

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must minimize potential conflict of surface water uses, if applicable, as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 86B. Surface water uses are uses of the river surface such as recreational boat traffic, barge fleeting (a managed parking lot for barges on the river) and commercial riverboat tours. Surface water uses are related to, but different from, water-oriented uses which are land uses (barge terminals, recreational marinas). This surface water use plan element is a combination of two plan elements from rules, part 6106.0070, Subp. 4.B.(4) and part of (5).

Surface water uses may cause surface water use conflicts and external impacts. Where these surface water uses exist, the plan should address how they will be managed to minimize external impacts and surface water conflicts.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Describe (if applicable)

- Describe any existing and potential surface water use conflicts or negative impacts (e.g. riverbank erosion) and/or improvement opportunities (i.e., high-traffic boating and fishing areas, paddle-share, riverboat tours, rowing, barging, other uses) on the river in your community and explain why they are important to resolve or improve.
- Describe any existing and proposed barge fleeting areas (if applicable) and explain why they are important to the community, and identify areas where barge fleeting could have a negative impact on PCAs and should be avoided.

2. Policies (if applicable)

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Recognize the Mississippi River as a “working river” that is important to the economy of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the Midwest.
- Minimize potential conflict of water surface uses authorized under Minn. Statute, Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000 – 6110.3800). State whether your community is regulating surface water use under Chapter 86B. If so, there needs to be a policy to minimize conflict of surface water uses. If not, then this requirement does not apply.
- Provide for barge fleeting (if applicable) and identify areas where barge fleeting could have a negative impact on PCAs and should be avoided.
- Seek to balance commercial and recreational surface water uses.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to surface water uses (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- For any project that may have river frontage, provisions shall be made for the use of the river for water transportation, which is consistent with adopted state and regional policies and regulations and applicable federal laws, and to minimize any adverse effects associated with such facilities. (Ramsey)
- The City will allow the placement of dredge spoils in areas where it is compatible in appearance with surrounding landforms and land uses. (Hastings)
- The City supports the maintenance of the 9’ navigation channel and Lock and Dam No. 2 for continued barge traffic. (Hastings)
- Barge fleeting facilities and seaplane operations shall not be permitted within the Hastings Critical Area/ MNRRA Corridor because of incompatibility with existing and planned land uses and safety considerations. (Hastings)
- The City acknowledges barge fleeting is necessary for commerce and will work to provide areas if determined appropriate. Locations for future fleeting or loading should be removed from residential areas and the marina facilities to prevent conflicts with recreational boat traffic. (Inver Grove Heights)

- To the extent possible, locate barge fleeting areas at least 200 feet from any marina and next to commercial or industrial areas. Fleeting area locations will be based on physical needs for effective operations subject to local, state, and federal environment and safety regulations. (MNRRRA Comprehensive Management Plan)
- Evaluate potential noise and visual impacts before making decisions to expand or locate barge operations. (MNRRRA Comprehensive Management Plan)
- Evaluate the potential for bottom disturbance and sediment resuspension from propwash and bank erosion caused by towboat wakes before making decisions to locate new (or relocate existing) barge fleeting areas. (MNRRRA Comprehensive Management Plan)

3. Implementation Actions (if applicable)

A. Required Implementation Actions

- Adopt surface water regulations authorized under Minn. Statute, Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000 – 6110.3800) if community is planning to regulate surface water uses. If no plans to regulate surface water use, then this action does not apply.

B. Examples

- Establish surface water regulations to limit wake generated erosion.

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

The MRCCA rules do not contain any ordinance requirements pertaining to surface water use.

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Matthew Bauman (matthew.bauman@state.mn.us) at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional information.

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**LOCAL PLANNING
HANDBOOK**

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