

What's Going On In Our Corner? Northeast Wisconsin MS4 Permittees



The Importance Of A Stormwater BMP Inventory

Developing and maintaining a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) inventory is a useful way to organize public (MS4-owned) and privately owned stormwater BMPs within your community.

It is important to list the location and description of the type of BMP (e.g., wet pond) and the year constructed within the inventory. Additionally, the inventory should include information on whether an operation and maintenance plan describing the BMP's inspection procedures (e.g., inspection schedule) and record drawings exist for each BMP.

Not only do BMP inventories keep stormwater BMP records organized, but they can also be used as a tracking mechanism for the inspection and maintenance of BMPs. For example, a community may include another column in its inventory with the date the BMP was last inspected or when maintenance was last completed.

Additionally, some communities also use BMP inventories to keep track of long-term maintenance agreements (LTMA) on required privately owned BMPs to ensure private BMP owners are inspecting and maintaining their BMP.



Photo Credit: Phil Kleman, McMahon Group

Topics

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Town Of Algoma Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Project

The town of Algoma recently completed the construction of the first iron-enhanced sand filter in the state. The Town originally planned to replace an existing dry detention basin with a wet pond to improve total suspended solids and total phosphorus removal. However, due to safety and stagnant water concerns, it was decided that this location might be ideal for an iron-enhanced sand filter.

Nearly 23 acres of fully developed low-to-medium density residential areas feed into the filter, with the existing roadside swale conveyance providing pretreatment.

Since the DNR Technical Standard for sand filters (T.S. 1012) was not available during the design, McMahon Group engineers relied on guidance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Stormwater Manual for IE Sand Filters and the California Department of Transportation's Austin Sand Filter-Earthen Type-Design Guidance.

The town of Algoma is within the Lake Butte des Morts Sub-Watershed, part of the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which requires an 83% reduction in Total Phosphorus from baseline.

A water quality analysis projects that the new filter will remove 97.1% of total suspended solids and 93.7% of total phosphorus.

The Town took advantage of a DNR Urban Nonpoint Source Construction Grant to help make this project happen. For information on how your community might utilize these grants, visit the DNR's [Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grant Program webpage](#).

Look for more information on this exciting project in the future, as engineers with [McMahon Group](#) anticipate presenting on it at some upcoming meetings or conferences in the region!

Winter Is Coming: Are Construction Sites In Your Community Ready?

Everyone knows Wisconsin has four seasons: Winter, spring, summer and fall. However, Wisconsinites know there are plenty more seasons in between! After winter comes fool's spring, then a second winter, followed by another false spring, then a third winter. And when you think winter is finally over and spring is on the way, mud season starts.

Ideally, all construction sites will be seeded with fall or winter seed mixes and covered with erosion matting for winter shutdown. However, with more frequent freeze-thaw cycles becoming commonplace for Wisconsin winters, construction sites are also operating year-round. Continued construction, in combination with changing weather patterns and increased winter rain, can quickly result in wet, muddy, and erosive conditions that are challenging to correct when there isn't summer heat to help dry soggy areas.

As a result, it's important that MS4 Permittees communicate with construction site operators in their community to ensure they have an adequate plan for winter. It is recommended to start communicating with sites early in the fall (i.e., right now!) to ensure seeding happens in the appropriate timeframe or that sites have the appropriate erosion control materials to get them through the winter.

Below are two winter-specific site management strategies. However, if your community has more strategies, tips and tricks, or stories of hard lessons learned, please let us know so we may share!

- **Full winter shutdown:** Seed and stabilize the site completely in accordance with DNR Tech Standards. If properly done, all other BMPs can be removed and re-installed before work starts again in the spring.
- **Minimized work area:** For sites that will continue work, defining priority work areas and avoiding 'riskier' practices such as large-scale grading and stockpiling can help the site be successful in the winter. Note: these sites should seed and stabilize all erodible areas outside of these footprints. All other BMPs must remain and be repaired regularly.

FWWA Elected Officials Educational Video

Have you had a chance to view the "Education for Elected Officials" video by the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) yet?

