.	4
13	50	b) Fund at least one NPS project per year with SRF	4
13	50	c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL	4

14	51	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.	4
14	52	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline	4
14	53	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following: 7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a), 2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b), 1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c), 5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction	4
14	53	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	4
14	54	b) Update map as BMPs are installed.	4
14	55	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.	4
15	56	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year	4
15	57	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period. (Year 1: FY08 & FY09, Year 2: FY10, Year 3: FY 11 & FY12, Year 4: FY13, Year 5: FY14)	4
15	58	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting	4
15	59	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection	4
15	59	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures	4
15	59	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline	4
15	60	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation	4

Year 5 Measures (2019)

Obj	Milestone	Measure	Year
1	1	a) Collect and analyze monthly samples at 90 sites for probabilistic monitoring program	5
1	1	b) Collect and analyze bi-monthly samples at 240 base sites for routine monitoring	5
1	1	c) Perform macroinvertebrate assessments statewide, typically 70 sites per year depending on hydrology	5
1	1	d) Measure chlorophyll-a levels at 55 sites monthly and 40 sites bi-monthly from May through October	5
1	2	d) Prepare ADB-compatible spreadsheet and GIS data files associated with 303(d) list and deliver to EPA	5
1	3	a) Identify 1 watershed suitable for nonpoint source TMDL development containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance	5

1	4	a) Collect monthly water quality samples at 450 sites to be used to establish shellfish classifications	5
1	4	b) Perform sanitary surveys, identify needed corrective actions, and develop shellfish harvesting classifications in 25 shellfish growing areas	5
2	6	a) Annually develop watershed-based plans in at least 1 priority watershed	5
2	7	a) Annually award projects in at least 1 priority watershed	5
4	11	b) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL containing required elements outlined in new 319 guidance for impairment other than bacteria	5
4	12	a) Develop 1 nonpoint source TMDL implementation plan containing additional required planning elements for "implementation-ready" project. Note DHEC has a pool of existing TMDLs (approximately 300 sites) in need of planning and implementation that can be targeted in years 1-3.	5
4	12	b) As part of the annual solicitation (XX below), fund 1 watershed-based plan implementation project for an "implementation-ready" TMDL	5
4	13	c) Serve as facilitator for watershed-based plan development, as needed	5
4	13	d) Provide GIS support for plan development by creating maps and maintaining applicable shape files	5
5	14	a) Prepare and release at least one request for proposals each year to solicit watershed-based plan implementation projects. *By years 4 and 5, this solicitation should be directed to projects in priority areas.	5
5	15	a) Convene committee after each grant solicitation period (at least once annually)	5
5	16	a) Annually award at least 3 projects covering 6 or more watersheds. *By years 4 and 5, award projects in priority areas.	5
6	17	a) Update NPS monitoring QAPP to include new projects and other revisions and deliver plan to Department Quality Assurance Project Officer for final approval	5
6	17	b) Conduct monthly sampling at all 319 projects including all impaired locations within the project watershed commencing with award and continuing 1-2 years after project is completed	5
6	18	a) Analyze all samples according to appropriate analytical protocol	5
6	19	a) Assess all 319 project sites within 1 year after completion of post-project monitoring and document any water quality improvements for inclusion in Annual Report and success stories	5
7	22	a) Issue construction, industrial, and MS4 stormwater permits statewide including permits that require additional monitoring and/or installation of BMPs in impaired and TMDL watersheds.	5
7	22	b) Conduct 50 stormwater site inspections and perform 5 MS4 program audits.	5
7	23	a) Prepare or review 150 state agricultural waste permits.	5
7	23	b) Perform 150 inspections including follow-up, complaints, site assessment, etc. Highest priority will be given to sites in proximity to watershed-based plan implementation projects.	5
7	24	a) Follow enforcement procedures as needed for all violations. Follow-up on NPS, stormwater, and onsite wastewater referrals statewide.	5
7	25	a) Issue 6000 permits for new septic systems; issues licenses for septic installers and servicers.	5

