

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Working Title: Riverway Regulatory Specialist

Classification: Water Reg & Zoning Spec- Adv

Position Summary: Working under general supervision, this position ensures consistent, efficient and effective implementation and coordination of waterway and wetland projects along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, and Wild & Scenic Rivers. This position will serve as the primary expert within the Bureau of Waterways. This position also serves as the Waterway Program expert for water quality certifications under the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401 (401) and provides training and mentorship to the staff within the Waterway Program and across other Department programs to ensure consistent implementation with these federal laws. The Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers are highly complex riverine systems with unique layers of regulation authorities and unique federal regulations. This position coordinates with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, neighboring states along the Mississippi River, Office of Great Waters, and other programs to develop efficient policies and protocols to support navigation and habitat work along these rivers.

General duties include serving as the 401 water quality certification program expert, engaging with federal agencies on 401 water quality certification regulations and policies, making regulatory decisions on specific projects, analyzing trends along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers to support habitat and navigation initiatives, working with program management to develop and help implement communication strategies for waterway activities along these rivers, ensuring that customers are provided excellent service, and helping implement program operational objectives and priorities to achieve performance targets for the WW programs, the External Services Division, and the Department.

This position will make policy recommendations, help streamline administrative procedures for Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers activity, maintain knowledge of state and federal waterway regulation requirements, support relationships with a broad range of stakeholders and communicate subprogram policies and priorities to DNR staff and external partners. This position will collaborate with other Waterway Program Coordinators and the Leadership Team to complete these tasks and will serve as a liaison to the Office of Great Waters as the main regulatory point-of-contact for Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers initiatives.

Geographic Scope and Travel Requirements: This position can be located in the central office or any field office based on space availability and adequate business need. This position involves frequent communication with Waterways and Wetlands program employees statewide, travel to other locations several times per year for training/meetings/conferences, and occasional field work around the state.

Duties and Activities

- 60% A. Waterway and Wetland Regulatory expert for Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.
- A1. Lead the update and development of policy regulations under the Memo of Understanding between DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Channel Maintenance Management Plan. Provide policy expertise for all related federal and state regulations.
 - A2. Collaborate and negotiate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Dredge Material Management Plan coordinator to establish a regulatory balance with options for the beneficial reuse of dredge materials that will benefit wildlife, navigation, and other public interests in the Mississippi River.
 - A3. Ensure that dredge material placement has minimal adverse impacts and complies with applicable state and federal regulations. Serve as the primary expert and lead federal 401 and state permitting.

regulatory decisions along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

A4. Serve as the DNR representative on the On-Site Inspection Team for Corps projects along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers .

A5. Participate on cross-agency or cross-program committees, teams and special projects to address complex issues.

A6. Serve as the primary expert and independently lead applicable regulatory decisions along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

A7. Provide support and expertise for ordinary high-water mark and other jurisdictional determinations along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers, and adjacent waters.

A8. Implement waterway & wetland permit and enforcement programs on the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, Wild & Scenic Rivers, and assigned counties which includes placement of waterway structures, houseboats, dredging, and other related waterway and wetland activities.

20% B. Lead Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401 (401) Water Quality Certification Implementation

B1. Serve as the program expert for Water Quality Certification (WQC) for Mississippi River projects and all other program areas across the state. Interpret federal WQC requirements and lead the certification of all USACE permits.

B2. Develop and manage 401 water quality certification procedures, forms, training materials, and guidance to ensure consistent program implementation.

B3. Mentor and assist Waterway Program staff with 401 Water Quality Certification decisions to ensure statewide consistency.

B4. Lead policy change initiatives related to 401 Water Quality Certification. Develop applicable guidance and procedures for regulatory changes.

B5. Develop, update, and implement 401 and 404 CWA MOUs with the Army Corp of Engineers and other state and federal agencies to streamline environmental policies along the Mississippi River and in alignment with applicable state and federal regulations.

10% C. Coordinate and deliver training and outreach along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers

C1. Evaluate and update outreach and training strategies for stakeholders and partners along the Mississippi River, Lower Wisconsin, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

C2. Develop and deliver training programs as needed.

C3. Advise the Office of Great Waters on technical, policy and guidance needs.

C4. Attend training courses, conferences, workshops, and symposia as authorized.

10% D. Other duties as assigned.

D1. Prepare grants and serve as a grant manager.

D2. Maintain and update outreach material including web material.

D3. Other duties as assigned.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

1. Knowledge of biological, ecological, and/or engineering and technical principles as they relate one or more of the following: surface waters, waterway alterations, wetlands, water quality, hydrology and hydraulics, floodplain and shoreland zoning, and/or GIS based mapping
2. Extensive knowledge of water quality environmental regulations under federal standard 33 CFR Parts 335-338
3. Leadership skills and experience, including leading successful individual and team change
4. Strong communication skills, including leading difficult conversations
5. Knowledge and skill related to strategic planning and implementation, especially at a statewide program level
6. Skill in the use of personal computers including word processing, email, basic graphic and statistical work
7. Ability to interpret of engineering plans
8. Skill in the use GPS and computerized mapping programs
9. Skill in oral and written communication including public speaking and writing of technical reports
10. Ability to analyze, interpret and apply waterway and wetland laws including zoning and land use regulation
11. Knowledge of Wisconsin judicial system and court procedures
12. Knowledge and skill with meeting facilitation and organization
13. Knowledge of best management practices for construction projects
14. Ability to interpret and apply statute, administrative code and program guidance requirements for regulated activities in waterways and wetlands
15. Knowledge of Environmental enforcement principles and procedures
16. Knowledge of Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act

Physical Requirements and Environmental Factors:

Sedentary work (exerting up to 10 pounds of force occasionally and/or a negligible amount of force frequently) about 75% of the time during the course of the year.

Light work (exerting up to 20 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 10 pounds of force frequently) about 25% of the time during the course of the year.

Physically, the position requires bending at the waist, kneeling, crouching, climbing, balancing, lifting, carrying, reaching, handling, sitting, standing, talking, hearing, seeing (clarity of vision at 20 feet or more, clarity of vision at 20 inches or less), walking on foot.

Environmental Factors: Depending on the time of year, activities occur inside and outside work, the employee will be exposed to extreme cold (temperatures below 32 degrees for periods of an hour or more), extreme heat (temperatures above 100 degrees for periods of more than one hour). There may be situations involving sufficient noise to cause the employee to shout in order to be heard. There may be exposure to hazards such as submersion in water, proximity to mechanical parts, airborne pathogens, electrical current, etc. and/or exposure to conditions that affect the respiratory system or the skin, such as fumes or odors that could result in bodily injury if not properly handled.

Equipment Used: Car/truck; motor boat, canoe/kayak, GPS (Geographic Positioning System) units; range finder, soil probes, Munsell soil color charts, computer, stream measuring equipment, dissolved oxygen meter, surveying equipment, cameras, binoculars, hand compass, thermometer, two pound mallet; machete/hand axe, field notebooks , stereoscope, calculator, drafting kit, planimeter, microfiche reader, tape recorder, personal flotation device, hard hat, rain gear, waders, boots, steel toed boots, snowshoes, briefcase, backpack, telephone, waterway and wetland guidebooks, statutes, plant and animal field identification guides.

Telework Evaluation: Limited telework may be available.