

507. Water Quality Monitoring Program

Purpose

The following policy has been adopted by the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers to set standards for its water quality monitoring program (hereafter referred to as “Program”).

Standard 1: The overall design of the program shall seek to provide the following information:

- Key water bodies that will be monitored
- Changes in hydrologic connectivity
- Trends in peak flows, runoff volumes, baseflow and other key hydrologic measures
- Trends in nutrient loads/concentrations, water clarity and other key water quality measures
- Effectiveness of water quality improvement and protection efforts
- Data to assist the CRWD Board in setting priorities for both strategic and annual activity planning and projects

Standard 2: The CRWD Board of Managers is to review and set an annual work plan for the Program by April 1st.

Standard 3: The annual work plan for this program must, at a minimum, define the following:

- Location of monitoring sites
- Parameters to be monitored at each site
- Annual equipment needs
- Total Program budget

Standard 4: CRWD staff is to follow, to the extent practicable, a standardized methodology for field data collection under this Program. A standard operating procedure manual should be maintained by the CRWD detailing this methodology. At a minimum, this methodology should define:

- In-field sampling procedures
- Field safety protocols
- Laboratory protocols (delivery, field duplicates, etc.)
- Data entry and record retention

Standard 5: On an annual basis, the results of the year’s Program should be analyzed and reported to the CRWD Board of Managers. This report should be prior to the Board’s annual strategic planning session.