

Planning and Prioritization

2022 Vision Prioritization Frameworks

Teagan Rostock | EPA Watershed Branch

2022 Vision: Planning and Prioritization Goal

States, territories, and Tribes develop a holistic strategy for implementation of Vision Goals, systematically prioritize waters or watersheds for TMDL and other plan development (restoration and/or protection), and report on the progress towards development of plans for priority waters.

Prioritization Frameworks

The Prioritization Framework is a planning document that serves two key purposes:

1. To describe long-term Vision priorities and a rationale for selecting those Vision priorities; and
2. To outline a general strategy for implementing the Goals of the 2022-2032 Vision.

Prioritization Frameworks

1) Describe long-term Vision priorities and a rationale for selecting those Vision priorities

- The Prioritization Framework should explain how the state, territory, or authorized Tribe established its long-term planning objectives and Vision priorities in a written rationale.
 - The rationale can express the long-term Vision priorities (TMDLs, other restoration plans, and protection plans) with as much detail as deemed appropriate.
 - Details may range from narrative explanations of the geographic priority area(s), pollutant(s), etc., to specific Vision priority waters or watersheds.
- Along with this, it is then anticipated that states, territories, and authorized Tribes would identify and communicate specific waterbodies to be addressed over shorter increments.

Prioritization Frameworks

2) Outline a general strategy for implementing the Goals of the 2022 Vision

- States, territories, and authorized Tribes are encouraged to identify broad water quality objectives and actions across programs that could help them progress towards those objectives in a way that aligns with the Vision Goals.

For example: Identify areas with environmental justice concerns that lack ambient monitoring data and consider ways to leverage resources and assemble data and information that can be used in future assessments and plan development (Data and Analysis Goal).

Prioritization Frameworks

2) Outline a general strategy for implementing the Goals of the 2022 Vision

Coordination of CWA Section 303(d) Program activities with other programs can aid in strategically focusing limited resources to address broader water quality objectives most effectively.

For example:

- Partner with the CWA 319 Program to support TMDL development and implementation and develop and implement other restoration plans and protection plans that incorporate knowledge of local nonpoint source activities and entities (**Restoration Goal and Partnerships Goal**).
- Coordinate with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting programs to consider prioritizing watersheds for TMDL development where permits are coming up for issuance, reissuance, or renewal, furthering cross-program coordination (**Partnerships Goal**).

Sharing the Prioritization Frameworks

- The Vision contemplated that Prioritization Framework for each state, territory, or tribe should be shared with EPA by April 1, 2024 and may be updated if needed.
- States, territories, and authorized tribes are encouraged to work with their EPA regions in developing the frameworks.
- States and territories are encouraged to utilize the 2024 IR public participation process to develop and share (either by incorporation or reference) their Prioritization Frameworks.
 - *States should not delay their 2024 Integrated Reports to complete their frameworks*
- EPA also encourages states and territories to use their IRs to report on the progress towards development of TMDLs, other restoration plans, and protection plans.

Questions post-Shepherdstown?

Email me! rostock.teagan@epa.gov