WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATERWAY AND WETLAND GENERAL PERMIT
FOR INLAND AND COASTAL LAKESHORE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

Permittee: The General Public in Wisconsin

Permit #: WDNR-GP26-2026

Issuing Office: Waterways Program
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Department)

Issuance Date: Month day, 2026

Expiration Date: Month day, 2031

GENERAL PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS

In compliance with the provision(s) of s. 30.12(1) and (2m), Wis. Stats., no person may place any structure upon the bed of any navigable water unless an individual or a general permit has been issued under this section or authorization has been granted by the legislature through an exemption.

The Department has authority to issue general permits under s. 30.206(1)(am), Wis. Stats., that authorize any person in the State of Wisconsin to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions of the general permit specified below after satisfying all applicable permit terms and conditions. In addition, the Department is required to issue general permits under s. 30.206, Wis. Stats., related to the placement, repair, or replacement of riprap and seawalls as provided under ss. 30.12(3)(a)(3c), (3g), (3r), and (13), Wis. Stats. Please refer to the following sections of this permit for the specific eligibility standards, application requirements, certification requirements and responsibilities, conditions, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and definitions required by WDNR-GP26-2026.

> **Note:** Coverage under this permit authorizes the permittee to undertake specified activity/activities in compliance with the above statutes and the terms of this permit but does not authorize a permittee to undertake any activity prohibited by other applicable federal, state, or local law.
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> **Note:** WDNR-GP26-2026 does not apply to tribal activities located within the exterior boundary of a reservation.
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> **Note:** Section 30.12(2m), Wis. Stats., allows the Department to require that an individual permit or general permit be obtained in lieu of an exemption for activities at certain sites. Work performed in ASNRI designated waters or at a site where the Department requires a permit under s. 30.12(2m), Wis. Stats., may be authorized by this general permit.

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS NECESSARY

WDNR-GP26-2026 authorizations are subject to all applicable terms and conditions specified in this permit. However, WDNR-GP26-2026 authorizations do not supersede any other local, state, tribal or federal authority so additional permits may be required before any work may proceed. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act s. 404 permits are required for discharges of dredged or fill material to Waters of the United States, including discharges to federal wetlands. Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 permits are required for work including the placement of structures and dredging in navigable waters of the United States. Floodplain permits (ch. NR 116, Wis. Adm. Code) or other local zoning permits may be required. Please contact your local zoning authority to determine whether any local approvals are required; county zoning administrator contact information is available at https://www.wccadm.com/wcca-contacts.

Additional waterway, dam, and wetland permitting may also be necessary depending on the project size, scope and purpose and need. Please visit https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "water permitting" for more information.

This permit does not supersede any applicable easement(s) within the project boundary or the property rights of any landowner. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposed project does not conflict with existing land use or development restrictions, including easements, applicable to the property. This permit also does not authorize flooding or impeding drainage of the adjacent properties or upstream properties. It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure any necessary easements or other permissions from affected landowner(s).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

WDNR-GP26-2026 applies to certain waterway activities undertaken as part of stabilizing the shorelines of inland lakes and coastal (Great Lakes) waterbodies.

The following activities are eligible for coverage under WDNR-GP26-2026:

- Placement or the construction of shoreline stabilization structures for erosion control purposes along inland lake shorelines and Great Lakes (coastal) shorelines in the State of Wisconsin except for structures proposed on tribal properties located on Federal Indian Trust lands. The placement of structures and deposits in navigable waterbodies is regulated under s. 30.12, Wis. Stats and ch. NR 320, Wis. Adm. Code. Great Lakes (coastal) shorelines are outlying waters as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

- WDNR-GP26-2026 authorization will include lakeshore stabilization practices (erosion control structures) placement for the following activities:
    - Inland lakeshore stabilization practices
        - Inland biological shoreline erosion control
          Inland riprap repair and replacement
        - Inland vegetated riprap
        - Inland replacement of seawall with vegetated riprap
        - Inland replacement of seawalls
    - Great Lakes (coastal) lakeshore stabilization practices
        - Great Lakes biological shoreline erosion control
        - Great Lakes riprap repair and replacement
        - New Great Lakes vegetated riprap
        - Great Lakes riprap in response to erosion event

        - Great Lakes replacement of seawall with vegetated riprap
        - Great Lakes replacement of seawalls
        - New Great Lakes Riprap
    - Upper Mississippi River (UMR) lakeshore stabilization practices
        - UMR biological shoreline erosion control
          UMR riprap repair and replacement
        - UMR vegetated riprap
        - UMR replacement of seawall with vegetated riprap
        - UMR replacement of seawalls

GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE

Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, the effective date of coverage under this general permit is 30 calendar days after a complete application package has been received by the Department at the office designated in the permit application materials provided by the Department. **WDNR-GP26-2026 permit coverage is valid for 5 years after the date the coverage is granted by the Department.** If the project is not completed within 5 years after the date of coverage another application must be submitted. If the project scope changes within the valid period of the permit coverage, you must obtain prior written approval of the proposed modification to the project from the Department before modifying the project and coverage exists under this general permit only. The 5-year timeline is based on the date coverage is granted by the Department, not the expiration date of **WDNR-GP26-2026.**

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
For the Secretary

_____ _____

Benjamin Callan – Director Date
Waterways Program

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WDNR-GP26-2026 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following sections describe the general permit authorization procedures implemented by the Department in WDNR-GP26-2026. Projects must meet all the terms and conditions of this permit to be eligible for coverage under WDNR-GP26-2026.

> **Note:** The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this general permit, means the permittee, which is the riparian landowner. The term "the Department" means the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and "this office" refers to the appropriate Service Center, Region Office, Central Office headquarters and/or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the Secretary of the Department reviewing the permit application for the activity.

The project must meet all the following standards to be eligible for coverage and authorization under this general permit. Persons proposing to do work should note that s. 281.36(3g)(h), Wis. Stats., requires applicants to demonstrate that adverse impacts to wetland functions and values have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

> **Note:** Projects that do not meet all standards below are not eligible for this general permit and are therefore excluded from coverage under WDNR-GP26-2026. In these cases, persons may apply for an Individual Permit as outlined in ss. 30.12(3m) and 30.208, Wis. Stats. The Department also has authority under s. 30.206(3r), Wis. Stats., to require an individual permit in lieu of a general permit if the Department has visited the site and determined that conditions specific to the site require additional restrictions on the activity in order to prevent significant adverse impacts to the public rights and interest, environmental pollution as defined in s. 299.01(4), Wis. Stats., or material injury to the riparian rights of any riparian owner.
>
> **Note:** Projects that may impact tribal lands or a legally recognized treaty right may need additional coordination.

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A. GENERAL CRITERIA

1. The project may be located in an ***area of special natural resource interest*** (ASNRI).

2. The shoreline stabilization structure shall follow the natural contour of the shoreline.

3. Projects for stabilization of dam embankment shorelines are not eligible for WDNR-GP26-2026.

4. The project and construction must comply with water quality standards for surface waters in accordance with ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code, and standards for wetlands in accordance with ch. NR 103, Wis. Adm. Code.

5. If the department determines that the proposal project has the potential to impact an archaeological site or historic structure in accordance with s. 44.40, Wis. Stats., the application shall be deemed incomplete. The department may not consider the application complete or issue a general permit until the applicant submits documentation to demonstrate that the dredging project avoids impacts to the archaeological site or historic structure or completes and documents requested investigations of archaeological sites or historic structures in accordance with s. 44.40, Wis. Stats. Reports of completed archaeological or historic structures investigations for projects are subject to departmental and Wisconsin Historical Society review and approval in advance of permit issuance.

6. The project avoids impacts to the endangered or threatened species in accordance with s. 29.604, Wis. Stats., or the project has received an incidental take authorization under s. 29.604, Wis. Stats. No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or State law or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of a species as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

7. To minimize adverse impacts on fish movement, fish spawning, and egg incubation periods, in-water work may not occur below the *ordinary high-water mark* (OHWM) during any of the following time periods unless timing restrictions have been waived by the department:

    a. September 15th through May 15th for all trout streams identified on DNR published maps. **Note:** To determine if a waterway is a trout stream, you may use the department trout stream maps at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov, keyword "trout stream maps."

    b. September 15th through June 15th on all Great Lakes tributaries upstream to the first dam or barrier.

    c. November 1st through June 15th for Lake Michigan waters surrounding Door County, including Green Bay and all harbors and bays.

    d. September 15th through July 1st for Lake Superior waters surrounding Douglas County, including St. Louis River and all harbors and bays.

    e. March 1st through June 15th for all other waters.

    Note: The local Department Fisheries Biologist may waive or modify timing restrictions in writing. To request waiver or modification of fish spawning timing restrictions for your project, please include a request in the narrative portion of your permit application.

