

Appendix A

MRWA Natural Resource Issues Ranking Method

Prioritizing Potential/Future Projects

Ranking by Resource Issue Method (rank 1-3; with 1 as most important)

(Point of reference can be whole river/ upper, middle, or lower section/sub-watershed)

Habitat Related Issues		Ranking			Total
		1	2	3	
Priority	Hydrology/Land Use				
High	Surface runoff/ground seepage	8	0	0	8
High	Riparian/Floodplain corridors, lake littoral zone & shoreline	6	1	1	11
High	Discharge & alterations (includes flooding)	5	1	2	13
High	Forested/Agriculture/Urban landscapes/wetlands	4	3	1	13
High	Groundwater/aquifer	5	2	1	12
Medium	Quantity	3	3	2	15
	Water Quality				
High	Pollution/nutrient/turbidity	6	2	0	10
Medium	Water temperatures	3	4	1	14
Medium	Dissolved oxygen	3	2	3	16
	Channel/Basin Dynamics				
High	Instream or lake basin cover, especially wood	4	4	0	12
High	Alterations	5	3	0	11
Medium	Bedload sediments	2	3	3	17
Low	Width/Depth	0	2	6	22
Low	Air Quality	0	0	8	24
Low	Geology & Soils	0	2	6	22
	Biological Related Issues				
High	Aquatic vegetation, especially in lakes	5	3	0	11
High	Terrestrial vegetation	5	3	0	11
High	Invertebrates (insects, mussels, crayfish)	4	3	1	13
Medium	Fish (walleye, white bass, sturgeon, musky, river redhorse)	3	4	1	14
Medium	Amphibians (turtles, frogs)	1	5	2	17
Medium	Reptiles	1	3	4	19
Low	Birds	0	2	6	22
Low	Mammals	0	1	7	23
Low	Undesirable Exotic Species	1	2	5	20
	Social Related Issues				
High	Education	8	0	0	8
High	Human Health Issues	4	3	1	13
Medium	Quality of Life (recreation, aesthetics)	2	2	4	18
Low	Economic (importance to communities & regions)	0	1	7	23
Low	Legal (regulations governing use)	0	2	6	22
Low	Cultural/Historical	0	3	5	21
Low	Conflicts	0	0	8	24

The "Natural Resource Issues" were ranked as such based on diverse committee member input that was totaled as a group. Eight (8) individuals were given the choice to assign a 1-3 ranking to each natural resource issue (1 = most important). For each issue, a total count was calculated, with 8 representing the lowest possible total (highest priority) and 24 representing the largest possible total (lowest priority). A numerical scale of 8–24 was developed and divided into thirds: 8-13 (High Priority), 14-19 (Medium Priority) and 20-24 (Low Priority). "Natural Resource Issues" were then assigned a relative priority based on their respective total count received.

Priority Scale
8 - 13 High Priority
14 - 19 Medium Priority
20 - 24 Low Priority