

Executive Summary

Waterway Quarterly Reporting- Quarter 2, 2020

The Waterways Program (WW) successfully transitioned to teleworking following the COVID-19 Safer at Home order, March 25, badger bounce back planning and DNR bounce back - phase one, June 19. Staff have continued to have major accomplishments this quarter:

- WW staff, with pre-approval and following COVID-19 safety protocols, conducted essential in-field inspections: five for imminent environmental damage, six for compliance/legal, six for grants/contracts and seven for dams/floodplain emergency response during the Safer at Home order.
- WW processed 972 permit decisions and is on track with last year's trends (permits processed Q2, 2019= 973).
- The call intake team- led by Kathi Kramasz and assisted by Keenan Pulz, Tanner Traut, and others- have responded to almost 1,800 public inquiries this quarter
 - The Waterways program is participating in the COVID-19 workload placement service. Thank you, Amanda Gantner and Laura Jaskiewicz, for joining the call intake team through that program!
- The wetland and habitat team have partnered to find and implement wetland and hydrologic restoration projects using GP-1 fee revenue. This quarter, 6 projects were approved to restore 463.6 acres of wetlands for a total waterway investment of approximately \$140,000.
- The compliance team have responded to 284 complaints this quarter.
- The waterway team successfully launched a new tracking tool to begin tracking permitting waterway impacts.
- 301 Great Lakes coastal property owners notified DNR of emergency shoreline stabilization projects.
- New WW intake and zoning section was approved, 6-23. Recruitment of section chief and formation of section paused due to COVID-19 hiring freeze announced, 3-20-19
- The transition planning team has successfully created the waterway bounce back plan and "lessons learned" from the Safer at Home order. Thank you, Michelle Hase, Mike Rogney, Emily Pedersen, Jeff Schure, James Brodzeller, Robert Rosenberger and Amanda Minks, for providing leadership for that effort!
- Several guidance documents were finalized this quarter including 4 floodplain related guidance documents to implement recent changes to the state floodplain program.
- Staff have been willing to support critical program services due to recent staffing vacancies
 - A special thanks to Marty Dillenburg and Katie Mallum for their help to help the permit intake team due to staffing shortages
 - Several program staff have offered assistance to the call intake team given the high demand for service. A special thanks to Marty Dillenburg, Sarah Adkins, Julie Benzschawel, Luke Roffler, Nicole Hays, Dan Harrington, BJ Brenneke, Tom Pearce, Tom Nedland, Allison Willman, Amanda Dehmlow, Alex Kind, and Steve LaValley.

Thank you to all of those staff that took on these additional assignments this quarter!

New Staff:

- Forrest Van Asten (WME, NOR)
- Hanna Johnson (WME, WCR)
- Megan Duffy (WME, WCR)
- Mike Stone (WME, SCR)

Transitions and Congratulations:

- Jill Schoen- DNR Watershed Deputy Bureau Director
- Michelle Staff- FEMA Region V Senior Floodplain Management Specialist.
- Zach Kron- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Environmental Planner
- Lis Heartsil-Private industry

Attachments:

- [Strategic direction plan quarter 2 report](#)
- [WMS workload summary](#)
- [WME workload summary](#)