

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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January 25, 2021

Ms. Lisa Helmuth
Water Resources Management Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street – GEF2
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Ms. Helmuth:

We are providing to you a work plan for the Commission's continuing water quality management planning program as it is proposed to be conducted cooperatively with the Department during calendar year 2021. The work descriptions and tables are being provided in the same format as developed in cooperation with the Department staff for work programs in previous years. The work descriptions and work tables are also being submitted electronically to the Department SWIMS database, as is the agreed-upon procedure. In addition, during 2020, all requests for payments, work status reports, sewer service area amendments, and second edition, or beyond, sewer service area plans will be submitted to the SWIMS database.

Based on information provided by the Department staff, we have developed a work program supporting a funding request of \$165,000. We appreciate the Department's efforts to provide this level of funding.

It is requested that you review the proposed 2021 work program and that, if needed, a meeting be scheduled to discuss the program as soon as possible. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Laura K. Herrick of the Commission staff directly at (262) 953-3224, or lherrick@sewrpc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Muhs".

Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Tim Asplund, Section Chief, WDNR-Madison (w/enclosures)
Mr. Ryan Raab, Administrative Policy Coordinator, WDNR-Madison (provided electronically)
Mr. Adrian Stocks, Director, Water Quality Bureau, WDNR-Madison (w/enclosures)

300-1000: Regional Water Quality Management Plan Coordination and Implementation Activities

Objective	To assist local and State-designated management agencies in developing procedures and guidelines and in completing second-level planning studies needed to implement point source and nonpoint source pollution abatement measures recommended in the adopted regional water quality management plan; and to effect needed intergovernmental cooperation in plan implementation.
Previous Years' Work/Status	<p>Since adoption of the regional water quality management plan in 1979, the Commission staff has worked with a large number and variety of designated management (plan implementation) agencies in a number of different ways to implement the plan. An update and status report on that plan was completed in 1995 and an update for the greater Milwaukee watersheds (Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, Milwaukee, and Root Rivers, Oak Creek, Lake Michigan direct drainage area, Milwaukee Harbor estuary, and the nearshore Lake Michigan area) was completed in 2007 and printed and distributed to designated management agencies in 2008.</p> <p>This project includes working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the county land and water conservation departments, and designated management agencies, in the preparation and implementation of detailed nonpoint source pollution abatement plans; working with lake protection and rehabilitation districts and lake associations in preparing and implementing detailed lake management plans; working with wastewater treatment plant operators and counties in implementing the plan recommendations for wastewater treatment plants and attendant sewer service areas; and working with county land and water conservation and planning departments to carry out county land and water resource management and stormwater management planning.</p> <p>In 2020, the Commission staff completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power's Lake Opinion Survey for Power's Lake Management District, Kenosha County• Aquatic plant management plan for Lauderdale Lakes, Walworth County• Lake management plan for Pewaukee Lake, Waukesha County <p>In 2020, the Commission staff continued to serve on, and provide technical support to, several committees and subcommittees of the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (SWWT) as that organization pursues implementation of the recommendations of the regional water quality management plan update for the greater Milwaukee watersheds. The Commission staff served on the SWWT Board of Directors and the Science and Policy Committees.</p>
Work Description	<p>During 2021, it is proposed that the Commission maintain a staff capability designed to respond to a variety of requests for assistance in implementing the regional water quality management plan. For the most part, these activities will be conducted in direct response to requests submitted by designated management agencies. Under this project, Commission staff would attend meetings and prepare reports relating to the regional water quality management plan and its implementation recommendations. Such meetings and reports can be expected to involve all of the elements of the adopted regional water quality management plan. This project will include assisting local communities in resolving water quality problems through effective stormwater management planning and analysis integrating nonpoint source pollution abatement measures. This project will also include the provision of all sewerage system facility planning assistance and review, as well as the preparation of amendments to the regional water quality management plan. Such assistance typically includes provision of data, review of plans, and attendance at meetings.</p> <p>In 2021, the Commission staff will (also see 300-4000):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to serve in an advisory role relative to implementation of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload and load allocations developed for the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, and Milwaukee River watersheds and the Milwaukee Harbor estuary.• Continue technical assistance to the WDNR staff in redefining beneficial use impairments within the Milwaukee River basin area of concern (AOC) with the ultimate goal of delisting the AOC <p>The WDNR and Commission staffs will coordinate as necessary to explore ways that WDNR resource managers can more effectively convey basin priorities to local governments to help improve resource management and protection of high priority resources areas as county land and water plans and local comprehensive plans are developed and implemented.</p>

Activities continued on next page.