7	25	b) Provide compliance assistance by investigating referrals and failing systems (including in 319 implementation watersheds). Staff may also provide workshops or other training.	5
7	26	a) Issue 100 water quality certifications with requirements for BMPs	5
7	27	a) Request annual workplan, obtain EPA approval then issue or amend enabling legislation grant agreement with SC Forestry Commission.	5
7	28	a) Enter all facility and permit related information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	5
8	29	a) Investigate complaints statewide, typically 25 or more.	5
8	30	a) Refer incidents to enforcement staff for follow-up, e.g. last year 43 onsite wastewater incidents were referred.	5
8	31	a) Enter all information into the Environmental Facility Information System (EFIS) or its replacement	5
9	32	a) Annually review and provide NPS educational information as needed on Agency swimming advisory website	5
9	33	a) Collect fish tissue samples at 45 sites statewide and obtain other samples through partnering agencies and events. Analyze 1000 tissue samples for mercury, PCBs and other metals, as needed.	5
9	33	b) Annually produce and distribute the SC Fish Consumption Advisory booklet (35,000 copies) and revise website	5
9	34	a) Award 8 grants to environmental education projects. Develop and air TV commercials broadcasting each project.	5
9	35	a) Adopt-a-Beach: Promote increased participation; produce annual summary including number of groups and number of debris items by type	5
9	35	b) Clean Marine: Assist with promotion and marketing of events; summarize removal of gross tonnage of debris collected at and number of voluntary disposal events	5
9	35	c) Clean Marina: Promote program to marinas and boatyards statewide; encourage recertification; conduct workshops on BMPs and ways to reduce NPS to become a Clean Marina	5
9	36	a) Participate in stakeholder meetings and respond to requests for information including assistance with obtaining and analyzing water quality data.	5
9	36	b) Produce Watershed Water Quality Assessments (WWQA) for one of SC's eight major watersheds. Post updated information and maps online.	5
10	38	a) Collect and analyze monthly water quality samples at established DHEC monitoring sites in all current NWQI watersheds.	5
10	39	a) Attend committee meetings as they are called, typically 1-2 times per year. Additional staff such as agricultural permitting and watershed managers may attend, as needed.	5
10	40	a) Encourage grantees to utilize EQIP and other USDA funding options in watersheds with ongoing implementation projects. Coordinate with State NRCS staff as needed.	5
10	40	b) Select NWQI watersheds with State NRCS staff, striving to choose watersheds which are current or recently closed 319 implementation areas or where watershed-based plans exist	5

10	40	c) Review EQIP ranking criteria through the State Technical Committee to ensure that points are awarded for impairments and proximity to 319 projects. Provide GIS layers, etc as needed.	5
11	41	b) 319 staff will meet as needed or at least annually with SC's representative to the GSAA's Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters team to ensure coordinated engagement on knowledge transfer and BMP initiatives, and awareness of relevant coastal management trends and developments.	5
11	41	c) Collaborate on preparation and distribution of communications materials that build awareness of BMPs among coastal stakeholders	5
11	42	a) Identify, assess, and process the Number of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV) and other large marine debris items through compliance/enforcement procedures	5
11	42	d) Identify and apply for marine debris removal funding opportunities with local, state, and/or federal partners	5
11	43	a) Coastal NPS and 319 staff will meet at least annually to coordinate efforts	5
11	43	b) Coastal NPS staff will serve on the 319 Review Committee for each funding round	5
12	45	b) Enter into a formal partnership via letter of intent, memorandum of understanding or contract with 1 additional programmatic partner	5
12	47	b) Solicit 5 leadership groups of interested organizations to partner on a project or apply for funding as the lead entity in watershed-based plan implementation	5
13	48	a) Assist SRF staff with goal setting in the CWSRF Intended Use Plan.	5
13	49	a) Using the SRF Priority Ranking System, review and score each project requesting SRF funding. Review includes assessment of priority watersheds, impairments, TMDLs and 319 projects in the project area.	5
13	50	b) Fund at least one NPS project per year with SRF	5
13	50	c) Seek to fund one project which complements a current or recently-funded watershed-based plan implementation project or TMDL	5
14	51	a) Identify and develop success stories for watersheds showing full restoration (EPA measure WQ-10) for at least two watersheds per year. Also develop stories for watersheds showing improvement.	5
14	52	a) All project information will be regularly updated and comprehensively reviewed to ensure completeness by EPA's February 15 annual deadline	5
14	53	a) Increase cumulative annual load reductions resulting from 319-funded BMPs by the following: 7500 pounds of nitrogen (WQ-9a), 2000 pounds of phosphorus (WQ-9b), 1000 tons of sediment (WQ-9c), 5E+13 CFU of fecal coliform bacteria and/or equivalent E. coli reduction	5
14	53	b) Upload BMP and load reduction information for all applicable projects to GRTS by February 15 in accordance with FY2014 revisions and mandated data elements.	5
14	54	b) Update map as BMPs are installed.	5
14	55	a) Submit Annual Report to EPA by December 1 st each year. Include information on all open watershed-based plan implementation projects as well as report on annual plan milestones.	5
15	56	a) Prepare annual workplan, budget and grant application and submit to EPA by September 30 th each year	5

15	57	a) Assemble and submit grant closeout packages within 90 days of a grant close. Grants from fiscal years 2008 through 2014 will be closed out in this planning period. (Year 1: FY08 & FY09, Year 2: FY10, Year 3: FY 11 & FY12, Year 4: FY13, Year 5: FY14)	5
15	58	a) Participate in at least 1 national or regional conference and 1 national or regional training such as National NPS Conference, GRTS Training or Region IV NPS Coordinators meeting	5
15	59	a) Award grant agreements following annual project selection	5
15	59	b) Review quarterly requests for reimbursement and progress reports from grantees to ensure compliance and track expenditures	5
15	59	c) Conduct a site visit with each active project at least once annually to ensure adherence to project goals and timeline	5
15	60	a) Perform cursory plan review and update objectives and milestones as needed as part of annual application process and Annual Report preparation	5
15	60	b) Perform full plan review and update plan as needed	5



Submitted to EPA in fulfillment of the requirements of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.