

# What's Going On In Our Corner?

## Northeast Region Wisconsin MS4 Permittees



### Take A Quick Survey!

The regional Quarterly MS4 Highlights were originally piloted by Southeast (SE) Region staff in 2023. After a year of piloting the Quarterly Highlights, SE Region staff developed a survey to determine if their region should continue to issue these Quarterly Highlights. The results showed an overall response rate of around 33%, with over half the respondents from a permitted municipality. Based on the results, SE Region staff continue to issue these on a quarterly basis.

In May 2024, our region began issuing these Quarterly Highlights to initiate and provide a platform where MS4 Permittees can share success stories, practical procedures, etc. happening within our region.

We would like to hear from you to determine if South Central Region staff should continue to issue quarterly MS4 Highlights moving forward.

This short survey should only take under a minute to fill out: [MS4 Newsletter Survey](#)



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

## Road Salt Storage

When talking salt reduction strategies, we often hyperfocus on application. *Do you calibrate your equipment? How many pounds per lane mile are you applying? Do you consider pavement temperature?* However, it's important to remember proper salt storage and handling can make an impact, too.

During the winter season, road salt storage becomes highly active from trucks loading and unloading. Communities should evaluate what best management practices (BMPs) can be used to avoid road salt stormwater contamination.

Salt sheds are a very common (and effective) structural BMP for source control. However, it's fairly common for salt to be stored outside under cover (e.g., tarps and covered bays). Covering salt inside of a watertight building or under appropriate cover protects the salt from rain, snow and wind – reducing the risk of stormwater contamination.

While source control structural BMPs like salt sheds are commonly thought of, non-structural BMPs should also be considered.

To help identify the most appropriate BMP for your site, consider the source of pollution, its flow path, and discharge location. For example, if there is a storm drain near the salt shed, consider covering it during loading and unloading.

### Examples of salt handling and storage BMPs:

- Salt shed. Make sure it is watertight.
- Covered outdoor storage. Make sure the salt is protected from the elements (rain, snow, wind).
- Store salt where stormwater doesn't flow. Don't store it at a low point.
- Only uncover salt when working. Make sure it's covered when you're done.
- Keep it tidy. Sweep after loading/unloading. Store in containerized space (e.g., three-sided bays).
- Cover up nearby storm drains when loading and unloading or during busy season.
- Install barriers around brine tanks to prevent puncture.
- Secondary containment around the brine tank to capture if spilled.

## Topics

P.1 We Want Your Feedback  
([MS4 Newsletter Survey](#)),

Road Salt Storage

P.2 MS4 BMP Menu, FWWA  
Conference

P.3 Upcoming Dates,  
Reminders And Events

# Introducing The Wisconsin DNR MS4 Best Management Practices (BMP) Menu

In October 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created a [National Menu of Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for stormwater](#). The menu of BMPs is based on the Storm Water Phase II Rule's six minimum control measures (MCMs) – also known as the six stormwater management programs (i.e., Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination [IDDE], Construction Site Pollutant Control, Post-Construction Storm Water Management and Pollution Prevention). The U.S. EPA's National BMP Menu provides information and resources on the broader topics of each of the six stormwater programs, but the information given is not specific to Wisconsin's MS4 Permit Program.

States have a choice to either create their own MS4 BMP menus or continue to reference and use the U.S. EPA's. Until recently, the Wisconsin DNR had referred MS4 permittees to the U.S. EPA's National BMP Menu if a permittee was seeking additional tools and resources to better implement their six stormwater programs. However, due to the broadness of the National BMP Menu, this understandably led to more questions and/or confusion.

On Jan. 16, 2025, the Wisconsin DNR rolled out its own MS4 BMP Menu, developed to assist MS4 permittees in complying with their MS4 permits. The purpose of this MS4 BMP Menu is to provide resources and examples to aid permittees in selecting appropriate stormwater strategies. The MS4 BMP Menu includes information and resources for the six stormwater management programs, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and impaired waters requirements. Additionally, it includes current Wisconsin DNR publications relevant to the MS4 permit, example MS4 compliance documents and tools to help prepare MS4 permittees for MS4 audits and to assess the effectiveness of their own programs.

To learn more, visit [MS4 Best Management Practices](#) to explore the MS4 BMP Menu. Wisconsin DNR staff will continue to update and add more resources, so be sure to check in from time to time.

