**Natural Background Review Form for Rivers and Streams**

One evaluation form is required for each sample location within an AUID. The evaluation of stressor potential is based primarily on the proximity of the stressor within the watershed and the degree of disturbance relative to the size of the waterbody. All stressors identified have the potential to contribute to a biological or dissolved oxygen impairment through one or more pathways.

The natural background evaluation process is most efficient when following a predefined series of steps. The following steps have been used successfully in previous natural background reviews:

1. Determine and view watershed boundaries
2. Display land use layer
3. Turn on aerial photos and view watershed and sampling sites for any existing wetlands
4. Identify any existing biological sites
5. review assessment information and data
6. identify and rate natural and anthropogenic stressors

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| Review date |  | Reach Description |
| Assessment Unit ID | 07010102-610 | Spring Creek, Headwaters to Wabedo Lake |
| Station ID#s | 12UM106 | |
| Review team members |  | |

**For potential biological natural background conditions related to wetland characteristics complete tables 1, 3 and 4. For other natural background considerations complete tables 2, 3 and 4.**

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| **Table 1: Natural wetland characteristics (DO and/or biological stressor)** | | | |
| **DO and biological Stressor** | **Present in watershed (yes/no)** | **Stressor contribution potential (high, moderate, low, none\*)** | **Comments (see below for possible factors to consider in evaluating each stressor)** |
| Upstream wetlands or beaver impoundments  (within 3 miles) | Yes | High | The entire AUID is through a wetland and numerous (approximately 65) beaver dams are also present upstream of station. |
| Riparian wetlands at site | Yes | High | More extensive wetland riparian upstream of biosite. |
| Sinuosity and presence of cutoff channels and oxbows | Yes | Moderate | More considerable sinuosity upstream of site; evidence of cutoff channels present upstream of site. |
| Muck or fine organic substrate (if available through habitat evaluation) | Yes | High | Fine sediment and detritus is present within site. More prevalent upstream of site. (see photos) |
| Absence of riffles (if available through habitat assessment) | Yes | High | No riffles are present within site or close to site. Very low gradient. |

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| **Table 2: Other Natural biological stressors** | | | |
| **Biological Stressors** | **Present in watershed (yes/no)** | **Stressor contribution potential (high, moderate, low, none\*)** | **Comments (see below for possible factors to consider in evaluating each stressor)** |
| **Fish stressor -Downstream impediment to immigration (high gradient, waterfalls)** |  |  |  |
| **Sand dominated substrate with little or no coarse substrate present** |  |  |  |
| **Stream is ephemeral** |  |  |  |
| **Other natural stressor** |  |  |  |

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| **Do not proceed to table 3 if the sampling location is not influenced by any of the natural factors identified in Tables 1 and 2. The location is not a candidate for delisting due to natural background** | | | |
| **Table 3: Anthropogenic sources of stress** | | | |
| **Anthropogenic Stressors** | **Present in watershed (yes/no)** | **Stressor contribution potential (high, moderate, low, none\*)** | **Comments (see below for possible factors to consider in evaluating each stressor)** |
| Overall land use disturbance | Yes | None | Light development present: some homes and roads within watershed. |
| Industrial or Municipal Wastewater facilities | No | None |  |
| Feedlots (permitted) | No | None |  |
| Feedlots (unpermitted) | No | None |  |
| Reservoirs and Dams (manmade) | No | None |  |
| Water withdrawal permits | No | None |  |
| Stormwater | No | None |  |
| Stormwater unpermitted | No | None |  |
| Forest harvest sites | No | None |  |
| Row crop agriculture | No | None |  |
| Pasture and hay land | No | None |  |
| Channelization | No | None |  |
| Stressor contribution potential should be ranked “none” if the stressor does not meet one or more of the 4 evaluation criteria listed above, “low” if all evaluation criteria are met but stressors are deemed to be insignificant, “moderate” if all evaluation criteria are met and stressors are more than likely to cause an impact, “high” if all evaluation criteria are met and there is a strong potential for a measurable effect on the site. | | | |

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| **Table 4. Final Recommendation** |
| Include CALM designation and AUID delineation or follow-up monitoring recommendation. **A monitoring recommendation must be included if the recommended CALM category is 4E.** Combine and attach all natural background evaluation forms used to evaluate an AUID. |
| Recommend a CALM 4D designation for AUID 07010102-610 (Spring Creek, Headwaters to Wabedo Lake). Over sixty beaver dams are present in the upstream reach of the AUID. AUID is also strongly wetland influenced. Very little development is present within the drainage area. Please examine accompanying photos and maps (provided by Kevin Stroom) included in folder with this form.  Natural background committee agrees with 4D proposal. |