

**Appendix A**

**EPA Guidance (2012)**

**Elements of State Nonpoint Source Management Programs**

## **EPA Guidance**

### **Eight Elements of State NPS Management Programs**

1. State program contains explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives and strategies to restore and protect surface water and ground water, as appropriate.
2. State strengthens its working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizens groups, and federal agencies.
3. State uses a combination of statewide programs and on-the-ground projects to achieve water quality benefits; efforts are well-integrated with other relevant state and federal programs.
4. State program describes how resources will be allocated between: (a) abating known water quality impairments from NPS pollution and (b) protecting threatened and high quality waters from significant threats caused by present and future NPS impacts.
5. State program identifies waters and watersheds impaired by NPS pollution as well as priority unimpaired waters for protection. The state establishes a process to assign priority and to progressively address identified watersheds by conducting more detailed watershed assessments, developing watershed-based plans and implementing the plans.
6. State implements all program components required by Section 319b of the Clean Water Act, and establishes strategic approaches and adaptive management to achieve and maintain water quality standards as expeditiously as practicable. The state reviews and upgrades program components as appropriate. The state program includes a mix of regulatory, non-regulatory, financial and technical assistance, as needed.
7. State manages and implements its NPS management program efficiently and effectively, including necessary financial management.
8. State reviews and evaluates its NPS management program using environmental and functional measures of success and revises its NPS management program at least every five years.