This northeast Wisconsin-focused video is packed with crucial information aimed at educating elected representatives. The video highlights the many benefits of clean water, drawing attention to its role in our daily lives and communities. It also sheds light on how urban and agricultural runoff significantly contributes to water pollution while showcasing some of the measures being implemented to tackle this critical issue.

Featuring numerous regional stormwater experts, the video offers captivating visuals that showcase the beauty and importance of Wisconsin's water resources.

Watching this video will instill a sense of pride in the ongoing efforts and achievements in protecting our waterways while emphasizing the urgent need for continued action.

With a concise seven-minute duration, the video effectively conveys information while maintaining viewer engagement from start to finish. It will not only educate but hopefully inspire individuals, urging us all to take part in safeguarding our invaluable water resources.

You can watch the [Fox-Wolf Stormwater Education for Elected Officials video on YouTube](#).

As-Builts For Post-Construction Storm Water BMPs

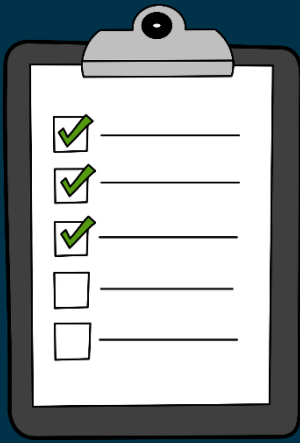
As-builts (i.e., record drawings) reflect how a BMP was built.

While the MS4 permit does not require MS4 Permittees to obtain as-builts, many MS4s do, as this is useful in determining if the BMP was built as designed. If not, this may influence inspection and maintenance requirements, provide a different level of pollutant reduction than intended or require alterations.

Some MS4 Permittees also use as-builts to determine if BMP maintenance is needed before permit termination. For example, if excess sediment is discharged into a wet pond during construction, the permanent pool may be too shallow. Thus, MS4s will require maintenance of the BMP before terminating the permit.

So, if your community does not require as-builts currently, perhaps this is something to consider.





Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Winter Edition?

We want to hear about your municipality's success stories and practical procedures.

Please reach out to our Wisconsin DNR stormwater engineer with stories to include in upcoming editions:

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Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

NEW: Waterways and Wetland Question and Complaint Form

The DNR Waterways program has developed a new tool to streamline customer service. The public can now use the [Waterway and Wetland Question and Complaint Form online](#) to submit general permitting questions and complaints for potential violations.

The Waterways program regulates a large variety of activities that may impact wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes, such as:

- Piers, boat shelters, riprap, fish habitat structures and other structures
- Bridges, culverts, fords and temporary crossings
- Dredging
- Stream realignment and enclosure
- Ponds within 500 feet of a waterway
- Discharges of fill material in wetlands

Upcoming Erosion Control Compliance Training (NASECA) Dec.11-12, 2024

NASECA Erosion Control Compliance Training will be held at Holiday Inn Pewaukee-Milwaukee West in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Registration is coming soon; please visit NASECA's [Events & Training webpage](#) for more information.

Upcoming Wisconsin Salt Wise Trainings

This free training is for winter maintenance professionals who remove snow, apply road salt or maintain snow removal equipment. Learn how using the right amount of salt can save time, money and our waters. Visit [Winter Salt Certification \(wisaltwise.com\)](http://wisaltwise.com) for information on upcoming training opportunities.

Wisconsin Land & Water Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters training

Phil Gaebler (City of Madison) and Christal Campbell (Dane County Land and Water Resources Department and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership) explain how timely street leaf removal before the rain can help keep our waters clean. Watch their training, [Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters, on YouTube](#).

DNR Magazine Welcomes Fall

Plan your fall adventure with help from the latest issue of [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine. Cover stories about hunting will get you ready for the season, including [duck hunting details](#) and a colorful [guide to ducks](#) you might see in the state. There's also a story highlighting efforts to help everyone "[Join the Hunt](#)," especially through mentoring efforts and access to public lands.