



May 27, 2025

DNR Project No. WC0016

Mr. Chris Straight, Senior Planner  
West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
800 Wisconsin Street, Suite D2-401, Mail Box 9  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-3606

*Subject: WCWRPC Sewer Service Area Plan Amendment "Whitetail Woods" - City of Altoona*

Dear Mr. Straight:

On April 16, 2025, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received the proposed Sanitary Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plan Amendment from the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC), on behalf of the City of Altoona. The purpose of the amendment is for the removal (filling) of a 0.09-acre wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) located within the urban sewer service area boundary to allow for full use of a new 60.34-acre residential development named Whitetail Woods.

Amendment Area

The SSA Plan Amendment would include the filling and removal of 0.09 acres of delineated wetland ESA located within a proposed 60.34-acre residential development project. The wetland to be removed is not currently utilized for public use and a nonfederal wetland exemption letter provided by the DNR states it is not a rare or high-quality wetland.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

There are two wetland ESAs, and a steep slope ESA located within the 60.34-acre project boundary. Wetland A (about 0.42 acres) will remain dedicated to the city for public use and be protected with a 75-foot buffer. It is stated the filling/removal of wetland B (about 0.09 acres) will not result in significant water quality impacts due to its small size and isolation with no inlet or outlet. The steep slope ESA will be protected from erosion and efforts will be made to avoid encroaching on the slope. Stormwater, sediment control, and other best management practices, as described in the amendment documentation shall be implemented, and the recommendations should also be implemented to further protect water quality.

Local Review & Public Involvement

On March 24, 2025, WCWRPC received a request from Everyday Surveying & Engineering for a 208-conformance review for a new residential development in the City of Altoona. The City Council approved the filling of the wetland on August 22, 2024. The City of Altoona and Everyday Surveying & Engineering received a Nonfederal Wetland Exemption Determination letter from the WDNR on May 9, 2024, for the wetland area to be filled. An amendment request was received from the City of Altoona on April 15, 2025, for WCWRPC's approval. On April 16, 2025, WCWRPC submitted their staff report to the DNR recommending approval of the



amendment request for the removal (filling) of a wetland within the Whitetail Woods project area.

#### Administrative Decision

The Department finds the proposed amendment is consistent with adopted policies and procedures of the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan under ch. NR 121, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 283.83, Wis. Stats., and is hereby approved. All necessary Federal, State, or Local permits related to the removal of the 0.09-acre wetland should be obtained prior to issuance of a 208-conformance letter for the proposed project.

#### Statewide AWQM Plan Amendment

This amendment is a formal amendment to the State's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan and the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Area Plan, per ch. NR 121, Wis. Adm. Code. The Altoona Sanitary SSA Amendment will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act of 1987 (Public Law 92-500 as amended by Public Law 95-217) and outlined in the code of federal regulations, 40 CFR Part 35. This review is an integrated analysis action under s. NR 150.20(2)(a)3., Wis. Adm. Code. By means of this review, the department has complied with ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats. The approval of this SSA amendment does not constitute approval of any other required local, state, or federal permit for sewer construction or associated land development activities.

#### Appeal Rights:

Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., a party has 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the department, to file a petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent. To request a contested case hearing pursuant to s. 227.42, Wis. Stats., a party has 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with s. NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with s. NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

**State of Wisconsin**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
101 S. Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor

Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



Sincerely,

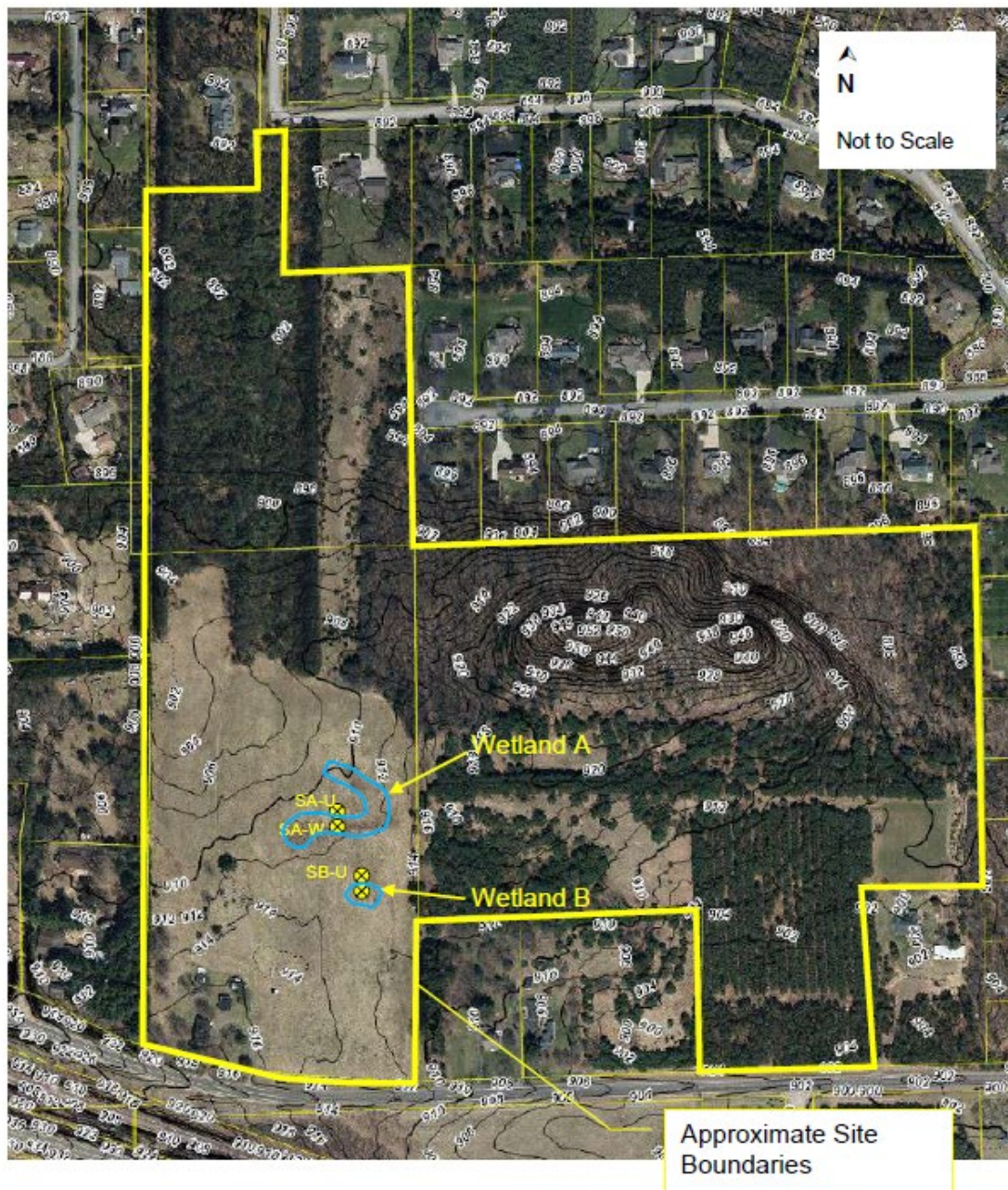
*Timothy R Asplund*

Timothy R. Asplund  
Monitoring Section Manager  
Bureau of Water Quality

Amy M. Garbe, P.E.  
Acting Wastewater Section Manager  
Bureau of Water Quality

CC:

Alexa Mydlach – Water Resources Management Specialist, DNR Madison  
Anna Mares – Water Resources Basin Supervisor, DNR Eau Claire  
Geisa Thielen – Wastewater Basin Supervisor, DNR Eau Claire



**Figure 3. Aerial Photo With  
Approximate Wetland Boundaries**  
Whitetail Woods, Grip Development  
City of Altoona/Washington Twp, Wisconsin

Project No. 2023-026