Work Description (continued)	<p>The project will also include assistance to the WDNR, county land conservation departments, and local units of government in preparing and review of detailed nonpoint source pollution abatement plans and refinements to county land and water resource management plans, and in developing data for statewide water quality and watershed management programs. It is anticipated that such assistance and data may include the provision of available land use and water quality and pollutant loading data; watershed characteristics and areas; wetland and environmental corridor evaluation reports; field survey records; and other support data available from related Commission work programs.</p> <p>The work project will include the preparation of inventory and analysis reports to assist lake districts and organizations in the conduct of lake use and management planning activities. This work program will include the preparation of project descriptions for lake planning programs and public informational and educational materials attendant to implementation of the regional water quality management plan. Under this work program, the Commission staff will continue to work with the WDNR and statewide lake organizations to develop refined lake management programs.</p> <p>In 2021, the following lake and river plans are anticipated to be completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake protection plan for Silver Lake, Washington County • Oconomowoc River Nutrient and Sediment Study, Washington and Waukesha Counties • Lake management plan for Nagawicka Lake, Waukesha County • North Lake Water Quality and Wave Impact Feasibility report for North Lake Management District, Waukesha County • Twin Lakes Management Plan, Kenosha County • School Section Lake aquatic plant management plan, Waukesha County <p>This element will also include Commission participation as a committee member on water quality- and habitat-related WDNR teams, county land and water resources management planning committees, and other water quality-related committees. This element will include assistance to the WDNR in developing additional data layers for watershed maps in Southeastern Wisconsin and maintenance and refinement of the sewer service area component of the SEWRPC website. In addition, the Commission staff will work with the WDNR staff on data coordination with the online WDNR databases and interactive web mapping services. Where applicable, the Commission staff will contribute information for the WDNR interactive web mapping databases related to the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory, sanitary sewer service area boundaries, and water quality.</p> <p>This work project will include assistance to local units of government in developing the quality aspects of local stormwater management and stream rehabilitation plans. As examples, the Commission anticipates 1) technical assistance to counties in implementing the water quality management elements of the county land and water resource management plans, 2) assistance to local units of government through preparation of watershed restoration or protection plans, and 3) possible assistance to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in preparing stream rehabilitation plans for selected highway projects.</p> <p>Finally, this work project will include a process designed to consider water quality-related issues of importance to the planning program. This process may involve one interagency meeting between the WDNR and SEWRPC staffs.</p>
End Products	<p>It is anticipated that the end products under this work project will be many and varied. Anticipated work products may be expected to include about two letter reports, staff memorandums, or community assistance reports; assistance to the WDNR and county land conservation departments for water quality and watershed planning activities to consist of meeting attendance and materials review; lake management planning assistance to 35 lake districts and organizations; 30 public informational and educational presentations or reports; attendance at about 150 meetings; coordination of meetings and activities with the WDNR; and other miscellaneous plan implementation activities. The sewer service area component of the SEWRPC website will be maintained and refined.</p>
Subsequent Years' Work	<p>This work effort is continuing with products being prepared over the course of the year and is expected to be continued in 2022.</p>

300-2000: Sanitary Sewer Extension Reviews and Assistance

Objective	To review, comment on, and provide assistance in the preparation of proposals to construct public and private sanitary sewer extensions and major onsite sewage disposal systems, relating such reviews to the adopted regional water quality management plan. Such comments and assistance are provided in response to letters submitted by local units of government, consulting engineers, architects, plumbers, and others, and are forwarded to the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce.
Previous Years' Work/Status	This is an ongoing project. During the year 2020, the Commission staff provided review comments attendant to 51 proposed public sewer extensions and 54 proposed private main sewers and building sewer extensions, all as required under Sections NR 110.08(4) and SPS 382.20(4) of the <i>Wisconsin Administrative Code</i> . Assistance was also provided to local units of government and private land developers in the preliminary evaluation of land use development proposals. Such preliminary evaluation is particularly important since it makes the subsequent formal review of proposed sewer extensions routine. Letter reports and field staking of environmentally sensitive areas were provided for 14 sewer extension projects.
Work Description	During 2021, it is expected that about 70 proposals for public sanitary sewer extensions and about 80 proposals for private and building sewers will be reviewed. Numerous meetings will be held and letters written concerning the relationship of land development proposals to the adopted regional water quality management plan. Such review letters will indicate whether or not a land development proposal would encroach upon environmentally sensitive lands and whether or not such a proposal lies within an approved sanitary sewer service area. This work activity is expected to require about 150 meetings, telephone conversations, or electronic mail messages with people who contact the Commission staff regarding review of environmentally sensitive land mapping for land parcels being considered for sewer service. Letter reports and field staking of environmentally sensitive areas may be expected to be provided for about 40 sewer extension projects as part of the review or to assist in preparation of the sewer extension submitted. Each of these field staking projects will involve a written report as well as an in-field inspection and an in-field layout of the environmentally sensitive area.
End Products	Approximately 150 letter reports relating to public and private sewer extensions and about 40 letter reports documenting in-field layouts of environmentally sensitive areas. Approximately 150 meetings, telephone conversations, or electronic mail messages to review environmentally sensitive land information on a site-specific basis.
Subsequent Years' Work	The work effort is anticipated to continue with reviews and field surveys being conducted in 2022.

