

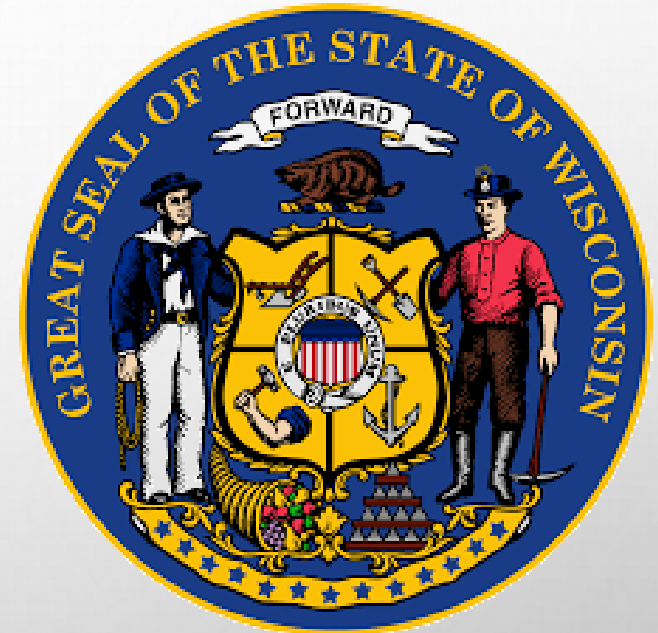
December Council Meeting Recap

- ✓ Need more wetlands of the right type in the right location in order to help solve our water management problems
- ✓ Upper watershed wetlands and floodplains are critical
- ✓ Need to be clear on current policy before developing framework for finding synergies between wetland and storm water management policies



Primary Wetland and Storm Water Statutes and Administrative Rules

- ✓ Section 281.33, Wis. Stats.
 - Construction site erosion control and storm water management
- ✓ Section 283.33, Wis. Stats.
 - Storm water discharge permits
- ✓ Section 281.36, Wis. Stats.
 - Permits for discharges into wetlands; mitigation
- ✓ NR 103.03, Wis. Adm. Code
 - Wetland water quality standards
- ✓ NR 151.125, Wis. Adm. Code
 - ✓ Protective areas performance standard
- ✓ NR 353.02, Wis. Adm. Code
 - Wetland conservation permits can't be used to cover projects with a stormwater management component



Wetland Function and Value Considerations

- ✓ From “*Common Questions: Definition of the Terms “Function” and “Value”*” by Jon A. Kusler, Association of State Wetland Managers, in cooperation with the International Institute for Wetland Science
- ✓ Ambiguity in applying terms “functions” and “values”
- ✓ Variation in perceptions of functions and values from wetland to wetland
- ✓ 4 applicable sets of wetland characteristics
 - ✓ *Functions*: Natural processes occurring within wetlands
 - ✓ *Functions*: Off-site natural resource characteristics critical to the onsite functioning of wetlands
 - ✓ *Values*: Cultural context
 - ✓ *Values*: Attitudes of society to the roles and outputs of wetlands



Wetland Function and Value Considerations

✓ Why are functions and values important?

- Foundation for evaluating the human and ecosystem services a wetland provides

✓ How do they relate to what is required under the law?

- Serve as grounds for wetland permit decision making

✓ How does the law address functions and values?

- 7 listed in administrative code
- Statutory permitting standard: “Project won’t result in significant adverse impacts to wetland functional values”

NR103.03 Wetland Water Quality Standards

- 1) Storm/flood water storage
- 2) Groundwater processes
- 3) Water quality protection
- 4) Fish and aquatic life habitat
- 5) Shoreline protection
- 6) Wildlife habitat
- 7) Human use values



Current DNR Policy Regarding Use of Wetlands for Storm Water Management

- ✓ Overarching approach to avoid utilizing waters of the state for targeted storm water management
 - MOA between Waterways and Stormwater Program
 - Avoid accelerated degradation of natural treatment features, more efficient than artificial systems
- ✓ Recent updates to wetland general permits include expanded eligibility for conveyance features and system expansion
 - Conveyance features include pipes, drains, swales, etc.
 - Expanded eligibility criteria included in GP11 (Municipal Discharges)
- ✓ Evaluate wetland impact proposals for treatment features under individual permit process
 - Treatment features include wet/dry ponds, retention/detention basins
 - Rarely authorize this type of activity
 - Applicant needs to demonstrate no practicable alternatives exist



Tools to Inform Policy Changes

- ✓ Annual research requests from DNR Waterways Program to DNR Monitoring Section to better quantify flood storage and water quality protection functions
 - Wetland monitoring team including these research goals in selecting Targeted Watershed Assessment sites
 - Updating current WI Wetland Rapid Assessment Methodology (WRAM) to increase objectivity and include cross walks to permit decisions and mitigation requirements

