

**HISTORIC INFORMATION SEARCH
WHAT YOU NEED TO LOOK AT
(April 28, 2011)**

USGS topographic maps (various years) - These can be purchased from the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (608) 263-7389. Use the DNR surface water data viewer to view 7.5 minute topographic maps.

Original government survey maps and notes, 1800s – The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) is the official custodian of this copyrighted data set. They can be found on their web site at the following address: <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes/>

Land Economic Inventory maps (Bordner Surveys) – these are 8 ½ x 11 maps showing land cover and waterways as they existed in the 1930s. All service centers should have a set of these for each of their counties. These maps are **not available** for Forest, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Menominee, Milwaukee and Sheboygan Counties. They can be found on the web at the following address: <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/EcoNatRes/subcollections/WILandInvAbout.html>

Aerial photography, various years – you should find out what is available for your county and who has them. Foresters are a good source for photos and usually have them going back to the 1930s. Regional Planning Commissions have various dates of photography available for review as well as NRCS. Check county web sites for possible viewing of aerial photography. You can also view historic aerial photography on the State Cartographer's Office web site: <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/>

NRCS county soil surveys – not only do they classify the soil type but they are a good source of photography as well since they are compiled on a photographic base.

Surface Water Resources, 1960s – 1970s – These books contain information on named and unnamed lakes and streams for each county in the state. Water Management Specialists should have access to these

Lake Survey Maps – These are 8 ½ x 11 maps and are available for the majority of named lakes in the state. The maps show inlets, outlets, vegetation types and development on the shoreline. View at this web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/Documents/LakeMaps.aspx>

When requesting assistance for waterway history information please submit the following information to the appropriate Water Management Specialist: A xerox of the topographic map or wetland map highlighting the waterway in question; a brief description of the activity proposed; the legal description of the area including county, township, range and section number(s); copies of any information that you have reviewed (Bordner Surveys, historic photos, etc.).

Previous waterway histories, historic permit files, microfilm – Everyone should check your files in the office. It could very well be that your predecessor might have made a determination in the past that you will want to be aware of. The WMS can check the Chapter 30/31 permit database for previous permit activity on the waterway as well.