8. The project does not cause significant adverse impacts to a trout fishery or cold-water community, as described in ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code.

9. The structure may be placed and maintained only by a riparian landowner, and the applicant or co-applicant is the riparian owner.

10. The construction of the project will not result in removal of greater than 20% of the aerial coverage of natural bank vegetation, emergent vegetation, or floating vegetation. The 20% threshold does not include the footprint of the lakeshore stabilization structure.

11. Any grading, excavation, and land disturbance above the OHWM shall be confined to the minimum area necessary for the construction and may not exceed 10,000 square feet.

12. All equipment used for the project shall be designed and properly sized to minimize the amount of sediment that can escape into the water.

13. No waterward extension of the property is permitted. No soil or similar fill material may be placed in a wetland or below the OHWM of any navigable waterway.

14. All equipment must remain above the OHWM at all times during the project's construction and maintenance. If equipment must drive below the OHWM to gain access to the construction area, written approval must first be obtained from the Department for driving of equipment below the OHWM for construction or maintenance of any shoreline stabilization project.

15. The activity shall not result in significant adverse impacts to fishery spawning habitat, including obstruction of fish passage, or adversely affect bird breeding areas or substantially disrupts the movement of species that normally migrate from open water to upland or vice versa (i.e., amphibians, reptiles, and mammals) as determined by the Department.

16. The project will not occur in a mapped floodplain (official Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or local zoning map), or if the project is located in a regulated floodplain, the applicant has certified that they are working to or have obtained applicable floodplain permits or approvals from the local zoning authority.

17. No unauthorized impacts to wetlands will occur.

    Note: This permit does not authorize any impacts to wetlands; however, wetland impacts may occur if authorized under a wetland exemption or a wetland permit is obtained. Wetland regulatory information is available at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "wetland permit".

18. Any excavated material may not be temporarily or permanently placed in a wetland, floodplain or below the OHWM of a navigable waterway without regulatory approvals. All excavated materials shall be disposed of in an upland location.

B. INLAND LAKESHORE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

a. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INLAND BIOLOGICAL SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all inland biological shoreline erosion control projects:

1. Biological shore erosion control structures consist of biological materials (which means living or organic materials) that are biodegradable such as but not limited to native vegetation (grasses, sedges, forbs, shrubs, and trees), plant carpets, root wads, fiber rolls, fiber mats, live stakes and posts, willow wattles, brush mattresses or brush layering, branch-box breakwaters, temporary wave breaks/barriers, non-treated wood, jute netting, logs, branches, and temporary breakwaters.

2. Any temporary wave breaks or barriers installed as short-term protection to allow vegetation to stabilize shall be completely removed within 2 years of the installation date. If wave barriers are used, they shall be located within the 3-foot water depth contour or less (based on summer water levels for impounded or managed inland lakes), marked with reflectors, and may not create an obstruction to navigation.

3. Vegetation shall be plant species which are native to the area of Wisconsin where the project is located. Vegetative treatments shall be installed according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standard Code 580 (Streambank and Shoreline Protection) or the NRCS Engineering Field Handbook (chapter 16).

4. Fiber rolls, bio-logs, or similar products shall be secured using hardwood stakes or can and duckbill anchors. Spacing between the hardwood stakes shall be 4 feet or less. Spacing between the duckbill anchors shall be 6 feet or less.

5. A deposit of sand, gravel or stone under s. 30.12(1g)(a), Wis. Stats., may not be associated with the biological erosion control structure.

b. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INLAND RIPRAP REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all inland riprap repair/replacement projects:

1. The applicant documents, using historical information and photos, the previous placement, and dimensions of riprap.

2. The applicant demonstrates that the proposed riprap repair or replacement project is within the exact location and original dimension of the existing riprap footprint or smaller of the previous structures.

3. Riprap repair may not exceed 300 linear feet of shoreline located on an inland lake or flowage. Riprap replacement may not exceed 100 linear feet of shoreline located on an inland lake or flowage.

4. Riprap repair may only involve placement of additional rock (commonly called "top-dressing") or redistribution of existing rock within the footprint of the existing riprap.

5. Riprap repair/replacement shall meet the conditions of the original permit if an original permit was obtained.

6. Riprap repair/replacement projects shall be designed to include re-vegetating the riprap above the OHWM by using native plantings which may include native non-woody plants, native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings.