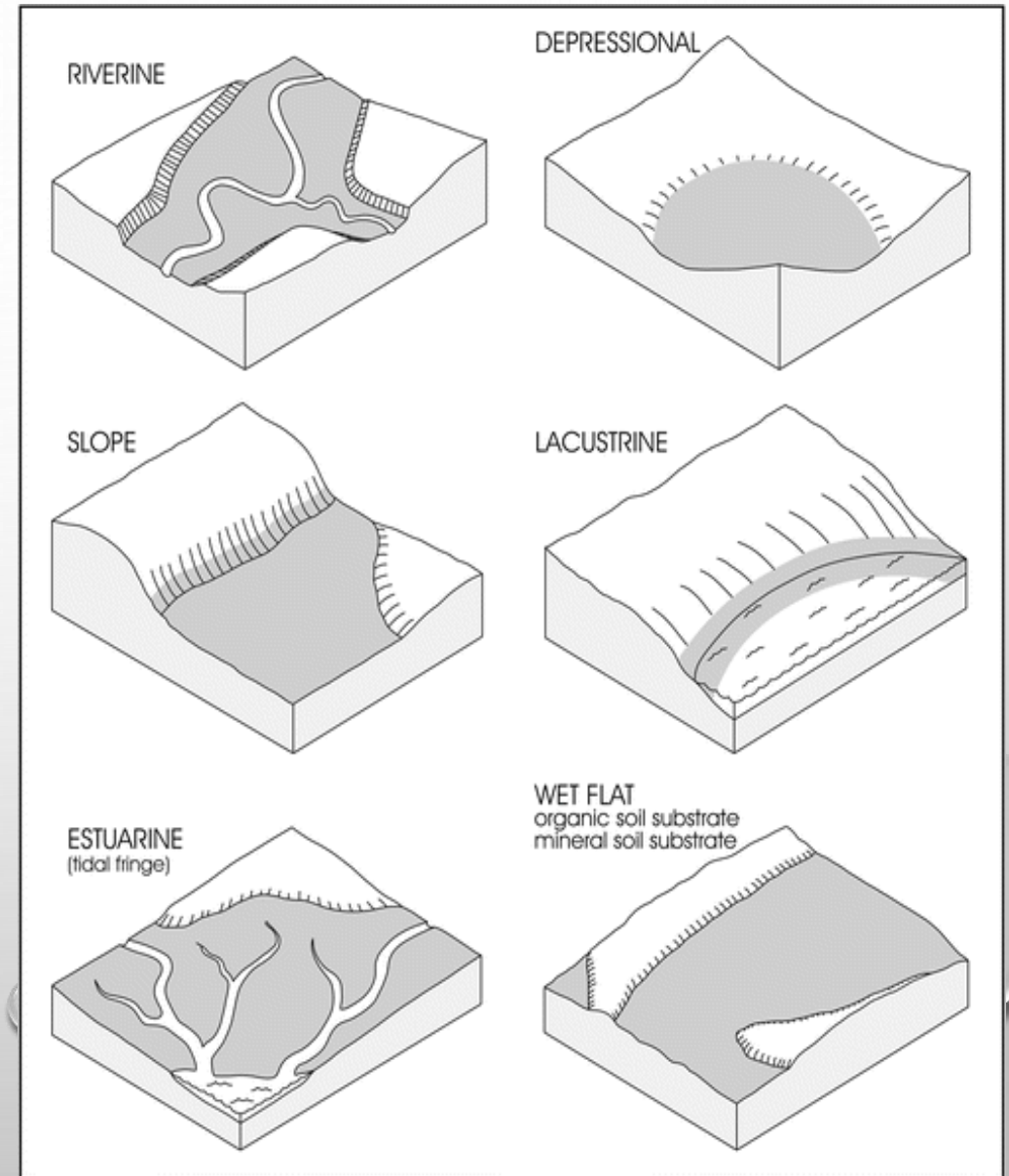
- ✓ Integrate newly developed tools into current WRAM
 - ✓ Rapid floristic quality assessment
 - ✓ Floristic quality benchmarks

- ✓ Coordination with DNR Stormwater Program
 - ✓ Deputy Bureau Director on Council's stormwater work group



Tools to Inform Policy Changes

- ✓ MOU with Minnesota to update WRAM to better quantify functions
- ✓ Incorporate hydrogeomorphic wetland classification system (HGM)
 - Relates to hydrologic connectivity
 - Foundation for WA and WV assessment models
- ✓ Pursuing 2021 EPA Wetland Development Grant, updated tool anticipated 2023



Four Framing Questions

- ✓ Use of wetlands to improve flood storage
- ✓ Use of wetlands to manage stormwater from development
- ✓ Use of stormwater management ponds as wetland enhancement
- ✓ Maintenance of stormwater ponds that are in or have wetland characteristics

How do we get the right amounts of the right kinds of wetlands in the right locations?

- ✓ Next Steps – Questions - Discussion

