

APPENDIX 0.2

Wetland Management Category Details

“Management Category 1” means High Quality/Highest Priority Wetlands. The District Wetland Management Plan includes a map showing the classification of wetlands identified to date. The Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) should be used to classify wetlands not yet classified. Wetlands classified as High Quality/Highest Priority have at least one of the following characteristics:

- Wetlands rated with exceptional vegetative diversity/integrity, which may include wetlands with natural communities not significantly impacted by invasive species or other human-induced alterations, wetlands harboring endangered or threatened plant species, or rare wetland habitats classified as imperiled (S1) or critically imperiled (S2) by the state rankings.
- Wetlands that have groundwater dependent plant communities and have a vegetative diversity/integrity rating of medium or higher are also placed in this category. These wetlands may have suffered some degradation from human influences due to their heightened sensitivity.
- Wetlands with a high vegetative diversity/integrity rating and a high rating for hydrologic regime. The vegetative community in these wetlands typically has been only slightly affected by humans and still maintains high functioning levels for hydrologic regime, which is critical to wetland sustainability.
- Wetlands with a high vegetative diversity/integrity rating and a high rating for wetland water quality; OR wetlands with a high vegetative diversity/integrity rating and a high rating for downstream water quality. The vegetative community in these wetlands typically has been only slightly affected by humans and still maintains high function to maintain water quality, which is critical to wetland sustainability.
- Wetlands rated as exceptional for wildlife habitat. These include wetlands known to harbor endangered or threatened animal species, rare communities, or wildlife refuges and fish and wildlife management areas whose purpose is maintaining suitable habitats for wildlife.

“Management Category 2” means Stream Corridor and Shoreland Wetlands that are not a Management Category 1. The District Wetland Management Plan includes a map showing the classification of wetlands identified to date. The Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) should be used to classify wetlands that are not included in the current classification. Wetlands classified as Stream Corridor and Shoreland Wetlands have at least one of the following characteristics:

- All Stream Corridor and Shoreland Wetlands not already classified as Management Category 1.
- Wetlands rated as high for amphibian habitat.
- Wetlands rated as exceptional or high for fish habitat. These wetlands include those specifically managed for fish management; designated trout streams, lakes, or adjacent wetlands; and known spawning habitat for game fish.
- Wetlands with a medium vegetative diversity/integrity rating and a high rating for hydrologic regime. The vegetative community in these wetlands has only been moderately affected by humans and still maintains high functioning levels for hydrologic regime, which is critical to wetland sustainability. These wetlands would likely benefit from active management.

- Wetlands that are highly sensitive to stormwater impacts and have a vegetative diversity/integrity rating of medium or high were also placed in this category.
- Wetlands with a medium vegetative diversity/integrity rating and a high rating for wetland water quality. The vegetative community in these wetlands has only been moderately affected by humans and still maintains high functioning levels for water quality, which is critical to wetland sustainability.

“Management Category 3” means Isolated Wetlands that are not a Management Category 1 or 2. . The District Wetland Management Plan includes a map showing the classification of wetlands identified to date. The Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) should be used to classify wetlands that are not included in the current classification.

“Management Category 4” means Utilized Wetlands. These wetlands include pre-existing basins used heavily as livestock watering wetlands, stormwater ponds dug out from existing wetland, and other severely degraded wetlands (degraded as defined by WCA). The District Wetland Management Plan includes a map showing the classification of wetlands identified to date. The Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) should be used to classify wetlands that are not included in the current classification.