7. The addition of rock has not occurred within the previous 5 years.

8. The use of filter fabric is not authorized except where filter fabric is placed on top of earthen bank material with rocks placed on top of the fabric. For riprap repair projects that include adding or moving rock on top of rock, filter fabric is not authorized due to the expected settling and shifting of rock riprap that will tear and damage the fabric. If a filter layer is needed in repair projects, clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap repair area.

   Note: The purpose for the clean-washed gravel is to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind and under the riprap.

9. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

10. Where the riprap was not previously permitted, the **riprap replacement project** shall meet the following conditions in addition to the requirements of the above criteria:

    a. Replacement shall be outside of and not disturb sensitive areas identified in s. 30.01(6b), Wis. Stats.

b. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the *Erosion Intensity* (EI) Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the specific waterbodies listed below, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The waterbodies listed below are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation. These waterbodies include:
    1. Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages (Adams and Juneau counties)
    2. Lake Koshkonong (Dane, Jefferson, and Rock counties)
    3. Beaver Dam Lake, Fox Lake, and Lake Sinissippi (Dodge County)
    4. Lake Puckaway (Green Lake County)
    5. Lake Nokomis - Rice River reservoir (Lincoln and Oneida counties)
    6. Big Eau Pleine reservoir (Marathon County)
    7. Lake DuBay (Marathon and Portage counties)
    8. Rainbow and Willow Flowages (Oneida County)
    9. Lake Poygan (Winnebago and Waushara counties)
    10. Lake Winneconne and Lake Butte des Morts (Winnebago County)
    11. Lake Winnebago (Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties)

c. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

d. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides are not considered to be riprap material.

e. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

f. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

g. Riprap or other vegetated armoring along moderate or high energy sites (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool) shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native plantings.

11. Where riprap was not previously permitted, the **riprap repair project** shall meet the following conditions in addition to the requirements of the above criteria:

    a. Repair shall be outside of and not disturb sensitive areas identified in s. 30.01(6b), Wis. Stats.

    b. Repair shall be located along moderate or high energy shorelines, based on the inland lakes/flowages storm wave height calculation tool or the EI Score Worksheet tool as promulgated by the Department in rule. Low energy sites do not qualify for WDNR-GP26-2026.

    c. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or

the EI Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the specific waterbodies listed below, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The waterbodies listed below are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation. These waterbodies include:

1. Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages (Adams and Juneau counties)
2. Lake Koshkonong (Dane, Jefferson, and Rock counties)
3. Beaver Dam Lake, Fox Lake, and Lake Sinissippi (Dodge County)
4. Lake Puckaway (Green Lake County)
5. Lake Nokomis - Rice River reservoir (Lincoln and Oneida counties)
6. Big Eau Pleine reservoir (Marathon County)
7. Lake DuBay (Marathon and Portage counties)
8. Rainbow and Willow Flowages (Oneida County)
9. Lake Poygan (Winnebago and Waushara counties)
10. Lake Winneconne and Lake Butte des Morts (Winnebago County)
11. Lake Winnebago (Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties)

d. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward as measured from the OHWM.

e. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.

c. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NEW INLAND VEGETATED RIPRAP ARMORING

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all new inland vegetated riprap armoring:

1. New vegetated riprap may not exceed 200 linear feet of shoreline.

2. The project site is a moderate or high energy site (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool), or a low energy site where the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year and a biological erosion control structure was previously placed according to the standards described in Section 1.B.a. above. The time between separate bank-edge recession measurements shall equal or exceed 3 months during the open-water season. The applicant will satisfy the “equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year" requirement by demonstrating that the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 1.5 inches per 3 months during the open-water season.

3. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.

4. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

5. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

6. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the *Erosion Intensity* (EI) Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the specific waterbodies listed below, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The waterbodies listed below are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation. These waterbodies include:
    1. Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages (Adams and Juneau counties)
    2. Lake Koshkonong (Dane, Jefferson, and Rock counties)
    3. Beaver Dam Lake, Fox Lake, and Lake Sinissippi (Dodge County)
    4. Lake Puckaway (Green Lake County)
    5. Lake Nokomis - Rice River reservoir (Lincoln and Oneida counties)
    6. Big Eau Pleine reservoir (Marathon County)
    7. Lake DuBay (Marathon and Portage counties)
    8. Rainbow and Willow Flowages (Oneida County)
    9. Lake Poygan (Winnebago and Waushara counties)
    10. Lake Winneconne and Lake Butte des Morts (Winnebago County)
    11. Lake Winnebago (Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties)

7. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

8. Riprap or other vegetated armoring along moderate or high energy sites (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool) shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings. Note: Erosion control treatments may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.

d. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INLAND REPLACEMENT OF SEAWALL WITH RIPRAP OR VEGETATED ARMORING

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all inland seawall replacement with vegetated riprap projects:

1. Riprap or vegetated armoring may not exceed 500 linear feet of shoreline.

2. The project site is a moderate or high energy site (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool), or a low energy site where the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year and a biological erosion control structure was previously placed according to the standards described in Section 1.B.a. above. The time between separate bank-edge recession measurements shall equal or exceed 3 months during the open-water season. The applicant will satisfy the “equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per

year" requirement by demonstrating that the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 1.5 inches per 3 months during the open-water season.

3. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.

4. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

5. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

6. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the *Erosion Intensity* (EI) Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the specific waterbodies listed below, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The waterbodies listed below are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation. These waterbodies include:
    1. Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages (Adams and Juneau counties)
    2. Lake Koshkonong (Dane, Jefferson, and Rock counties)
    3. Beaver Dam Lake, Fox Lake, and Lake Sinissippi (Dodge County)
    4. Lake Puckaway (Green Lake County)
    5. Lake Nokomis - Rice River reservoir (Lincoln and Oneida counties)
    6. Big Eau Pleine reservoir (Marathon County)
    7. Lake DuBay (Marathon and Portage counties)
    8. Rainbow and Willow Flowages (Oneida County)
    9. Lake Poygan (Winnebago and Waushara counties)
    10. Lake Winneconne and Lake Butte des Morts (Winnebago County)
    11. Lake Winnebago (Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago counties)

7. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

8. Riprap or other vegetated armoring along moderate or high energy sites (as measured by the inland storm wave height calculator tool) shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings. Note: Erosion control treatments may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.

e. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INLAND REPLACEMENT OF SEAWALLS

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all inland seawall replacement projects:

1. The replacement of a seawall with a new seawall may not exceed 100 feet of shoreline located on an inland lake or flowage of 300 acres or more.

2. Seawall replacement is permitted **only at the following locations**:

    a. Municipal or commercial marinas where vertical docking facilities are a practical alternative after considering the public interest.

    b. Navigational channels actively used as thoroughfares or for access, where slopes are greater (steeper) than 1.5 feet vertical to one foot horizontal, showing evidence of erosion, where alternative methods of erosion control would impede navigation.

    c. Locations where slopes leading down to the bank are greater (steeper) than 1.5 feet vertical to one foot horizontal, and where the applicant demonstrates that alternative measures are not practicable taking into consideration bank height and the location of other permanent structures on the property.

3. The seawall replacement shall incorporate an adequate footing to prevent settlement, tipping, or undermining.

4. The seawall shall be attached to tieback anchors placed on the upland to prevent or minimize tipping of the wall.

5. The seawall shall include weep holes to relieve hydrostatic pressure in upland soils. A filter fabric or gravel filter layer backing at weep holes shall be installed to facilitate drainage and prevent the loss of soil from behind the wall.

6. Rock riprap shall be placed in front of the seawall to dissipate wave energy, minimize scour at the base of the wall, and provide aquatic habitat. Riprap shall be clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter, shall not have any flat sides, placed at a slope not to exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical, and may only be designed and placed at the base of the seawall to prevent scour at the toe.

7. Each end of the seawall shall be buried or keyed into the bank to prevent flanking.

8. The seawall may be built only high enough to prevent the over-topping by storm waves.

C. GREAT LAKES LAKESHORE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

a. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GREAT LAKES BIOLOGICAL SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all Great Lakes biological stabilization projects:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

2. Biological shore erosion control structures include but not limited to native vegetation, fiber rolls, fiber mats, live stakes, brush mattresses, branch-box breakwaters, temporary wave breaks/barriers, and temporary breakwaters.

3. Any wave breaks or wave barriers shall be completely removed within 2 years of the installation date. If wave barriers are used, they shall be located within the 3-foot water depth contour or less (based on summer water levels for impounded or managed inland lakes), marked with reflectors, and may not create an obstruction to navigation.

4. Vegetation shall be plant species which are native to the area of Wisconsin where the project is located. Vegetative treatments shall be installed according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standard Code 580 (Streambank and Shoreline Protection) or the NRCS Engineering Field Handbook (chapter 16).

