At the request of numerous communities, the DNR prepared this outline as a suggested approach for communities to structure their MRCCA plans. Communities do not have to follow this outline; it simply provides one way to structure a local MRCCA plan based on DNR's review of existing MRCCA plans and the minimum plan requirements under the MRCCA rules.

INTRODUCTION

- Provide brief history and overview of the MRCCA, including goals of the MRCCA program (see SONAR, pages 42-, for history and timeline of MRCCA)
- Explain public input process for developing plan
- Evaluate progress in accomplishing plan goals and policies since last plan

DISTRICTS

- Explain what districts are and why they are important for managing the MRCCA (see SONAR, pages 42-44, for explanation of districts)
- Describe and map the districts in your community (see MRCCA Districts Requirements, Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

PRIMARY CONSERVATION AREAS (PCAS)

General Overview
- Explain what PCAs are and why they are important (see SONAR, page 32, for general info on PCAs, and pages 22-28, for specific information on bluffs)

Shore Impact Zone
- Describe and, depending on the size and shape of the community, map shore impact zones in the community by district (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Floodplains & Wetlands (and Areas of Confluence with Key Tributaries, if applicable)
- Describe and map floodplains and wetlands in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Natural Drainage Ways
- Describe and map natural drainage ways in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.3 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Bluffs & Bluff Impact Zones
- Describe and map bluff impact zones in the community, including any special bluff features and known risk areas in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.4 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Native Plant Communities & Significant Existing Vegetative Stands
- Describe and map both native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.5 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Cultural & Historic Properties
- Describe, list, and/or map cultural and historic properties in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.6 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Gorges (if applicable)
- Describe the gorge if it exists in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.7 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Unstable Soils & Bedrock
- Map and/or describe areas of unstable soils and bedrock in the community (see MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 1.8 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

PUBLIC RIVER CORRIDOR VIEWS (PRCVS)

General Overview
- Describe what PRCVs are and why they are important (see SONAR, page 33, for info on PRCVs)
- Explain:
  - the public process for identifying PRCVs important to the community, and
  - the process for obtaining feedback on PRCVs from other communities across the river

Views Toward River from Public Places
- Describe, map, and provide photos of select views toward the river from public parkland and overlooks, and historic properties (see MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements, Item 1.1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Views Toward Bluffs from River
- Describe and map views of bluffs in community from river (see MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements, Item 1.2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Other Important Views
- Describe and map other views valued by the community (see MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements, Item 1.3 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

PRIORITIES FOR RESTORATION

General Overview
- Explain what restoration priorities are and why they are important
- Describe how restoration priorities were identified and provide maps (see MRCCA Restoration Priorities Requirements, Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

SURFACE WATER USES

General Overview
- Described what surface water uses are and why they are important
- Describe any existing and/or potential surface water use conflicts/impacts and/or opportunities (see MRCCA Surface Water Uses Requirements, Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

WATER-ORIENTED USES

General Overview
- Describe what water-oriented uses are and why they are important
- Describe where water-oriented uses exist/are planned and any potential conflicts (see MRCCA Water-Oriented Uses Requirements, Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

OPEN SPACE & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

General Overview
- Describe what open space and recreational facilities are and why they are important
- Map and describe existing and potential future open space and recreational facilities (see MRCCA Open Space and Recreational Facilities Requirements, Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES

General Overview
- Describe how transportation and utilities facilities can have a negative impact on the MRCCA if not located and designed property
- Map and describe existing and future planned transportation and public utility facilities within the MRCCA (see MRCCA Transportation & Public Utilities Requirements, Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

KEY ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Many communities have these outlined in their MRCCA plans
- Focus on what's most important for community in next 10 years

POLICIES

General
- Develop policies that generally recognize the importance of the MRCCA and further its goals

Districts/Land Use
- See MRCCA Districts Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs)
- See MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Public River Corridor Views (PRCVs)
- See MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Restoration Priorities
- See MRCCA Restoration Priorities Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Surface Water Uses
- See MRCCA Surface Water Uses Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Water-Oriented Use
- See MRCCA Water-Oriented Uses Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Open Space & Recreational Facilities
- See MRCCA Open Space and Recreational Facilities Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Transportation & Public Utilities
- See MRCCA Transportation & Public Utilities Requirements, Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

For implementation actions specific to each plan element, refer to Item 3 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements in the relevant guidance document. Many of the example implementation actions in these guidance documents have been generalized and plugged into the categories below as a possible way to organize the actions consistent with many existing MRCCA plans.

Ordinance Updates (MRCCA Overlay)
- Amend MRCCA ordinance/overlay district for consistency with MRCCA rules
- Amend zoning map to reflect new districts
- Identify any areas where implementation flexibility may be pursued and action needed to support and justify it
- Update existing develop new surface water use plan and ordinance (if community elects to regulate surface water use)

MRCCA Ordinance Administration
- Update application forms, site plan submittal requirements, and review procedures for consistency with MRCCA rules
- Develop MRCCA design guidelines
- Establish MRCCA vegetation and land alteration permit processes
- Develop visual analysis approach for CUPs/PUDs/variances
- Develop mitigation scoring system for evaluating proposed development
- Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space set-aside and/or dedicated as part of the subdivision/PUD process

Education & Outreach
- Develop outreach and communication strategy to alert MRCCA property owners of new districts and zoning requirements
- Develop web materials (mapping applications, FAQs, handouts, and other materials) to help property owners identify when their property is in the MRCCA and what regulations apply

Capital Improvements
- Identify specific capital improvements (trails, overlooks, public access, and other recreational facilities) within the MRCCA

Land Acquisition
- Identify specific land acquisitions within the MRCCA

Specific Planning Efforts, Projects & Initiatives
- Conduct feasibility studies/research as needed to address issues in the MRCCA
- Coordinate with regional, state, and national park planning efforts within the MRCCA
- Conduct master planning or other planning efforts Planning Efforts
- Key corridor projects and initiatives

MORE INFORMATION

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

Content prepared by:

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES