

## **QUARTERLY REPORT – 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2025**

### **WDNR – WCWRPC AID AGREEMENT For the update of the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire Urban Sewer Service Area (SSA) Plan**

#### **Project Goals**

Update the SSA Plan for the Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire Urban Area, which includes:

- Applicable content and plan structure described within NR 121.04 and NR 121.055, including brief discussion of water quality standards/impairments and references to other related water quality management plans and policies.
- Incorporate environmental justice and climate resiliency implications & considerations.
- Update 20-year forecasts and facility plan data.
- Update the 20-year SSA Plan boundary.
- Fine-tune environmentally sensitive area (ESA) definitions, as needed.
- Review and update SSA Plan goals, policies, and procedures, including future related applications, amendment processes, tracking/reporting, and plan monitoring.
- Educate on SSA Plan purpose and policy compliance.

#### **Progress this Quarter (4/1/25 – 6/30/25)**

- Conducted meeting #5 with Water Quality Management Technical Advisory Committee (WQM-TAC), which focused on reviewing the environmental sensitive area survey results and fine-tuning the Plan's goals, objectives, and policies. Data related to wastewater and stormwater facilities were also reviewed.
- Webpage for plan update information maintained.
- WCWRPC continued with data collection and the development of the SSA Plan sections, including follow-up with sewer municipalities for facility plan, permit, and capacity information.
- Land use and growth projections continued to be on hold as we wait for Wisconsin DOT to incorporate recently updated State population projections into traffic analysis zones (TAZs) for the SSA Plan analysis. This is now expected to be completed by the end of July 2025. WDNR has granted an extension on this project until the end of 2025 to allow time for WDOT's work.

## Activities Planned for Next Quarter

Timeline below:

### **Chippewa Falls-Eau Claire SSA Plan Update Timeline (as of 7/23/25)**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Project Initiation</b> – agreements, flyer, press release, begin data collection, activate committee, develop draft Study Area  | May-July 2024      |
| <b>WQM-TAC (Steering Committee) Meeting #1</b> – Project overview, facility plans/capacities, set planning area  | July 22, 2024      |
| <b>MPO Policy Council Meeting – Approve SSA Study Area</b>   | August 28, 2024    |
| <b>WQM-TAC Meeting #2 - Conversation with WDNR Staff</b>   | October 17, 2024   |
| <b>WDOA Population Projections released</b>  | Late Dec. 2024     |
| <b>WQM-TAC Meeting #3</b> – Discuss initial draft ESA definitions and policies, and SSA boundary methodology   | March 3, 2025      |
| <b>Data Gathering</b> – WCWRPC to distribute community “ESA survey” and gather data on wastewater facility capacity, etc. Work with WDOT to begin integration of population projections with TAZ data. Work on some plan sections continuing.                        | March – April 2025 |
| <b>WQM-TAC Meeting #4</b> – discuss ESA sections, Goals 1 & 3, and wastewater facilities.  | May 5, 2025        |
| <b>WCWRPC to Distribute Draft Plan Sections for WQM-TAC Comment</b> – Physical Setting, including ESAs (Chapter 3), Goals & Policies (Chapter 7), Urban Area Land Use Plans summary (part of Chapter 6). Comments to be discussed at Meeting #5                      | By mid-August 2025 |
| <b>Continue Plan Development</b> – Continue with development of other plan chapters. Once TAZ data set is finalized, WCWRPC will complete the Growth & Development Trends (Chapter 4), then begin work on the projected growth areas and initial draft SSA boundary. | May – Oct 2025     |
| <b>WQM-TAC Meeting #5</b> – Discuss comments on draft chapters to date and discuss SSA Plan Administration/Implementation (Chapter 9). Depending on data availability, discuss   | late Aug 2025      |
| <b>MPO Policy Council Meeting</b> - Provide update on plan progress and obtain consent to utilize WQM-TAC as advisory committee to Policy Council on SSA Plan Update rather than MPO TAC. May discuss additional administrative policy & MPO’s continued role.       | Oct 8, 2025        |
| <b>WQM-TAC Meeting #6</b> – Discuss Growth & Development Trends (Chapter 4) and initial Sewer Service Area Delineation (Chapter 6).  | Oct 2025           |
| <b>WCWRPC Distributes Full Working Draft SSA Plan to WQM-TAC and WDNR Water Quality Staff for Review</b>   | Oct 2025           |
| <b>WQM-TAC Meeting #7</b> – Discuss comments on working draft SSA Plan, including updated boundary and any recommendations regarding plan changes or approval, including any potential changes to MPO bylaws for consistency with the SSA Plan.                      | Nov 2025           |
| <b>Open House &amp; Public Hearing on Draft Plan</b> - Newspaper notice at least 14 days prior to hearing. WCWRPC may recommend changes to the draft SSA Plan based on input received.   | Nov-Dec 2025       |
| <b>MPO Policy Council Meeting</b> – As the local water quality advisory committee, the MPO Policy Council makes an advisory recommendation to WDNR regarding the draft SSA Plan.   | Dec-Jan 2025       |
| <b>Submittal of SSA Plan to WDNR</b> for final State review and consideration of advisory commendation(s) no later than 12/31/25. This timeline does not include the amount of time required for the final State review and approval process.                        | Dec-Jan 2025       |

## Problems/Issues

- An extension was granted to allow additional time for WDOT to integrate WDOA population projections into the traffic analysis zones (TAZ). WCWRPC is continuing to adapt the project timeline to accommodate this delay.