

SECTION 11 - GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND REFERENCES

Glossary of Terms

The following terms and acronyms are used throughout the report. This glossary is not intended to provide regulatory or legal definitions of terms. Instead, it is intended to provide users of this Basin Plan with a basic understanding of terms used.

303(d) List— Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to list those waterbodies that are not attaining water quality standards, including designated uses, and identify relative priorities among the impaired waterbodies. Once a stream is listed on the state 303(d) list, a total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is typically required to assign allowable pollutant loads to various sources to enable the waterbody to attain designated uses in the future.

Base Flow— In a perennial stream, the low flow discharge attributable to groundwater flow.

Basin— Basin is used interchangeably with watershed in this Basin Plan

Buffer zone—A designated transitional area around a stream, lake, or wetland left in a natural, usually vegetated state so as to protect the waterbody from runoff pollution. Development is often restricted or prohibited in a buffer zone.

BMP— Best management practice, a structural or non-structural device designed to treat runoff in order to mitigate flooding, reduce pollution, and provide other amenities.

Category 5— Waterbodies where one or more beneficial uses are determined to be impaired by one or more pollutants and all of the TMDLs have not been developed. Category 5 waters constitute the Section 303(d) list subject to EPA approval/disapproval.

cfs— Cubic feet per second, a unit of measurement for labeling flow of water.

CIP— Capital Improvement Program.

Clean Water Act— The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1977. Public law 92-500; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq. The CWA made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained. (www.epa.gov)

Contours— Lines of equal elevation that represent the land surface.

Conveyance system— Natural channels and manmade structures that convey stormwater downstream.

Directly Connected Impervious Area (DCIA) — The impervious portion of a site that drains directly to the storm drainage system.

Dry Weather Flows— Flows from municipal storm drainage systems that are not due to rain or snow-generated urban runoff.

Floodplain—The area of land adjacent to rivers and streams, that is subject to recurring flooding.

ft/sec— Feet per second, a unit of measurement for labeling velocity of water.

ft²— Square foot or square feet, a unit of measurement for labeling area.

ft³— Cubic foot or cubic feet, a unit of measurement for labeling volume.

Geomorphic— Geomorphic processes are the primary mechanisms that produce these land forms, including drainage patterns, streams, floodplains, and other watershed features.

Geographical Information System (GIS) — A database of digital information and data on land-use, land cover, ecological characteristics, and other geographic attributes that can be overlaid, statistically analyzed, mathematically manipulated, and graphically displayed using maps, charts, and graphs.

GPS— Global positioning system.

Hydraulic analysis—The study of stormwater flow through the conveyance system that includes underground pipelines, culverts, improved open channels, and natural creeks.

Hydrology analysis—The study of the occurrence, distribution, movement, and properties of waters of the earth and their environmental relations.

Illicit connections—The illegal and/or unauthorized connections that result in untreated wastewater discharges into storm drainage systems and receiving waters.

Illicit discharge— Any discharge to a municipal separate storm drainage system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except for discharges allowed under a NPDES permit or waters used for certain emergency situations.

Impervious—The characteristic of a material that prevents the infiltration or passage of liquid through it. This may apply to roads, streets, parking lots, rooftops, and sidewalks.

Infiltration— The percolation of water from the land surface into the ground.

If— Linear foot or linear feet, a unit of measurement for labeling length.

LPSNRD— Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)— A publicly owned conveyance or system of conveyances that discharges to water of the U.S. and is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, is not a combined sewer, and is not part of a publicly owned treatment works (POTW).

MS4 Permit— A state or federal stormwater discharge permit to regulate discharges from municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s) for compliance with Clean Water Act regulations.

NDEQ— Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

NIC— Nebraska Innovation Campus

Non-Point Source Pollution— Pollution that occurs when rainwater, snowmelt, or irrigation transports pollutants from diffuse sources across land surfaces into Waterbodies. Non-point source pollution is contrasted with point source pollution in that it is not discharged from single discharge points such as storm drain systems and wastewater treatment plants.

Non-Structural BMPs— Stormwater BMPs that focus on management of pollutants at their source by minimizing exposure to runoff, rather than treating runoff in constructed facilities. Non-structural BMPs are also referred to as source controls in this Basin Plan.

NPDES—The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, established by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, is a federally mandated program used for regulating point source and stormwater discharges.

Outfall—The point where water flows from a conduit, stream, or drain.

Point Source Pollution— Pollutants from a single, indefinable source such as a factory, refinery, or place of business.

Pollutant Load— The mass of pollutants carried in runoff, calculated based on flow volume multiplied by pollutant concentration. Pollutant loading has units of mass and is calculated over specific timescales such as day, month, or year.

QMRA— Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment.

RCP— Reinforced concrete pipe.

Retrofit— The creation or modification of a stormwater management practice, usually in a developed area, that improves or combines treatment with existing stormwater infrastructure.

Riparian Vegetation— Woody vegetation that is characteristic of an area bordering a stream or river.

Runoff—The portion of precipitation that is not absorbed by soil but discharged from a drainage area.

RV— Runoff volume coefficient.

SAR— Sodium Adsorption Ratio.

Source Controls— A variety of practices implemented to minimize pollutant transport in runoff by controlling pollutants where they originate and/or accumulate. Representative source controls include good housekeeping measures, landscape management practices, pet waste controls, public education regarding household hazardous waste, covering outdoor storage areas, etc.

Structural BMPs— Engineered structures constructed to provide temporary storage and treatment of stormwater runoff.

Sub-Basin— A division within a basin.

TDS— Total dissolved solids.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)— A calculation of the total loading (quantity) of a pollutant that a designated waterbody can carry and still meet numeric and narrative water quality standards. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify waterbodies that do not meet federal water quality standards and establish TMDLs that result in attainment of stream standards.

Treatment Train— BMPs that work together in series to provide stormwater quality treatment.

TSS— Total suspended solids.

UNL— University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

USEPA— United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Watershed— A region of land that drains to a river, creek, or body of water.

Water Quality Control Volume (WQCV) — The quantity of stormwater runoff that is treated. This volume is equivalent to the runoff from a designated storm percentile of the most frequently occurring storms. This volume is encouraged to be fully captured and treated, while larger events are partially treated.

WinSLAMM— Source Loading and Management Model for Windows.

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