300-3000: Sanitary Sewer Service Area Plan Refinements

Objective	To refine and detail sanitary sewer service areas and environmentally sensitive lands as initially delineated in the 1979 regional water quality management plan.
Previous Years' Work/Status	When the Commission adopted the regional water quality management plan in 1979, it was envisioned that a multi-year process would be undertaken to refine and detail the sanitary sewer service areas delineated in that plan in order to meet the requirements of Chapter NR 121 of the <i>Wisconsin Administrative Code</i> . This would involve working with the designated management agencies in efforts that would seek to incorporate local, as well as areawide, planning objectives into the sewer service area planning process. By the end of 2020, there were a total of 75 individual refined and detailed sewer service areas in Southeastern Wisconsin. During 2020, there was one new sewer service area plan, and no revisions to previously prepared plans were completed.
Work Description	<p>The Commission will continue to work during the year 2021 toward completing the refinement process for all sanitary sewer service areas. This process involves working with the designated management agencies and other affected local units of government in revising the sewer service areas, incorporating into those revisions refined delineations of primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. In addition, where adequate data exist, floodplains outside of the environmental corridor lands will be delineated. Field evaluations and delineation of environmentally sensitive areas will be conducted for sites proposed to be included within the sewer service areas. Each refinement process is documented in a community assistance planning report which is presented to local governmental officials for review. One or more public hearings are held to present the final plans and obtain public reaction. The reports are then printed, adopted by the designated management agencies, adopted by the Commission as amendments to the regional water quality management plan, and forwarded by the Commission to the WDNR as water quality plan amendments.</p> <p>During 2021, it is anticipated that four requests for amendments to previously prepared sewer service area plans will be received and acted upon. It is estimated that 25 special letter reports documenting environmental corridor field evaluations will be prepared to support specific requests for sewer service area refinements. Environmental impact assessment data will be provided where and as needed for sewer service area amendments. Procedures for plan amendments will continue to be refined in conjunction with the WDNR staff in order to meet the requirements of Chapter NR 121 of the <i>Wisconsin Administrative Code</i>. A map of the sewer service areas and map designation as to the status of their refinement will be updated. Up-to-date digital files of the sewer service area boundaries will be maintained. The sewer service area program, including mapping, will be maintained and refined as an integral component of the SEWRPC website and linked to the WDNR website.</p>
End Products	Community assistance planning reports and plan amendment reports documenting the revised sanitary sewer service area (one anticipated) and amendments to sanitary sewer service areas (four anticipated) and environmentally sensitive lands, and an estimated 25 special letter reports and field evaluations to support specific sewer service area amendment requests. Data needed to complete WDNR environmental assessment forms as needed. An updated map in digital format indicating the sewer service areas and their refinement status for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region with WDNR geographic management unit boundary designations. Maintenance and refinement of a sewer service area component will be an integral component of the SEWRPC website.
Subsequent Years' Work	This work effort is anticipated to continue with sewer service area plans and refinements being conducted over the course of the year.

300-4000: Regional Water Quality Management Plan Updating and Extension—Major Subregional Amendments

