Lakeshore – New Riprap Structure - General Permit Application Checklist

Determine eligibility for this general permit:

- Review the project site for water resources with the Storm Water, Waterway, and Wetland Permit Viewer, https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5/?viewer=SW4P.
- Review the eligibility criteria below. If the project does not meet all eligibility criteria, it does not qualify for this General Permit. Consider adjusting the project or applying for an Individual Permit instead.

To apply:

- Apply online at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/water.
- Include all required attachments. Each document must be less than 15 megabytes (MB), and the overall application must be less than 200 MB or it cannot be processed. The online system offers a help guide to reduce file sizes.
- Permit review times begin when all the required application materials are received by the Department. The Department may require additional information to evaluate the project.
- If you have questions regarding your application, use the “Ask for Help” support tool in ePermitting.
- Your signed submittal of this application checklist constitutes a request that the Department review and act for CWA 401 certification.

to starting any Prior work at the project site, you are responsible for all necessary:

- Local or county permits, such as shoreland zoning, floodplain zoning, etc.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits or approvals.
- Any other applicable federal permits or approvals.
- Tribal permits or approvals.
- Any other applicable state of Wisconsin permits or approvals.

Required application materials:

1. **Application form** - A complete, signed application form “Water Resources Application for Project Permits (WRAPP)” (Form 3500-053). The WRAPP is part of the ePermitting process and will be completed automatically with an online application.

2. **Application Checklist** - A signed permit application checklist certifying that the applicant agrees to meet the eligibility criteria and permit conditions established in WDNR-GP6-2026.

3. **Application fee** - Payment must be submitted through the ePermitting System as part of the application process. The fee for this general permit application is $350. Don’t forget to sign and submit the application after you complete the payment.

4. **Ownership documentation** - A copy of the deed, land contract, current property tax statement or receipt sufficient to verify ownership or legal authorization to proceed.

5. **Photographs**- Clearly depict the present on-the-ground conditions of the project areas. Color images are preferred and remember that snow cover or vegetation may obscure important details. If possible, have another person stand near the project area for size reference.

6. **Site maps** - Clearly illustrate the project location, perimeter, and surrounding area, including nearby water resources (e.g., lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands), major landmarks and roads. Use the DNR Storm Water, Waterway, and Wetland Permit Viewer or a similar app to show the project area, all proposed wetland impacts, and all waterway and wetland resources on one or more maps, including:

   - Recent aerial photos of the site and surrounding area (Imagery)
   - Topographic map including the site and surrounding area (Topo and LiDAR-based elevation and contours)
   - Wetland indicators and soils (wetland indicators)
   - Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) map (WI wetland inventory)
   - Waterways on the site (surface water)
   - Designated waterways, such as ASNRI, PRF, other PNW (designated waterways)
   - Regulated floodplain (dams and floodplains, FEMA NFHIL)

7. **Plans and specifications** - Clearly and accurately show the proposed project to scale. Plans must be detailed and represent a single and complete project. Please refer to examples when developing your plans and specifications.

   - Location, dimensions, and linear feet or area of the structures in the riparian zone.
   - Top, side and cross-section views for the structures.

8. **Narrative description- Describe your proposal on a separate page. Please include:**

   - What the project is, purpose of project, and need for the project.
   - How you intend to carry out the project, including methods, materials, and equipment.
   - The proposed construction schedule and sequence of work.
   - What temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be used.
   - The location of any disposal area for dredged or excavated materials.
   - For disturbances or fill, provide a description of type, composition, and quality of materials.
   - How you plan to avoid and minimize impacts to waterways.
   - Area (e.g., linear feet, cubic yards) impacted.

Additional considerations:

- **If Endangered or Threatened Resources are present** an Endangered Resources Review may be required during the application review. This review is not required to be submitted with the application, but results may impact the permit outcome. Visit http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/ERReview/PublicPortal.html to learn more.
- **If historical or cultural resources are present** the permit outcome may be affected.

Eligibility Criteria Application Checklist

Projects that do not meet all following criteria are not eligible for this general permit. If your project does not quality for this permit, you may consider applying for an individual permit.

A. Pre-screening Criteria:

1. The purpose of the project is to place a structure to stabilize eroding lake shorelines.
2. The structure must be placed and maintained only by the owner of adjacent riparian land, and the applicant or co-applicant is the riparian owner.
3. The project may be located in an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI) or Public Rights Feature (PRF) identified as defined in s. 30.01(1am), Wis. Stats., or ch. NR 1.06(5), Wis. Adm. Code.
4. Eligible projects may be located on an inland lake, a coastal (Great Lakes) shoreline, or on an Upper Mississippi River Pool lake (impoundment).

