

Wisconsin Waterways Commission Channel Dredging Policy

NR.7.05(9) States:

(a) *In addition to projects specified under subs. (1) to (8), dredging of a channel of an inland waterway to the degree necessary to accommodate recreational watercraft is eligible for funding with the following limitations:*

1. *In order to be eligible for funds, a channel to be dredged in a lake shall be defined by aids to navigation as defined in s. [30.74 \(2\) \(b\)](#), Stats.*

2. *Cost sharing for dredging of a channel may be provided only for dredging the width of a channel to a distance of 25 feet on either side of the centerline of a river or 25 feet on either side of a center channel marker in a lake. The dredging of backslopes necessary to maintain a channel width of 50 feet for a minimum of 10 years is eligible. The depth of the channel dredging shall be limited to the depth necessary to accommodate recreational watercraft commonly utilizing the waterbody.*

Note: *The limit on the design slope ratio of the backslope dredging shall be commensurate with the nature of the lakebed materials.*

3. *Eligible costs of dredging a channel in a waterway include: engineering, including soil borings; dredging and mobilization; construction of a temporary holding area; and transportation of spoils. The cost of constructing revetments to permanently contain spoils is eligible if the sponsor can demonstrate that the cost of creating a land mass is less than the cost of transportation of spoils to a disposal site or if a substantial benefit to the recreational boating public will accrue.*

4. *Ineligible costs include: any costs relating to planning, engineering, dredging, handling, processing, transporting or depositing of contaminated dredge spoils; the purchase of land rights for a spoils deposition area or the costs of landfill storage of spoils; costs of land treatment to cover up spoils deposit; and the cost of testing or monitoring as a condition of a state or federal permit.*

5. *A sponsor may not receive funds for dredging the same channel of a waterway more than once every 10 years.*

(b) *For the purpose of s. [30.92 \(4\) \(b\) 2.](#), Stats., the dredging of a channel of a waterway to the degree necessary to accommodate recreational watercraft pursuant to s. [30.92 \(4\) \(b\) 8. a.](#), Stats., shall be considered a construction project.*

Since RBF grant funds are not limitless and therefore cannot cover the costs of any/all channels in all Wisconsin lakes and rivers, the Wisconsin Waterways Commission policy will be to limit the scope of fundable channel dredging projects. Channel dredging projects will be considered for funding when they meet all the requirements of NR 7.05(9)(a)(1) to (5) and meet the following conditions:

1. Are directly connected to a public boating facility such as a ramp or transient docking structure.
2. Provide a channel for recreational boaters to travel from the public boating facility to a main waterway area such as:
 - To the mouth of the breakwater or harbor entrance
 - That has at least 5' depth of water or a depth to sustain a 10-year dredge
3. A channel for recreational boaters to travel from a public boating facility on one lake to another waterbody NOT served by a developed launch facility.

REMINDERS

- Maintenance dredging of any sort is not fundable.
- Channel dredging of a specific area may not receive funds more than once every 10 years.

(over)

- All permits must be obtained in order for a project to be presented to the WWC for funding consideration.
- Standard channel dredging costs will be considered as outlined in NR7.05(9)(a)(3) for all eligible channel dredging projects; however, those costs directly associated with the management of contaminated spoils are not eligible for grant reimbursement.

Motioned and voted on by the Wisconsin Waterways Commission August 10, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.