Objective	To update and extend the land use-, point source-, nonpoint source-, and surface-water-related elements of the regional water quality management plan. The plan updating process is intended to be a continuing process. As such, this work project will focus on major amendments to the plan which generally involve subregional considerations.
Previous Years' Work/Status	The original regional water quality management plan was completed in 1979. Under the 1994-1995 water quality planning program, a report providing an update of and status report on the regional water quality management plan was completed. In 2008, the regional water quality management plan update (RWQMPU) for the greater Milwaukee watersheds (the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, Milwaukee, and Root River watersheds; the Oak Creek watershed; the Lake Michigan direct drainage area; and the nearshore Lake Michigan area) was printed as a SEWRPC planning report and distributed to designated management agencies (DMAs), requesting endorsement of the plan by those agencies. In 2009, a SEWRPC technical report on water quality conditions and sources of pollution in the greater Milwaukee watersheds, which is a companion to the RWQMPU report, was published and distributed to DMAs and other interested parties. In 2020, the Commission continued its participation as a member of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Technical Advisory Team, which met regularly to consider issues related to various elements of the MMSD facilities plan.
Work Description	<p>During 2021, the Commission staff will continue to provide input into the ongoing inter-governmental process relating to implementation of major plan amendments for sewerage facilities and sewer service areas as the need arises. This project will also include activities related to implementing the regional water quality management plan update for the greater Milwaukee watersheds.</p> <p>During 2021, work will be completed on the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. The Plan will build from the 2007 SEWRPC regional water quality management plan update for the greater Milwaukee watersheds (SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50), providing specific, targeted recommendations to address 1) improvements in water quality, 2) mitigation of streambank erosion, 3) recreational access to Oak Creek and perhaps some of its tributaries, 4) improvement of the fishery, and 5) mitigation of fragmentation of aquatic and terrestrial habitat.</p>
End Products	Plan amendments and letter reports as appropriate.
Subsequent Years' Work	The Commission staff will continue to provide input into intergovernmental processes related to major plan amendments regarding sewerage facilities and sewer service areas as the need arises.

300-5000: Regional Water Quality Management Plan Updating and Extension—Groundwater Management Studies

Objective	To develop groundwater resources-related data and analyses for use in regional land use and water quality management planning over a multi-year period.
Previous Years' Work/Status	Prior to 2020, work was completed on groundwater resources inventories, including pollution potential mapping for the Region. The final report incorporating all inventories, mapping, and analyses and a prospectus describing a regional groundwater aquifer modeling program for Southeastern Wisconsin were published. In addition, work was completed on a regional groundwater aquifer model development. The model development was carried out under an interagency agreement by the Commission, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey staffs. The work was overseen by the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee on Groundwater Resources. Work was also completed on a prospectus describing a regional water supply plan for Southeastern Wisconsin and on applying the regional aquifer simulation model to simulation analyses associated with groundwater withdrawals in the vicinity of the Village of Eagle. A regional water supply plan for Southeastern Wisconsin was published in December 2010.
Work Description	During 2021, on an as-needed basis, the Commission staff will continue groundwater quantity and quality protection planning activities in support of the regional water supply, water quality, and land use planning programs.
End Products	The Commission will offer technical assistance to local units of government on matters related to groundwater management. This assistance will be documented in letter reports, as appropriate.
Subsequent Years' Work	The work effort is anticipated to continue.

Table 1
Major Work Elements and Costs for Continuing Water Quality Management
Planning Program in Southeastern Wisconsin—Calendar Year 2021

Proposed Work Projects		SEWRPC	Initial Federal Pass-Through and WDNR	Service Agreements	Total
Plan Implementation and Refinement Projects					
300-1000	Water Quality Plan Coordination and Implementation Activities	\$439,471	\$80,000	\$187,460 ^a	\$706,931
300-2000	Sanitary Sewer Extension Water Quality Plan Review	125,000	50,000	--	175,000
300-3000	Sanitary Sewer Service Area Water Quality Plan Refinements	100,000	25,000	--	125,000
Subtotal		\$664,471	\$155,000	\$187,460	\$1,006,931
Plan Updating and Extension Projects					
300-4000	Regional Water Quality Management Plan—Major Subregional Amendments	\$100,000	\$5,000	\$25,000 ^b	\$130,000
300-5000	Regional Water Quality Management Plan—Groundwater Element	15,000	5,000	--	20,000
Subtotal		\$115,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$150,000
Total		\$779,471	\$165,000	\$212,460	\$1,156,931

^a Includes lake and stream management plans and projects

^b Includes the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan

Source: SEWRPC

Table 2

Schedule of Major Work Products for the Continuing Water Quality Management Planning Program for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2021

Work Projects and Total Staff Effort ^a	Project Output	Approximate Cost ^a (\$)	Scheduled Completion Date in 2021 (number of products)				Comments
					September	December	
			March 31	June 30	30	31	
Water Quality Plan Implementation and Refinement Projects							
300-1000 Water Quality Management Plan Coordination and Extension of Implementation Activities Staff Effort Equals 11,350 hours	1. Two letter reports or staff memoranda relating to point source and nonpoint source pollution abatement actions, such as sewerage system facility planning and site-specific nonpoint source control measures.	42,400	--	(1)	--	(1)	This work effort is necessary to respond to and assist the various water quality designated management agencies in implementing the recommended regional water management plan elements. The work products are approximate, since the requests and need for assistance is largely initiated by the implementing designated management agencies
	2. Assistance and data provision to WDNR, County Land and Water Conservation Committees, and other designated management agencies for watershed and other water quality-related WDNR advisory committees, including Statewide activities	43,200	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	3. Assistance to 35 lake organizations or districts and WDNR in general lake management activities	84,800	(9)	(9)	(9)	(8)	
	• Grant assistance and project description for lake water quality		(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	• Meetings and data provision		(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	• Lake organization and WDNR and WLA meetings and assistance		(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	• Project review and scope of work planning assistance		(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	4. Thirty public education/information reports or presentations	106,400	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	
	5. WDNR project coordination and work program development	8,000	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	6. 150 meetings preparation, attendance, and follow-up	162,600	(35)	(40)	(40)	(35)	
	7. Special subwatershed or County land and water management plan assistance	5,000	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	8. Miscellaneous plan implementation activities ^b	254,531	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	
	Subtotal	706,931	--	--	--	--	--