B. Standard Criteria:

1. The discharge will cause only minimal adverse environmental effects.
2. No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or State law or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of a species as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
3. The activity will not result in adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources and will comply with s. 44.40, Wis. Stats., as determined by the Department.
4. The project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, the applicant has certified that they are working to or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.
5. The applicant has certified that they are working to obtain a local shoreland zoning authorization for the project, or the local shoreland zoning requirements have been waived. If local zoning permits are not required, the project vegetation and bank disturbance is limited to the amount necessary for project placement and erosion control practices are adequate to prevent sedimentation to surface waters.
6. The activity shall not result in significant adverse impacts to fishery spawning habitat, including obstruction of fish passage, or adversely affect bird breeding areas or substantially disrupts the movement of species that normally migrate from open water to upland or vice versa (i.e., amphibians, reptiles, and mammals) as determined by the department.
7. The project does not have the potential to negatively impact a trout fishery or cold-water community as described in ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code, and the project is not proposed in an area with evidence of spring activity.
8. The project and construction must comply with water quality standards for surface waters in accordance with ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code, and standards for wetlands in accordance with ch. NR 103, Wis. Adm. Code.
9. The proposed activities will not cause significant adverse impacts to undisturbed wetland plant communities on-site or adjacent to the project area.
10. This project will not flood or impede drainage of the adjacent properties or upstream properties unless appropriate signed agreements have been made with affected landowners.

C. Construction Criteria:

1. Dredging up to but not to exceed 2 cubic yards may be associated with the placement of a structure, pursuant to s. 30.20(1g)(b)1, Wis. Stats.

2. The shoreline stabilization structure shall follow the natural contour of the shoreline.

3. Projects for stabilization of dam embankment shorelines are not eligible for this general permit.

4. The construction of the project will not result in removal of greater than 20% of the aerial coverage of natural bank vegetation, emergent vegetation, or floating vegetation. The 20% threshold does not include the footprint of the lakeshore stabilization structure.

5. Any grading, excavation, and land disturbance above the OHWM shall be confined to the minimum area necessary for the construction and may not exceed 10,000 square feet.

6. All equipment used for the project shall be designed and properly sized to minimize the amount of sediment that can escape into the water.

7. No waterward extension of the property is permitted. No soil or similar fill material may be placed in a wetland or below the OHWM of any navigable waterway.

8. Follow the most recent department approved washing and disinfection protocols and department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in ch. NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices can be found on the Department website at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “invasive species BMPs.”

9. Construction shall be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize erosion and siltation into surface waters and wetlands. All erosion and sediment control measures shall meet or exceed the applicable performance standards listed under subchapter III of Ch. NR 151, Wis. Adm. Code. Technical standards to implement the performance standards can be viewed at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “stormwater technical standard”.

10. All temporary erosion and sediment control measures used to accomplish this should be completely removed from the wetland and/or waterbody after the installation activity is complete and the site is stabilized.

11. Any excavated material may not be temporarily or permanently placed in a wetland, floodplain or below the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) of a navigable waterway and all excavated materials shall be disposed of in an upland location.

12. This permit does not authorize impacts to wetlands.

    - This does not preclude eligibility of exemptions or eligibility of other general or individual permits. Wetland regulatory information is available at dnr.wisconsin.gov and use keyword "wetland permit".

    - Any wetland disturbance associated with the structure placement is incidental to the structure, confined to the area within the stream channel being crossed or the immediate adjacent banks, and has been authorized and documented by a department wetland permit or exemption as required pursuant to s. 281.36, Wis. Stats.

13. To minimize adverse impacts on fish movement, fish spawning, and egg incubation periods, in-water work may not occur during any of the following time periods unless timing restrictions have been waived by the department:

a) September 15th through May 15th for all trout streams identified on DNR published maps. Note: To determine if a waterway is a trout stream, you may use the department trout stream maps at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov, keyword "trout stream maps."

b) September 15th through June 15th on all Great Lakes tributaries upstream to the first dam or barrier.

c) November 1st through June 15th for Lake Michigan waters surrounding Door County, including Green Bay and all harbors and bays.

d) September 15th through July 1st for Lake Superior waters surrounding Douglas County, including St. Louis River and all harbors and bays.

e) March 1st through June 15th for all other waters.

Note: The local Department Fisheries Biologist may waive or modify timing restrictions in writing. To request a waiver or modification of fish spawning timing restrictions, include a request in the narrative of your permit application.

14. The applicant shall avoid operating equipment below the OHWM. If required for project installation, the applicant must consult with the Department and shall follow the best management practices identified below to minimize adverse resource impacts:

    i. Temporary timber matting is used to protect the lake or stream bed

    ii. Movement on the lake or stream bed is kept to a minimum

    iii. Equipment is kept on lake or stream bed for as little time as needed to complete the project and must be removed when not in use;

    iv. Properly installed and maintained silt curtains and/or turbidity barriers are used around the perimeter of the project;

    v. Pre-inspection of vehicles/equipment is done for all operating days to avoid leaks;

    vi. Biodegradable hydraulic and engine oils are used OR a spill containment kit is on site in case of spill.

