**Recategorization of waterbodies on the 2016** [**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)

***2015 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 October 31, 2014.**

1. AUID (Assessment Unit ID#) or Lake ID# 09020306-507
2. Reach name / description: Grand Marais Creek, Headwaters to County Ditch 2
3. Pollutant / Impairment: pH
4. Year first listed: 2008
5. Reason for recategorization (pick A, B, C or D from below): A (Delisting)
6. Staff contact: Jesse Anderson
7. Brief summary of reasons for requesting a listing change review:

In 2008 this reach of Grand Marais creek was impaired for aquatic life due to exceedances of the pH standard. Most samples were collected via a field meter (Sonde). At that time, the quality assurance of the field meter was confirmed by our local partner at the Red Lake Watershed District and the MPCA project manager. New data has been collected in this reach since the impairment designation. During the December, 2014 assessment of this reach of Grand Marais Creek, the Watershed Assessment Team Recommended a delisting of this impairment. This reach includes a robust dataset from 3 EQUIS stations, including 87 measurements within the assessment cycle. Only 3 of 87 samples exceeded the standard (3.4 %), and all exceedances were minor (9.3, 9.2, and 9.1 Standard Units).

Note that any approved recategorization requests will be reflected in the 2016 Impaired Waters List. First priority will be given to candidates in these watersheds:

|  |
| --- |
| * Two Rivers |
| * Snake River (Red) |
| * Lake Superior – North |
| * Rum River |
| * Mississippi River – Headwaters |
| * Minnesota River – Mankato |
| * Watonwan 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 January 1, 2015.**

* **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:///X:\Databases\Water_Quality\Assessment%20Data%20Lookup\Assessment%20Guidance%20Documents\Recategorization%20Guidance\Delisting%20Guidance\IBI%20Fish%20&%20Invertebrate%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)