

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPROVE A WATER QUALITY TRADING PLAN

Permittee: City of Watertown, 106 Jones Street, Watertown, WI, 53094

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Storm water discharges to waters of the state from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is owned, operated and maintained by the City of Watertown.

Receiving Water: Rock River Watershed

Summary of the Proposed Water Quality Trading Plan: The City of Watertown (Watertown) owns and operates a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that discharges to the Rock River watershed. In 2011, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) approved a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Rock River Basin. In developing the TMDL, DNR evaluated the amount of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP) that would need to be prevented from entering the Rock River basin each year to return the watershed to a healthy, fishable, swimmable condition. The MS4 permit covering Watertown requires that permittees discharging to approved TMDLs reduce their discharges of pollutants causing impairments to improve water quality and achieve water quality standards. The City of Watertown proposed to complete projects that meet the requirements for Water Quality Trading to help offset their TSS and TP discharges to the Rock River basin.

Watertown is proposing to implement its Watertown Waterways Improvement Program through partnerships with Jefferson County to install and maintain nonpoint source practices. The work could include practices such as grassed waterways, buffer strips, cover crops, barnyard management, streambank stabilization, wetland restoration, and others practices subject to future approvals to improve the water quality in the Rock River basin. The plan, referenced as WQT-2024-0021, currently includes the installation of harvestable buffers on two agricultural properties. For more details regarding the plan, it is posted on the DNR's public notice page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>.

The DNR has conditionally approved this plan. Monitoring requirements for the Watertown Water Quality Trade will be specified in the reissuance of the MS4 General Permit which will be public noticed separately.

Storm Water Specialist: Sean Spencer, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 445-3078, sean.spencer@wisconsin.gov.

Proposed Modification: Approval of the Watertown Water Quality Trading to use credits towards its MS4 Wasteload Allocations for Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorus in the Rock River TMDL.

The DNR has tentatively decided that the MS4 General Permit will be modified at reissuance to include Watertown's Water Quality Trade.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed approval, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above-named storm water specialist's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the DNR's final decision when the permit is issued.

The DNR may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this approval action, including the water quality trading plan and conditional approval letter, may be inspected and copied at either the above-named storm water specialist's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the storm water specialist for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the storm water specialist at (608) 445-3078 or by writing to the DNR. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the water quality trading plan or conditional approval letter. Trading plan information is also available on the internet at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

Watertown Daily Times, 218 S. First Street P.O. Box 140, Watertown WI, 53094

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, October 17, 2024 **STREAMLINED PUBLIC NOTICE VERSION FOR NEWSPAPER**

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPROVE A WATER QUALITY TRADING PLAN FOR THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

FOR THE COMPLETE PUBLIC NOTICE AND DETAILS GO TO THE WEB LINK:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>

Permittee: City of Watertown, 106 Jones Street, Watertown, WI, 53094

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Storm water discharges to waters of the state from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is owned, operated and maintained by the City of Watertown.

Receiving Water and Location: Rock River Basin

Brief Facility Description: The City of Watertown (Watertown) owns and operates a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that discharges to the Rock River watershed which has a Total Maximum Daily Load for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP). Watertown is proposing to implement its Watertown Waterways Improvement Program through partnerships with Jefferson County to install and maintain nonpoint source practices. The work could include practices such as grassed waterways, buffer strips, cover crops, barnyard management, streambank stabilization and wetland restoration and others per future approvals to improve the water quality in the Rock River basin. The plan is referenced as WQT 2024 0021 currently includes the installation of harvestable buffers on two agricultural properties. For more details regarding the plan, it is posted on the WDNR's public notice page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has conditionally approved this plan. Monitoring requirements for the Watertown Water Quality Trade will be specified in the reissuance of the MS4 General Permit which will be public noticed separately.

Storm Water Specialist: Sean Spencer, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 445-3078, sean.spencer@wisconsin.gov.

The DNR has tentatively decided to approve the City of Watertown's Water Quality Trading Plan.

Proposed Modification: Addition of permit requirements for Water Quality Trading to reflect the approved Water Quality Trading Plan to help meet TP and TSS TMDL Wasteload Allocations.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed approval, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the storm water specialist's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the DNR's final decision when the permit is issued.

The DNR may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Information on requesting a hearing is at the above web link.

Limitations and conditions which the DNR believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Information on file for this permit action, including the water quality trading plan and conditional approval letter, may be reviewed on the internet at the above web link or may be inspected and copied at the storm water specialist's office during office hours. Information on this permit may also be obtained by calling the storm water specialist or by writing to the DNR. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the water quality trading plan and approval letter. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.