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May 14, 2026

Cody Schoepke
Wastewater Superintendent
City of Fond du Lac
700 Doty St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
//sent electronically//

Subject: Fond du Lac Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery Facility
WPDES Permit WI- 0023990-10-0
Water Quality Trading Plan – CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Dear Mr. Schoepke:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department) received an updated water quality trading plan (WQT Plan) for compliance with total phosphorus (TP) effluent limits at the Fond du Lac Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery Facility (WTRRF). The initial updated plan for the new permit was received on July 2, 2024, and updated versions were received on April 3, 2025, and June 12, 2025. Supplemental material was also submitted on various dates. Based on department review, the final WQT Plan (dated April 10, 2026) is in general conformance with Wisconsin's Water Quality Trading Guidance and Section 283.84 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The WQT Plan indicates the facility will need 350 lbs/year of TP to meet the total maximum daily load (TMDL) limit for the upcoming permit based on annual average conditions and a 75th percentile of a Monte Carlo simulation of the WTRRF's performance. The facility is already meeting the TMDL limit for total suspended solids (TSS) and the credits generated through this trade will be used for the City of Fond du Lac's stormwater permit (draft Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit WI-S050075-4 scheduled to be reissued in 2026). To generate the credits, Fond du Lac converted 143.6 acres of cropland into grass/hay for conservation cover, (NRCS Technical Standard 511, 512, 342) and constructed 3,594 feet of grassed waterway (NRCS Technical Standard 412), and 259 feet of rock-lined waterway (NRCS Technical Standard 468). Note, Table 2-1 values listed in the WQT Plan do not match existing as-builts dated June 27, 2025, that were submitted to the department previously. As-builts drawings were not submitted with the current WQT Plan dated April 10, 2026. The department's understanding is that the practices were installed in the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025.

Based on the May 7, 2026, site inspection, the department confirmed that the practices had been installed. However, not all practices were functioning as intended and therefore generating credits. Once items listed below have been addressed, the full number of credits listed in Tables 1 and 2 will be available. Items listed below need to be addressed as soon as possible:

- Existing bare spots [areas void of vegetation or not meeting density requirements of planned vegetation] in the fields (Field 3,6 and Field 9) must be reseeded and established with planned vegetation.

- The grassed waterways must be reseeded and reinforced with erosion mat or equivalent protection as needed to provide consistent cover and prevent erosion.
- For all grassed waterways, the crop, currently primarily alfalfa, should not encroach into the side slopes of the grassed waterways. Consider establishing grass buffer of approximately five to ten feet in width on each side of a waterway to minimize encroachment and prevent erosion.
- In Field 9, active sheet and rill erosion is occurring next to old Gully 3 and needs to be stabilized.
- Field 9, WW3 does not have a stable outlet to the channel and is eroding into the waterway (unnamed tributary to West Branch of Fond du Lac River). The outlet needs to be properly stabilized.
- Field 9, old Gully 6, is still showing signs of active sheet and rill erosion and needs to be stabilized.
- Field 9, WW1, sediment is depositing into the creek. Practices need to be implemented to prevent sediment deposition into the creek.
- Field 9, active sheet and rill erosion was observed northwest of WW2 and needs to be stabilized.
- Field 9, old Gully 7, is showing signs of active sheet and rill erosion and needs to be stabilized.
- Field 9, old Gully 8, is showing signs of active sheet and rill erosion and needs to be stabilized.
- Field 9, WW2, a stable outlet to the waterway (unnamed tributary) was not constructed and there is currently active channel incision, to a depth of approximately three feet, and erosion occurring. WW2 must be graded to blend into the outlet elevation and properly stabilized with riprap. Riprap sizing should be calculated based on the design velocity.
- All fields must maintain adequate vegetation and be free of active sheet and rill erosion and gullies.

The above items were discussed while onsite. Also, it was observed that the fields consist primarily of alfalfa with a lower than planned density of grasses. Additional seedings may be necessary to ensure an adequate stand of grass is established.

Please submit photos of the repairs by July 1, 2026. These repairs will be verified by DNR staff during the next field inspection anticipated to be summer/fall 2026.

Please note that the fields need to maintain adequate vegetation and be free of active sheet and rill erosion and gullies to ensure that sediment and phosphorus are not leaving the site. The SnapPlus calculations (in which the credit generation is based) assumes that active gullies are not present. If stable grassed waterways and vegetation are not maintained at sufficient levels to prevent sheet and rill erosion, the credits generated from SnapPlus will not be available.

Credits generated from the maintenance of vegetation to prevent sheet and rill erosion and stable grassed waterways will result in available credit quantities shown in Table 1. The WQT Plan proposes the generation of 261.9 pounds of total phosphorus credits per year and 87.6 tons of TSS credits per year based on the rotational average for the five-year period of 2026 through 2030. The WQT TP credits will be incorporated into the new wastewater WPDES permit and will be used to demonstrate compliance

with final phosphorus effluent limits. The WQT TSS credits will be incorporated into the new stormwater general permit to assist in compliance with City of Fond du Lac's permitted MS4 requirements.

As a condition of approval, please note the following:

- The WPDES permit will include requirements for monthly inspections and certifications, annual trading reports, and effluent monitoring.
- Annual SnapPlus reports are required to be included with the annual reports to verify nutrients being applied to remaining fields.

Table 1: Total Phosphorus Available for the Wastewater WPDES permit WI-0023990-10-0 per WQT-2026-0011

Year	Available TP Credits (lbs/yr) – Interim	Available TP Credits (lbs/yr) – Long Term	Available TP Credits (lbs/yr) – Total
2026*	49.3	16.2	65.5
2027	197.1	64.8	261.9
2028	197.1	64.8	261.9
2029	197.1	64.8	261.9
2030	197.1	64.8	261.9

Table 2: Total TSS Available for the Stormwater WPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit WI-S050075-4 per WQT-2026-0011

Year	Available TSS Credits (tons/yr) – Interim	Available TSS Credits (tons/yr) – Long Term	Available TSS Credits (tons/yr) – Total
2026*	6.1	15.8	21.9
2027	24.4	63.1	87.6
2028	24.4	63.1	87.6
2029	24.4	63.1	87.6
2030	24.4	63.1	87.6

* Credit availability in 2026 is based on the following assumptions: conservation cover, grass and rock waterways were installed in fall of 2024 and spring of 2025, based on the department site inspection on May 7, 2026, the conservation practices (conservation cover, and grass and rock lined waterways) were established with repairs completed and established by October 1, 2026, and the -10 issuance of permit will be reissued on October 1, 2026.

The department conditionally approves the WQT Plan as a basis for water quality trading during the WPDES permit term. This approval is not to be construed as an approval for any activities requiring a permit or activities not included in the plan identified herein. The department has assigned the WQT Plan a tracking number of WQT-2026-0011 and will be referenced as such in the WPDES permit. The final WQT Plan will be included as part of the public notice package for permit reissuance. The WPDES permit will include requirements for annual trading reports and effluent monitoring for total phosphorus and TSS.

As a follow-up to our discussion onsite, if Fond du Lac would like to propose another water quality trade with additional fields, the department will tour the fields with the City at the initial and planning stages of the project. Please notify the department of the planned timeline for this process and again when the process begins.

If you have any questions, please contact me (Laura Gerold) at (920) 366-6728 or email at laura.gerold@wisconsin.gov.

Thank You,

Laura A. Gerold

Laura Gerold, PE
Wastewater Engineer
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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