Table continued on next page.

Table 2 (Continued)

Work Projects and Total Staff Effort ^a	Project Output	Approximate Cost ^b (\$)	Scheduled Completion Date in 2021 (number of products)				Comments	
			March 31	June 30	September	December		
					30	31		
Water Quality Plan Implementation and Refinement Projects (continued)								
300-2000 Sanitary Sewer Extension Reviews and Assistance Staff Effort Equals 2,790 hours	1. 150 letter reports on project reviews 2. Forty special letter reports with in-field surveys 3. Assistance in providing information to be used to design development proposals in conformance with the regional water quality management plan	103,000 65,000 7,000	(40) (5) (X)	(35) (15) (X)	(35) (15) (X)	(40) (5) (X)	This work element is required to assist local communities in relating land development activities to the regional water quality management plan as required by Sections NR 110.8(4) and Comm 82.20(4) of the <i>Wisconsin Administrative Code</i>	
Subtotal		175,000	--	--	--	--		
300-3000 Sanitary Sewer Service Area Plan Refinements Staff Effort Equals 2,040 hours	1. One sewer service area plan 2. Four amendments to previous plans 3. 25 special letter reports and field evaluations for specific sewer service area amendment requests 4. Provision of data for WDNR environmental assessments as needed 5. Miscellaneous activities for sewer service area planning • Letter reports • Meetings with citizens or officials 6. Continue to refine procedures for environmental corridor recommendations consistent with WDNR code and SEWRPC planning standards • Intergovernmental meetings • Staff memorandum • Site-specific demonstration mapping	40,000 34,000 44,000 2,000 3,000 2,000	-- -- (6) (X) (X) (X)	-- -- (3) (6) (X) (X)	-- -- (7) (X) (X) (X)	-- (1) (6) (X) (X) (X)		This work element is intended to respond to designated management agency requests for assistance in defining sewer service areas and environmentally sensitive areas. Thus, the number and type of work products is variable, since the need for assistance is largely initiated by the implementing designated management agency, depending on agency requests Timing of work products and meeting to be mutually developed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC staffs
Subtotal		125,000	--	--	--	--		
Plan Implementation and Refinement Total		1,006,931	--	--	--	--		
Water Quality Plan Updating and Extension								
300-4000 Regional Water Quality Plan Major Subregional Plan Amendments Staff Effort Equals 2,056 hours	1. Continue support for subregional plan amendment activities. Continue implementing the regional water quality management plan update for the greater Milwaukee watersheds. Complete Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. ^c	130,000	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	--	
Subtotal		130,000	--	--	--	--	--	

Table continued on next page.

Table 2 (Continued)

Work Projects and Total Staff Effort ^a	Project Output	Approximate Cost ^a (\$)	Scheduled Completion Date in 2021 (number of products)				Comments
			March 31	June 30	September	December	
					30	31	
300-5000 Regional Water Quality Plan— Groundwater Management Studies Staff Effort Equals 370 hours	1. Miscellaneous activities	20,000	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	This project relates to implementation activities associated with the groundwater quality management elements of the regional water quality management plan update and the regional water supply plan and to specific groundwater quality-related evaluations within the Region
	Subtotal	20,000	--	--	--	--	--
	Plan Updating and Extension Total	150,000	--	--	--	--	--
	Program Total	1,156,931	--	--	--	--	--

^a Work effort and costs, as well as the number of outputs, are dependent upon local designated management agencies needs and upon community and agency review, revision, and participation, including intergovernmental and public meetings and involvement. Thus, work efforts involved and number of project outputs are estimates which will vary depending upon complexity of each project.

^b Includes \$187,460 for lake and streams management plans and projects (all through service agreements).

^c Includes \$25,000 for the Oak Creek Watershed Restoration Plan (through service agreements).

Source: SEWRPC