

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Division of Environmental Management

Working Title: Water Quality Standards & Designated Use Coordinator

Classification Title: Water Resources Management Specialist - Advanced

Work Location: Madison, Fitchburg, Milwaukee, or Waukesha

Purpose of the Position: This position will serve as the primary staff responsible for managing statewide efforts to revise, develop, and implement key policies and procedures associated with the classification of surface waters in support of Wisconsin's surface water quality standards and water resources management program. This position will also play a technical advisory role to the surface water river and stream monitoring program including the coordination of technical teams and development of policies and procedures.

Position Summary: Under the general supervision of the Water Evaluation Section Manager, this position is responsible for leading statewide efforts to revise, develop, and implement key policies and procedures associated with the classification of surface waters in support of Wisconsin's surface water quality standards program. This position will be responsible for the revision of existing administrative rules and procedures and/or development of new water quality standards rules to provide consistency with state and federal statutes. Specific responsibilities include: a) leading Department efforts to revise administrative rules, policies, and operating protocols; b) developing policies and procedures to facilitate consistency in the identification of high quality waters (i.e., Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters); and c) evaluating water quality data to determine the attainment status of Wisconsin's surface waters in support of biennial efforts to submit a federally-required Integrated Report consistent with the obligations of Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act. This position requires a fundamental understanding of the effect of pollutants on surface water quality, especially as they relate to adverse effects on humans, wildlife, and fish and other aquatic life. This position also requires a demonstrated ability to interpret biological, chemical, and physical water quality data in order to identify cause/effect relationships in aquatic life community ecology.

This position also provides scientific leadership in assessing ecological impacts of various stressors on Wisconsin's rivers and streams and evaluating management solutions. Specific activities include: a) providing technical consultation for the Water Quality Bureau on a variety of water quality standards implementation and designated use policies specific to rivers and streams which require development, adaptation, and evaluation of new methodological, analytical or statistical techniques, b) identifying data needs to facilitate the collection of field data to support program efforts, c) using professional judgement in the evaluation and use of data, as well as integrating information to evaluate and implement research results, and d) providing technical expertise to Department staff, other State agencies, U.S. EPA, representatives of the regulated community, and the public with respect to position relevant water resource management activities.

Geographic Scope & Travel Requirements: This position is located in the Water Evaluation Section of the Water Quality Program in the Central Office in Madison or the Fitchburg, Milwaukee, or Waukesha Regional Offices. This position entails work of a statewide nature by addressing pollutants found in localized as well as broad geographic areas throughout the entire state. The position will require occasional statewide travel with periodic overnight stays. This position may require limited out-of-state travel.

Scope of Authority: This position is a permanent Water Quality Standards Specialist reporting to the Water Evaluation Section Manager.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Goals and Worker Activities</u>
50%	A. Coordinate revisions to administrative rules, policies, and procedures related to Wisconsin's water quality standards, designated uses, and assessments programs. A1. Lead the development and codification of administrative rules for water quality standards as needed. Tasks may include developing scope statements, drafting rule language, leading external advisory groups,

conducting economic impact analyses, and holding public hearings. Communicate status of efforts to staff, management, EPA, and stakeholder groups.

A2. Lead efforts of Department staff to develop scientifically sound approaches to develop and implement water quality standards, conduct waterbody assessments, and identify candidate waters for high quality waters status. Ensure that these programs are consistent with administrative rules, state statutes, and federal water quality laws.

A3. Prepare policy documents to ensure consistent statewide application of surface water quality standards for intra- and inter-Bureau programs including (e.g., WPDES permitting, contaminated sediments, watershed management, and waterways and wetlands).

A4. Support efforts of regional staff in their efforts to collect and analyze data, and document information that supports the water quality standards, and assessments programs. Develop and conduct training of Department staff and representatives of the regulated community regarding water body use designations, high quality waters status, and other water quality standards policies.

A5. Serve as the spokesperson and main technical consultant to management, the Legislature, the regulated community, the public, and the media in matters related to Wisconsin's water body use designations and their relationship to the protection of humans, wildlife, and fish and other aquatic life.

