

What's Going On In Our Corner?

South Central Wisconsin MS4 Permittees



Take A Quick Survey!

The regional Quarterly MS4 Highlights were originally piloted by Southeast (SE) Region staff in 2023. After a year of piloting the Quarterly Highlights, SE Region staff developed a survey to determine if their region should continue to issue these Quarterly Highlights. The results showed an overall response rate of around 33%, with over half the respondents from a permitted Municipality. Based on the results, SE Region staff continue to issue these on a quarterly basis.

In May 2024, our region began issuing these Quarterly Highlights to initiate and provide a platform where MS4 Permittees can share success stories, practical procedures, etc. happening within our region.

We would like to hear from you to determine if South Central Region staff should continue to issue quarterly MS4 Highlights moving forward.

This short survey should only take under a minute to fill out: [MS4 Newsletter Survey](#)



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR. Green algae indicative of nutrient loading in surface waters.

Topics

P.1 We Want To Hear From You ([MS4 Newsletter Survey](#)),

City Of Watertown

P.2 MS4 BMP Menu, Storing Snow

P.3 Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events

An Impactful Partnership For The City Of Watertown

The City of Watertown, Jefferson County and Rock River Coalition recently took a historic step toward achieving clean water goals and reducing phosphorus in the Rock River watershed.

In 2024, the first project for the Watertown Waterways Improvement Program (WWIP) was established on a private farm.

The WWIP is a long-term, local Water Quality Trading program that allows Watertown to meet water quality regulations in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit by partnering with landowners who will install conservation practices on their property. Without this program, the city would be obligated to spend millions of dollars on traditional stormwater management facilities.

Landowners Ted and Becky Mueller learned about the WWIP during a community meeting in 2023 and, as participants in the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program, felt they would be great ambassadors for the new initiative.

After the meeting, Mueller volunteered his 300-acre farm. "I already had a background in what they wanted to do, so I knew it would work out easily for both sides," says Mueller.

The WWIP allows the landowner to choose between a number of conservation practices, and the Muellers opted for a harvestable buffer strip, a popular option that allows farmers to receive reimbursement from the program while keeping agricultural land in production.

A 10-year Snap Plus modeling projection shows that this project can reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the Rock River watershed from the Muellers' farm by approximately 73 pounds annually. It will hopefully inspire future participants.

The Muellers plan to pass their farm down to their teenage boys someday, so caring for the surrounding ecosystems was an easy decision. "We want to take care of our land for generations," says Mueller. "We're in this for the long haul, for our family."

Narrative provided by Garret Hopkins, Rock River Coalition

Introducing The Wisconsin DNR MS4 Best Management Practices (BMP) Menu

In October 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a [National Menu of Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for stormwater](#). The menu of BMPs is based on the Stormwater Phase II Rule's six minimum control measures (MCMs) – also known as the six stormwater management programs (i.e., Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination [IDDE], Construction Site Pollutant Control, Post-Construction Storm Water Management and Pollution Prevention). The U.S. EPA's National BMP Menu provides information and resources on the broader topics of each of the six stormwater programs, but the information given is not specific to Wisconsin's MS4 Permit Program.

States have a choice to either create their own MS4 BMP menus or continue to reference and use the U.S. EPA's. Until recently, the Wisconsin DNR had referred MS4 permittees to the U.S. EPA's National BMP Menu if a permittee was seeking additional tools and resources to better implement their six stormwater programs. However, due to the broadness of the National BMP Menu, this understandably led to more questions and/or confusion.

On Jan. 16, 2025, the Wisconsin DNR rolled out its own MS4 BMP Menu developed to assist MS4 permittees in complying with their MS4 permits. The purpose of this MS4 BMP Menu is to provide resources and examples to aid permittees in selecting appropriate stormwater strategies. The MS4 BMP Menu includes information and resources for the six stormwater management programs, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and impaired waters requirements. Additionally, it includes current Wisconsin DNR publications relevant to the MS4 permit (for example, MS4 compliance documents), and tools to help prepare MS4 permittees for MS4 audits and to assess the effectiveness of their own programs.

To learn more, visit [the DNR's website](#) to explore the MS4 BMP Menu. Wisconsin DNR staff will continue to update and add more resources, so be sure to check in from time to time.

