

# Integrated Aquatic Plant Management – Draft Rule

## Key Change 3

### Update and expand public notification for all plans and permits.

#### Why is public notification necessary?

Everyone has the right to access and enjoy Wisconsin's waters. So, everyone has the right to know and have a say in what happens to our shared waters. It is important to supply specific opportunities for input during plan development as well as notify folks of upcoming aquatic plant control activities. The DNR is proposing updated notification opportunities in the planning and permitting process.

#### How is public notification changing?

##### Planning Phase

*Current Rule* – The DNR may require a management plan for mechanical harvesting operations. There is no provision for public notification during the planning process.

*Proposed Rule* - This is a new requirement. After a draft plan is complete, the sponsoring organization will put the draft plan out for public comment for 21 days. The comment period needs to be advertised in a local newspaper and one other medium. All responses are added as an appendix within the plan.

##### Public Notice of intent to get a permit for APM Control

*Current rule*– Applicants for large scale permit for chemical control must print a public notification in the newspaper prior to sending a permit to the DNR for review. Private ponds are exempt.

*Proposed rule* - Permit applicants will no longer handle public notification. The DNR will post all lake permits (waterbodies over 10 acres in size), and public ponds on a DNR website for a 14-day public notification period when they are submitted. Members of the public will be able to submit feedback on the proposed permit. Shared ponds and privately accessible ponds will be exempt from this requirement.

##### Riparian (Shoreland) Owner Notification of intent to get a permit for APM Control

*Current rule* –

Mechanical, Physical, Biological Controls – No riparian owner notification is required.

Chemical Control – Before sending a permit to the DNR, a copy of the application must be sent to affected property owner's association, inland lake district, and riparian property owners next to or within the control area.

*Proposed rule* – For all waters over 10 acres, public ponds and shared ponds a copy of the permit application will be sent to any affected property owner's association, inland lake district, and to all riparian property owners on the body of water. This should be done within 5 days of submitting the permit to the DNR.

*After a permit is approved, post the area before and after control is done.*

*Current rule* – For all chemical control, permit holders must post water use restriction signs along the control area. They should be posted at the beginning of each treatment and stay up until all water use restrictions are expired. They should be visible to individuals who live on the water and individuals who visit the water. Private ponds are exempt from this requirement in NR 107.

*Proposed rule* – For all control activities (mechanical, physical, biological and chemical), the permit holder will post 2, 8.5 by 11" notification signs at all public access points. This will be done within 5 days after getting a DNR approved permit. The signs will include information about the control dates, a map of control areas and URL's to the permit and management plan. The signs should be visible and stay up until the control is done for the year. The permit holder handles creating and posting the signs. The DNR will supply template signage for permittee use on their website.

For chemical control - water use restriction signs will continue to be posted at the time of treatment. If the control will affect the whole lake, a sign will be placed at each riparian property.