**Recategorization of waterbodies on the 2018** [**Impaired Waters List**](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/minnesotas-impaired-waters-and-tmdls/impaired-waters-list.html)

***2016 Call for Recategorization Candidates***

For Basin Coordinators, Impaired Waters Coordinators and PCA Water Quality Project Managers

**Submitting candidates for recategorization is a 2-step process**

**STEP 1**

**For each candidate fill out 1-7 below and send the form to** [**Miranda Nichols**](mailto:miranda.nichols@state.mn.us) **by December 1, 2015.**

1. AUID (Assessment Unit ID#) or Lake ID# 07010207-558
2. Reach name / description: Unnamed creek (Seastade Creek); Unnamed cr to Lk Mille Lacs
3. Pollutant / Impairment: DO
4. Year first listed: 2010
5. Reason for recategorization (pick A, B, C or D from below): D
   * For delisting recategorizations, is the waterbody now meeting water quality standards specifically because of *action in the watershed*?:
     + If yes, briefly describe the action taken:
6. Staff contact: Dereck Richter
7. Brief summary of reasons for requesting a listing change review: During the 2015 assessment it was determined that aquatic life use methodology for stream assessment is not appropriate. This is a short AUID 0.25 miles in length with a wetland periphery along the stream channel. It is likely backed up by Mille Lacs lake and in channel wetland vegetation, which could affect samples taken at S001-580.

Note that any approved recategorization requests will be reflected in the 2018 Impaired Waters List. First priority will be given to candidates in these watersheds:

|  |
| --- |
| * **Clearwater River** |
| * **East Fork Des Moines River** |
| * **Lower Des Moines River** |
| * **Lower Minnesota River** |
| * **Rainy River – Headwaters** |
| * **Red River of the North – Marsh River** |
| * **Upper/Lower Red Lake** |

We are also looking for candidates on the **Minnesota River from the headwaters to the Mississippi River**.

Here are the three main reasons for recategorization, besides EPA approval of a TMDL plan:

1. **Delisting**: If, during subsequent monitoring or the development of the TMDL study, new and reliable data or information indicates that the waterbody is no longer impaired and is meeting water quality standards, such a waterbody can be delisted before a TMDL plan was completed.
2. **Category 4C**: If the sources of impairment are determined to be not caused by a pollutant they may be moved to Category 4C.
3. **Category 4D**: If the sources of impairment are determined to be due to natural conditions they may be moved to Category 4D.
4. **Correction**: If it is determined that a reach was placed on the List in error.

Please refer to the [**Guidance Manual for Assessing the Quality of Minnesota Surface Waters**](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=16988)**, Section X, Removal of Waterbodies from the 303(d) List** for more information.

**STEP 2**

**Depending on your reason for recategorization, submit the following information to** [**Miranda Nichols**](mailto:miranda.nichols@state.mn.us) **by February 1, 2016.**

* **Delisting**:
* Confirmation that all data have been entered into EQuIS, reviewed and finalized
  + Original listing data (summary of #obs/exceedances or description, and list of stations with EQuIS Location IDs)
  + New data collected under similar or critical conditions (identified from original listing data)
* Flow data from USGS, Hydstra, or other sources
* Continuous monitoring data that has entered into Hydstra, reviewed and corrected
* Other data (examples include NPDES monitoring and weather records)
* Point source data and information (if applicable) such as NPDES permits, ISTS, feedlots, etc.
* Documented changes or actions in watershed that might explain change to impairment status
* **IBI Fish and Invertebrates:** Delistings and Corrections [Form](file:///\\x1600\xdrive\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\Delisting\Biological%20Delistings-Corrections%20Guidance.doc)
* **Category 4C:** Review Request [Form](file:///\\x1600\xdrive\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\4C%20NonPollutant\CALM%20Category%204c%20Review%20Guidance_Rev1.docx)
* **Category 4D - Streams:** Natural Background Review Request [Form](file:///X:\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\4D%20Natural%20Background\Streams\Natural%20Background%20Guidance_Revision_2011\Natural%20background%20guidance_revision_2011C.docx)
* **Category 4D - Lakes:** Natural Background Review Request [Form](file:///X:\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\4D%20Natural%20Background\Lakes\Natural%20background%20for%20lakes%20guidance.docx)

**Recategorization reviews**

Once Steps 1 and 2 are complete, your request with be reviewed by a member of the Assessment Consistency and Technical Team. They will contact you if they have questions or need more information. You’ll be notified when the decision is made to approve or deny your request, and documentation about the decision will be shared.

**See previous recategorization decisions:**

Category 4D [Natural](file:///X:\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\4D%20Natural%20Background\NaturalBackgroundDecisions%20AllYears%20Summary.xlsx) Background Decisions

Summary of 2013 Delisting reviews and decisions: [Delisting Guidance Outline](file:///X:\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\Delisting\DelistingGuidanceOutline_2013.docx)

Examples of recent Delisting [Reviews](file:///X:\Agency_Files\Water\303D%20List\Recategorization\Delisting) (check folder by year)