NRCS NWQI Source Water Assessment Checklist

SWPA(s):

Document(s) that together provide all elements required in the NWQI source water areawide assessment:

Reference #	Document Citation
1	
2	
3	

Please use the checklist below to document the specific reference and location (chapter, section, page ranges, etc.) of the required elements. Example NWQI assessments are available upon request:

I. Overview of the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA) and At-Risk Public Water System(s).

Reference # where located	Elements Required	Location within Citation
	Brief description of the drinking water system(s) at risk	
	Characterize the population that would benefit from source water protection, including those served by public water supply systems	
	Identification of contaminants (e.g., coliforms) or conditions (e.g., harmful algal blooms) of concern that pose a risk to drinking water that would benefit from source water protection measures for either surface or ground water	
	An assessment of NRCS' ability to help partners reach the source water protection goals and objectives that partners establish through the planning process	

II. Characterization of the Area(s) of Influence for SWP.

Reference # where located	Elements Required	Location within Citation
	Location of surface or ground water protection area/area of influence	
	Landscape characteristics including topography	
	Climate overview	
	Geology, geomorphology, soils and soil interpretations	
	Drainage network – NHD, GIS-derived flow paths, NWI	
	Land cover and land use	
	Socioeconomic conditions	

III. Hydrologic and water quality characterization - Fully describe the surface/groundwater hydrology (including irrigation) and the water quality conditions within the SWPA.

Reference # where located	Elements Required	Location within Citation
	Discussion of pertinent plans, assessments, reports for the SWPA	
	Hydrogeology of the source water protection area	
	Recharge and discharge areas; surface water-ground water interconnections	

	Runoff and streamflow hydrology (including irrigation) description which includes runoff and streamflow generation processes, irrigation conveyance and systems used, precipitation-runoff budgets/water budget, spatial and temporal distribution of runoff and streamflow	
	Comprehensive description of potential contaminants of concern and sources	
	Description of ambient water quality conditions and problems/threats in relation to pollutant issue of concern for drinking water	

IV. Resource Analysis and Source Assessment - Documentation and comparisons between existing and potential conditions. A preliminary analysis of what could be accomplished.

Reference # where located	Elements Required	Location within Citation
	Identify/locate source cause(s) of the surface or ground water contamination concern	
	Analysis to address the concerns, including hydrologic modeling, GIS analysis and other tools. Identify areas with the greatest need for treatment (critical source areas)	
	Identify areas where surface water is impacted or is at risk	
	Identify aquifers/areas where ground water quality is impacted or is at risk	
	Current level of treatment in the SWPA	
	Assessment of how treatment is balanced with producer participation	
	Evaluation of practices to address the water quality concerns	

V. Summary and Recommendations

Reference # where located	Elements Required	Location within Citation
	Description of water quality impairments/concerns and treatments needed to prevent current or future risk of impairments within the protection area	
	Description of the SWP goals and objectives and practice efficiencies	
	Establish interim metrics to track progress. Both implementation (practices implemented on vulnerable acres) and effectiveness metrics	
	Locations of critical source areas or vulnerable acres needing treatment	
	Description of planned practice scenarios/alternatives that meet the protection area objectives, including estimation of treatment costs	
	Documentation of NEPA concerns	
	Outreach strategy/plan	

I certify that:

☐ I am a Level 3 or Level 4 Planner with area-wide planning experience

☐ The watershed assessment meets the requirements outlined in the NWQI/MRBI Source Water Assessment Guidance, and generally follows NRCS areawide planning policy.

Print name_____

Signature _____