35%

B. Technical Lead and Support for Use of Water Quality Monitoring Data

B1. Perform statistical analysis of streams and rivers monitoring data to assess waterbody status (watershed rotation data, pilot projects, long-term trend rivers, etc.). Communicate novel research findings and program evaluations through peer-reviewed publications and professional conferences.

B2. Serve as technical consultant to department staff and managers seeking information on streams and rivers monitoring, waterbody assessment data needs, water quality management issues, evaluation tools, and analytical approaches.

B3. Provide stream monitoring and assessment data, summaries, analysis and/or develop tools for use by other DNR programs such as: Wastewater, Runoff Management, Water Use, and Fisheries Management.

B4. Interpretation of EPA monitoring assessment and standards guidance documents and awareness of other states' programs.

B5. Liaison with EPA on streams and rivers monitoring, assessment and standards issues.

B6. Work with partner agencies and Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene to make sure priority research needs are understood and make recommendations related to these priorities.

B7. Lead and/or participate in various standing or ad hoc teams such as: Macroinvertebrate Team; Site Specific Criteria Workgroup; Watershed Restoration and Protection Team; Designated Use Workgroup; and Natural Communities Verification Team, etc.

B8. Participate in the development of guidance that includes monitoring and assessment data (WisCALM, Phosphorus Guidance, TMDL Guidance, etc.).

15%

C. Professional Involvement, Workgroups, Professional Development & Organizational Responsiveness

C1. Review and keep abreast of changes in scientific knowledge and practices of position-related activities and emerging surface water quality issues (i.e. emerging contaminants, nutrients).

C2. Participate in job-related training and organizational meetings as assigned by supervisor.

C3. Participate on work groups, ad hoc committees, special assignments and pilot projects and perform other duties as assigned.

C4. Prepare forms and reports as necessary for personnel and budget accounting purposes in a timely manner.

C5. Perform other position-related duties as assigned.

C6. Follow all general and position related safety requirements.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

1. Advanced knowledge of federal Clean Water Act requirements for the development and implementation of surface water quality standards.
2. Advanced knowledge of state and federal laws and Wisconsin Administrative Rules (Chapters NR 102, 104, 105, 106, and 207) pertaining to surface water quality standards.
3. Advanced knowledge of Wisconsin's Administrative Rules Procedures.
4. Advanced knowledge of the ecology of Wisconsin's river, streams, and aquatic systems.
5. Familiarity with biotic indices and metrics, water quality parameters, habitat survey methodologies, and ecological modeling.
6. Familiarity with landscape ecology, conservation biology, and ecosystem management principles and practices.
7. Advanced knowledge of data entry, retrieval, and management in the SWIMS and WATERS Databases.
8. Ability to reach objectives and attain results through participation on teams.
9. Ability to conduct technical workshops and training sessions.
10. Ability to establish and maintain effective team working relationships with co-workers, supervisors, public officials, advisory committees and members of the general public.
11. Skill with Microsoft Office Suite (i.e., MS-Word, MS-Excel, MS-PowerPoint).
12. Skill in oral and written communication including live and web-based presentations to explain complex information to a non-technical audience.
13. Ability to employ effective organization, planning and setting of appropriate work priorities and manage over-all workload responsibilities.

Physical Requirements and Environmental Factors:

Strength Requirements:

Sedentary work (occasional lifting of up to 15 pounds) about 95% over a year's time.

Light work (infrequent lifting of up to 50 pounds) about 5% over a year's time.

Physical Requirements:

This position will spend a majority of time in an office setting or in meetings. Regular activities include talking, hearing, seeing, handling paper, sitting, and walking. The position will also occasionally spend time standing, carrying, lifting, reaching, climbing, bending at the waist, kneeling, and crouching.

Environmental Factors:

The majority of the activities of this position occur primarily inside and not out of doors. Occasionally, this position may require field work including carry equipment from storage to a vehicle, carrying equipment from a vehicle to sample sites, wading in a stream or river, working in a boat, or collecting samples through the ice. 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 unstable surfaces (i.e., rocks, silt, mud) in stream or lake beds, shorelines, and other access points to sample sites.

Equipment Used: Office equipment, GPS/navigation equipment, monitoring and sampling devices, electronic equipment/radios, and motorized vehicles.

Remote Work: This position is suitable for remote work and will follow current department policy.