Wisconsin Wetland Study Council (WSC)

INTEGRATED WATERSHED COMMITTEE

Recommendation to develop guidance for storm and flood water control projects
January 20, 2022

One comprehensive goal of the Wetland Study Council (Council) is to explore watershed scale approaches for storm and flood water control in response to Wisconsin's legacy of wetland loss and watershed alteration, and how those approaches can be integrated with wetland management in accordance with s. 15.347(22)(b)4-5, 10-11, Wis. Stats.

There are multiple approaches that can be developed to achieving such integration. Approaches being explored by the Council include but are not limited to: 1) creating wetland mitigation and restoration opportunities and incentives to help local governments to retain water in upper reaches of watersheds, 2) creating opportunities for greater regulatory, program, and agency integration between storm and floodwater control and wetlands management, and 3) clarifying the extent to which wetland impacts associated with storm water management may be allowed based on a review of the net positive or negative environmental impacts of a proposed project per s. 281.36(3n)(b)5. Wis.Stats, while also protecting the wetland functional values listed in s.103.03, Wisc. Admin. Code.

The Council has coordinated with state and federal regulatory programs to develop the following general recommendation addressing storm water and flood water control and wetland management:

The Council recommends the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continue agency-wide efforts to clarify policies and develop guidance surrounding wetlands and storm water management and explore incorporating wetland-based and watershed-based hydrologic restoration considerations in the review and implementation of storm and flood water control actions. The Council intends to continue to work with the DNR to explore additional recommendations addressing policy and program-specific issues and opportunities related to wetlands and storm and flood water control/management.