Revised: December 2011

WATER QUALITY SURVEY SHEET

County_____ **Date**_____ **GPS Coordinates**_____
Weather (last 24 hours) _____
Sampling Location (Road Name, River/Stream Name) _____
Water Quality Volunteers _____
_____

VWIN and SMIE *surveys are to be marked for the site only with the most common choice for each category.*
Adopt-A-Stream *surveys are to consider the full length of the waterway observed and may mark more than one choice.*

STREAM CHARACTERISTICS

1. WATER APPEARANCE
___ Clear
___ Oily (colored sheen)
___ Tea-colored but clear
___ Muddy ____Green
___ Foamy ____ Milky
___ Black ____ Grey
Other _____

2. STREAM BOTTOM
(Check most common)
___ Gravel or cobblestone
___ Bedrock or boulders
___ Sand
___ Clay
___ Algae
___ Woody debris

3. RIFFLE PRESENCE
___ None ___ 1 to 5
___ 5 to 10 ___ Many

4. ALGAE PRESENCE
___ None ___ Spotty
___ Extensive

5. ALGAE COLOR/APPEARANCE
___ Light green
___ Dark green
___ Brown coated
___ Matted on stream bed
___ Hairy

6. ODOR
___ None ___ Rotten eggs
___ Musky ___ Oil
___ Sewage
Other _____

7. LEAF PACKS ***(for SMIE only)***
___ None found
___ Found within 10 feet or less
___ Found within 50 feet
___ Found > than 50 feet

RIPARIAN ZONE

8. STREAMBANK VEGETATION
___ Mostly trees and shrubs
___ Grasses and vines
___ Eroding stream bank
___ Rip-rap or construction fills
___ Exotic plant and tree species
___ Natural rocks or boulders
Other _____

9. LITTER AND TRASH
___ None
___ Only in water
___ Only on banks
___ In water and on banks
___ In trees/brush ≤ 1 ft. above water surface
___ In trees/brush ≥ 1 ft above water surface

10. RIFFLE SAMPLING EFFORT
___ Rocks *extremely* embedded into riffles*
___ Rocks *moderately* embedded into riffles^
___ Rocks loose, easy to move

11. STREAM BANK SHADE
___ None
___ Some, but very little
___ Less than half
___ Half or more
___ Almost Total
___ Full shade

* Very difficult or impossible to disturb because sand is filling the spaces between rocks
^ Removed with effort because there is less sand in spaces

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

12. FISH PRESENCE
___ None observed
___ 1-10 scattered individuals
___ 11-50 scattered schools
___ 51-100
___ Minnows/small fishes
___ Sunfish, catfish, or sculpin
___ Trout or bass

13. BARRIERS TO FISH MOVEMENT
___ None
___ Waterfall(s) ≥ 1 ft.
___ Beaver pond or lake
___ Culvert or pipe
___ Man-made dam
Other _____

14. NEARBY LAND USE
(On both sides of streambanks)
___ Residential
___ Industrial
___ Agricultural
**Type of Ag.* _____
___ Commercial
___ Open/green space
___ Undeveloped
___ Parking lot(s) present
Other _____

15. NOTES & COMMENTS:
Indicate current and/or potential threats to stream health, possible pollution sources, and other comments. Also note any other wildlife observed.

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