Plowing: How Do You Store Snow?

Snow can be contaminated with deicers, oil, grease, heavy metals from vehicles, litter and debris.

Consider storing snow piles on pervious surfaces (e.g., grass). If pervious surface storage is not an option, store snow away from stormwater inlets or areas where snowmelt on a slope could sheet flow into nearby waterways or wetlands.

Snowmelt can leave behind litter and debris picked up during plowing. Good housekeeping practices could include picking up litter left behind and sweeping

the area of impervious surface shortly after the snowmelt event.

If snow storage is occurring at a municipal property that has a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), the area should also be identified on the SWPPP map.

- **Note:** For more information on SWPPPs (e.g., what a SWPPP should contain, examples of SWPPPs, etc.), please visit [the MS4 BMP Menu](#) under Minimum Control Measure #6 (Pollution Prevention).

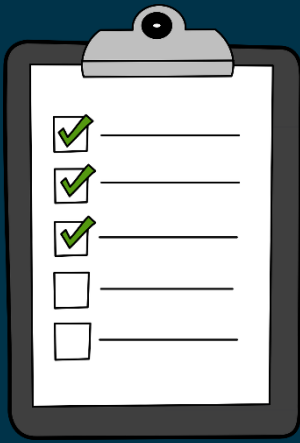
2024 MS4 Annual Report Reminders

It is almost that time of year again. MS4 Annual Reports must be submitted by March 31, 2025, via ePermitting.

The 2024 MS4 Annual Report received some minor updates based on feedback received from MS4 Permittees on the 2023 MS4 Annual Report. Overall, MS4 Permittees can expect the 2024 MS4 Annual Report structure to be similar to the previous MS4 Annual Report.

For MS4 Permittees wanting to get a head start, the 2024 MS4 Annual Report PDF form is now available on the [DNR's website](#) for reference. Please note that the form contents must be submitted online via ePermitting.

Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events



Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Spring Edition?

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

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

Sean Spencer

Sean.Spencer@wisconsin.gov

or

Dan Bekta

Eugene.Bekta@Wisconsin.gov



MyWisconsin ID And Multi-Factor Authentication Will Be Implemented For Wisconsin DNR ePermitting – Postponed

To better protect its systems, the Wisconsin DNR will move to a new login identity system called MyWisconsin ID and enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for Wisconsin DNR ePermitting.

Due to a technical issue that requires additional attention, the update to Wisconsin DNR ePermitting will be delayed until summer. This delay will allow us to ensure that the necessary changes are fully implemented and tested, providing a smooth experience for all users.

Questions?

Visit the [MyWisconsin FAQ webpage](#) for answers to common questions or contact the MyWisconsin account service desk at 608-471-6667.

Contact ePermitting support staff by submitting a [DNR Contact Form](#) for support with the Wisconsin DNR ePermitting system. Please fill out the required fields in the contact form and select "MyWisconsin ID" from the Permit Category dropdown menu.

20th Annual Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference

Feb. 25, 2025, at Discovery World in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. [Sign up for information.](#)

For the past 20 years, the Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference has been a hallmark occasion for the watershed community of practice in southeastern Wisconsin to come together to discuss strategies and projects to improve the health of our watersheds. This all-day event will include presentations from water quality experts and engaging panel discussions.

25th Annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Conference

March 4 through 5, 2025, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Welcome and Conference Center. [Sign up for information.](#)

One of Wisconsin's largest watershed conferences. Past attendees have included stormwater engineers, professors, community leaders, government entities, local elected officials, concerned citizens and more.

Save The Date: Waukesha County's Spring 2025 Stormwater Workshop

April 1 and 2, 2025, virtual workshop.

Waukesha County's Land Resources Division plans to hold its Spring Stormwater Workshop on April 1 and 2, 2025, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. The workshop will be virtual and hosted by WI Land + Water. Please mark these dates on your calendar. Further information on registration will be available sometime in February.

2026 Urban Nonpoint Source Planning Grant Applications Now Available

Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water (UNPS & SW) Planning grant applications for projects beginning in 2026 are now available on the [Wisconsin DNR's grant program webpage](#).

The following eligible applicants have until April 15, 2025, to submit applications for 2026 construction projects: cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, tribal governments and special purpose lake, sewage and sanitary districts.