## Fox-Wolf Watershed Conference Is Nearly Here

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance invites you to the 26th Annual Fox-Wolf Watershed

Conference, which will be held from March 4 to 5, 2025, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Welcome and Conference Center in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This event gathers professionals, researchers and community leaders to focus on issues critical to stormwater innovation, updates on regulation and guidance and watershed recovery.

The conference agenda includes a wide range of topics, such as:

- Regulation and Guidance Updates
- Climate Change and Watersheds
- Green Infrastructure
- Dissolved Phosphorus Capture
- Watershed Recovery

- Stormwater Recycling and Reuse
- Community Engagement Strategies

Attendees can earn up to 12 Professional Development Hours (PDH) credits, whether they choose to join us in person or as a virtual attendee.

The conference will also feature an exhibitor showcase, offering a chance to learn about new products and services in watershed management. Students will highlight research and projects during the Student Poster Session, providing a platform for emerging voices in the field.

More details about the conference, including registration and the full agenda, are available on [the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance website](#).

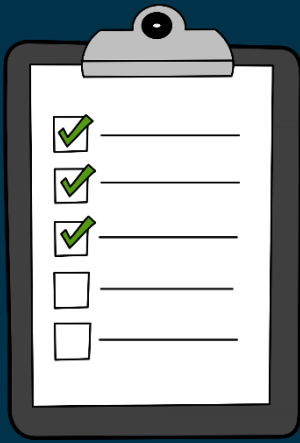
## 2024 MS4 Annual Report Reminders

It is almost that time of year again. MS4 Annual Reports must be submitted by March 31, 2025, via ePermitting.

The 2024 MS4 Annual Report received some minor updates based on feedback received from MS4 Permittees on the 2023 MS4 Annual Report. Overall, MS4 Permittees can expect the 2024 MS4 Annual Report structure to be similar to the previous MS4 Annual Report.

For MS4 Permittees wanting to get a head start, the 2024 MS4 Annual Report form PDF is now available on the [DNR's website](#) for reference. Please note that the form contents must be submitted online via ePermitting.

# Upcoming Dates, Reminders And Events



## Want To Be Featured In The MS4 Spring Edition?

We want to hear about your municipality's success stories and practical procedures.

Please reach out to Wisconsin DNR stormwater staff with stories to include in upcoming editions:

Chris Linskens

[Christopher.Linskens@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Christopher.Linskens@wisconsin.gov)



## MyWisconsin ID And Multi-Factor Authentication Will Be Implemented For Wisconsin DNR ePermitting – Postponed

To better protect the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s systems, the Wisconsin DNR will be moving to a new login identity system called MyWisconsin ID and enforcing multi-factor authentication (MFA) for Wisconsin DNR ePermitting.

Due to a technical issue that requires additional attention, the update to Wisconsin DNR ePermitting will be delayed until summer. This delay will allow us to ensure that the necessary changes are fully implemented and tested, providing a smooth experience for all users.

### Questions?

Visit the [MyWisconsin FAQ webpage](#) for answers to common questions or contact the MyWisconsin account service desk at 608-471-6667.

Contact ePermitting support staff by submitting a [DNR Contact Form](#) for support with the Wisconsin DNR ePermitting system. Please fill out the required fields in the contact form and select "MyWisconsin ID" from the Permit Category dropdown menu.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference

Feb. 25, 2025, at Discovery World in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sign up for information [on the event website](#).

For the past 20 years, the Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference has been a hallmark occasion for the watershed community of practice in southeastern Wisconsin to come together to discuss strategies and projects to improve the health of our watersheds. This all-day event will include presentations from water quality experts and engaging panel discussions.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Conference

March 4 through 5, 2025, at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Welcome and Conference Center. [Find sign-up information](#).

One of Wisconsin's largest watershed conferences. Past attendees have included stormwater engineers, professors, community leaders, government entities, local elected officials, concerned citizens and more.

## Save The Date: Waukesha County's Spring 2025 Stormwater Workshop

April 1 and 2, 2025, virtual workshop.

Waukesha County's Land Resources Division plans to hold its Spring Stormwater Workshop on April 1 and 2, 2025, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. The workshop will be virtual and hosted by Wisconsin Land + Water. Please mark these dates on your calendar. Further information on registration will be available sometime in February.

## 2026 Urban Nonpoint Source Planning Grant Applications Now Available

Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water (UNPS & SW) Planning grant applications for projects beginning in 2026 are now available on the [Wisconsin DNR's grant program webpage](#).

The following eligible applicants have until April 15, 2025, to submit applications for 2026 construction projects: cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, tribal governments and special purpose lake, sewage and sanitary districts.