D. Criteria for All New Vegetated Riprap Structures:

1. A project located on a coastal (Great Lakes) shoreline is eligible as an outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.
2. For coastal projects, the site is located on a coastal shoreline "bank". "Bluff" shorelines are not eligible for the general permit.
    i. "Bank" means a soil slope rising less than 10 feet above the bed of a waterway as measured from the bank toe.
    ii. "Bluff" means the edge and face of land closest to a body of water, generally higher than 10ft as measured from the bank toe, and high enough to contain multiple layers of soil or groundwater seepage.
3. Riprap or other vegetated armoring structures shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings. Note: Erosion control treatments may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.
4. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.
5. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.
6. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

E. Criteria specific for inland lake shoreline projects

1. New vegetated riprap may not exceed 200 linear feet of shoreline.
2. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.
3. The project site is a moderate or high energy site (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool found online at the department's website https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/shoreline/erosioncalculator.html), or a low energy site where the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year and a biological erosion control structure was previously placed according to the standards described in Section 1.B.a. above. The time between separate bank-edge recession measurements shall equal or exceed 3 months during the open-water season. The applicant will satisfy the "equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year" requirement by demonstrating that the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 1.5 inches per 3 months during the open-water season.
4. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter.
5. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the Erosion Intensity (EI) Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the specific waterbodies listed below, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The waterbodies listed below are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation. These waterbodies include:

    i. Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages (Adams and Juneau counties)
    ii. Lake Koshkonong (Dane, Jefferson, and Rock counties)
    iii. Beaver Dam Lake, Fox Lake, and Lake Sinissippi (Dodge County)
    iv. Lake Puckaway (Green Lake County)
    v. Lake Nokomis - Rice River reservoir (Lincoln and Oneida counties)
    vi. Big Eau Pleine reservoir (Marathon County)
    vii. Lake DuBay (Marathon and Portage counties)
    viii. Rainbow and Willow Flowages (Oneida County)
    ix. Lake Poygan (Winnebago and Waushara counties)
    x. Lake Winneconne and Lake Butte des Morts (Winnebago County)
    xi. Lake Winnebago (Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties)

F. Criteria specific for Great Lakes coastal shoreline projects

1. Vegetated riprap may not exceed 300 linear feet of shoreline.
2. The toe of the riprap does not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM unless designed and stamped by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin.
3. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 48 inches in diameter and be free of fines.
4. For bluff shorelines, the riprap does not reach an elevation higher than 36 inches above the OHWM, unless designed and stamped by a coastal Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin. If a higher elevation is proposed, the project must be based upon wave height calculations and designed and stamped by a Professional Engineer in the state of Wisconsin.

G. Criteria specific for Great Lakes stabilization structures in response to erosion event

1. Vegetated riprap may not exceed 300 linear feet of shoreline.

2. The project is proposing new armoring of natural and unarmored shorelines, and the project is in response to a recent storm or high-water event within the past 12 months, or infrastructure (including either residences, wells, or sanitary systems) is located within 50ft of an active erosion line.

   Note: A high-water event qualifies when the Governor declares a State of Emergency.

   Note: An active erosion line is the area of currently eroding bank typically found at the top of the bank or bluff and creates a bank or bluff face that is disturbed and unvegetated.

3. The riprap does not reach an elevation higher than 36 inches above the OHWM. If a higher elevation is proposed, the project must be based upon wave height calculations and designed and stamped by a Professional Engineer in the state of Wisconsin.

4. The toe of the riprap does not extend more than 10 feet waterward of the OHWM unless designed and stamped by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin.

5. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 48 inches in diameter and be free of fines.

   Note: If the design is stamped by a Professional Engineer licensed in the state of Wisconsin, the proposed slope of the final erosion control structure may be steeper than 1.5 foot horizontal to 1 foot vertical (1.5'H:1'V), or the shallower than 2.5 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical (2.5'H:1'V).

H. Criteria specific for Upper Mississippi River – Pool Lakes shoreline projects

1. Riprap or vegetated armoring may not exceed 200 linear feet of shoreline along a Mississippi River pool impoundment.

2. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

3. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter.

4. The project site is a moderate or high energy site (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool found online at the department's website https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waterways/shoreline/erosioncalculator.html), or a low energy site where the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year and a biological erosion control structure was previously placed according to the standards described in Section 1.B.a. above. The time between separate bank-edge recession measurements shall equal or exceed 3 months during the open-water season. The applicant will satisfy the "equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year" requirement by demonstrating that the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 1.5 inches per 3 months during the open-water season.

5. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool, or by the EI Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule.

I. Certifications:

☐ By checking this box, I certify that the proposed project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is in a regulated floodplain, I am obtaining or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.

☐ I certify that I have read and understand all project eligibility criteria and agree to design and construct my project in accordance with all listed eligibility criteria found in this checklist. In addition, I agree to meet all conditions required for structure placement as identified in the above-mentioned eligibility criteria.

This form may be signed electronically, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Chapter 137. By checking the electronic signature box and typing your name, you are expressing intent to sign this form and certifying that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete, to the best of your knowledge and belief. If you decline to sign this form electronically, you must physically sign this form and all other forms required for your project.

_____ _____

Signature Date signed