5. Fiber rolls shall be secured using hardwood stakes or can and duckbill anchors. Spacing between the hardwood stakes shall be 4 feet or less. Spacing between the duckbill anchors shall be 6 feet or less.

6. A deposit of sand, gravel or stone under s. 30.12(1g)(a), Wis. Stats., may not be associated with the biological erosion control structure.

b. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GREAT LAKES RIPRAP REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all Great Lakes riprap repair or replacement projects that were not originally authorized by a state waterway permit:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

2. The project site is located on a coastal shoreline *bank. Bluff* shorelines are not eligible for WDNR-GP26-2026.
   a. “Bank” means a soil slope rising less than 10 feet above the bed of a waterway as measured from the bank toe.
   b. “Bluff” means the edge and face of land closest to a body of water, generally higher than 10ft as measured from the bank toe, and high enough to contain multiple layers of soil or groundwater seepage.

3. The applicant can document, using historical information and photos, the previous placement of riprap.

4. The applicant can demonstrate that the repair or replacement structure will be within the exact footprint and dimensions (or smaller) of the previous structure.

5. Riprap repair or replacement may not exceed 100 linear feet of shoreline.

6. Riprap repair or replacement may only involve placement of additional rock (often called “top-dressing”), redistribution, or replacement of existing rock within the footprint of the existing riprap.

7. The repaired/replaced riprap structure shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native plantings which may include native non-woody plants, native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings.

8. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 10 feet waterward of the OHWM.

9. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 48 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.

10. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

c. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NEW GREAT LAKES VEGETATED RIPRAP ON COASTAL BANKS

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all new Great Lakes vegetated riprap:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

2. The project site is located on a coastal shoreline *bank. Bluff* shorelines are not eligible for WDNR-GP26-2026.
    a. “Bank” means a soil slope rising less than 10 feet above the bed of a waterway as measured from the bank toe.
    b. “Bluff” means the edge and face of land closest to a body of water, generally higher than 10ft as measured from the bank toe, and high enough to contain multiple layers of soil or groundwater seepage.

3. Vegetated riprap may not exceed 300 linear feet of shoreline.

4. Riprap shall be clean, washed fieldstone or quarry stone ranging between 6 and 48 inches in diameter and free of fines. Riprap materials are rounded or angular with a diameter and do not have flat sides.

5. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 10 feet waterward of the OHWM.

6. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

7. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

8. Riprap shall be vegetated above the OHWM by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings. Erosion control practices may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.

d. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GREAT LAKES STABILIZATION STRUCTURE IN RESPONSE TO EROSION EVENT

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all new Great Lakes riprap in response to erosion events:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

2. The project is proposing new armoring of natural and unarmored shorelines, and the project is in response to a recent storm or high-water event within the past 12 months.

   Note: A high-water event qualifies when the Governor declares a State of Emergency.

3. The applicant shall provide documentation of the recent severe erosion event which endangers infrastructure (includes either primary residence, well, or sanitary system) located within 50ft of the active erosion line.

   Note: An active erosion line is the area of currently eroding bank typically found at the top of the bank or bluff and creates a bank or bluff face that is disturbed and unvegetated.

4. The riprap is not to exceed 300 linear feet of a coastal shoreline.

5. Riprap shall be clean, washed fieldstone or quarry stone ranging between 6 and 48 inches in diameter and free of fines. Riprap materials are rounded or angular with a diameter and do not have flat sides.

6. The toe of the riprap does not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM unless designed and stamped by a coastal Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin.

7. The final riprap slope is to be a stable slope which is no steeper than one (1) foot horizontal to two (2) feet vertical.

8. The riprap does not reach an elevation higher than 36 inches above the OHWM.

9. Filter fabric or clean-washed gravel is used as a filter layer under the riprap.

e. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GREAT LAKES REPLACEMENT OF SEAWALL WITH VEGETATED RIPRAP

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all Great Lakes seawall replacement with vegetated riprap projects:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

2. Riprap or vegetated armoring may not exceed 500 linear feet of shoreline.

3. Riprap shall be clean, washed fieldstone or quarry stone ranging between 6 and 48 inches in diameter and free of fines. Riprap materials are rounded or angular with a diameter and do not have flat sides.

4. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 10 feet waterward of the OHWM.

5. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

6. The riprap does not reach an elevation higher than the OHWM or does not exceed 36 inches above the OHWM when designed by an engineer to address wave run-up.

7. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

8. Riprap or other vegetated armoring shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings. **Note:** Erosion control treatments may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.

f. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GREAT LAKES REPLACEMENT OF SEAWALLS

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all Great Lakes seawall replacement projects:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats.

2. The replacement may not exceed 300 feet of shoreline.

3. Seawall replacement may be permitted only at municipal or commercial marinas where vertical docking facilities are a practical alternative after considering the public interest.

4. The seawall replacement shall incorporate an adequate footing to prevent settlement, tipping, or undermining.

5. The seawall shall be attached to tieback anchors placed on the upland to prevent or minimize tipping of the wall.

6. The seawall shall include weep holes to relieve hydrostatic pressure in upland soils. A filter fabric or gravel filter layer backing at weep holes shall be installed to facilitate drainage and prevent the loss of soil from behind the wall.

7. Toe protection (rock riprap) shall be placed in front of the seawall to dissipate wave energy, minimize scour at the base of the wall, and provide aquatic habitat. Riprap shall be clean fieldstone or angular blasted quarry stone of an appropriate diameter, placed at a slope not to exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical and extending to an adequate height for toe protection of the seawall.

8. Each end of the seawall shall be buried or keyed into the bank to prevent flanking.

9. The seawall may be built only high enough to prevent the over-topping by storm waves.

g. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NEW GREAT LAKES RIPRAP

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all new Great Lakes riprap projects:

1. This project is eligible on outlying waters, as defined in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stats., and

satisfies s. 30.12(3)(a)(3r), Wis. Stats.

2. The riprap is not to exceed 300 linear feet of a coastal shoreline.

3. Riprap shall be clean, washed fieldstone or quarry stone ranging between 6 and 48 inches in diameter and free of fines. Riprap materials are rounded or angular with a diameter and do not have flat sides.

4. The toe of the riprap does not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM unless designed and stamped by a coastal Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin.

5. The final riprap slope is to be a stable slope which is no steeper than one (1) foot horizontal to two (2) feet vertical.

6. The riprap does not reach an elevation higher than 36 inches above the OHWM, unless designed and stamped by a coastal Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Wisconsin.

7. Filter fabric or clean-washed gravel is used as a filter layer under the riprap.

D. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER (UMR) POOLS - LAKESHORE STABILIZATION STRUCTURES

a. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR UMR BIOLOGICAL SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all UMR biological stabilization projects:

1. Biological shore erosion control structures include but not limited to native vegetation, fiber rolls, fiber mats, live stakes, brush mattresses, branch-box breakwaters, temporary wave breaks/barriers, and temporary breakwaters.

2. Any wave breaks or wave barriers shall be completely removed within 2 years of the installation date. If wave barriers are used, they shall be located within the 3-foot water depth contour or less (based on summer water levels for impounded or managed inland lakes), marked with reflectors, and may not create an obstruction to navigation.

3. Vegetation shall be plant species which are native to the area of Wisconsin where the project is located. Vegetative treatments shall be installed according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standard Code 580 (Streambank and Shoreline Protection) or the NRCS Engineering Field Handbook (chapter 16).

4. Fiber rolls shall be secured using hardwood states or can and duckbill anchors. Spacing between the hardwood stakes shall be 4 feet or less. Spacing between the duckbill anchors shall be 6 feet or less.

5. A deposit of sand, gravel, or stone under s. 30.12(1g)(a), Wis. Stats., may not be associated with the biological erosion control structure.

b. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR UMR RIPRAP REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all UMR riprap repair or replacement projects not previously authorized by a state waterway permit:

1. The applicant documents, using historical information and photos, the previous placement of riprap.

2. The applicant demonstrates that the repair or replacement structure is within the exact footprint and dimensions of the previous structure or smaller.

3. Riprap repair may not exceed 300 linear feet of shoreline and riprap replacement may not exceed 100 linear feet of shoreline located on an Upper Mississippi River impoundment.

4. Riprap repair may only involve placement of additional rock (often referred to as "top-dressing") or redistribution of existing rock within the footprint of the existing riprap. Riprap replacement includes the removal of existing materials not suitable or considered "riprap materials" to reconstruct the stabilization structure within the same location and dimensions of the previous structure.

5. Projects must be designed to maintain or add an appropriate filter layer under the riprap materials.

6. For Riprap repair projects only - Clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap.

   Note: The purpose for clean-washed gravel is to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

7. For riprap replacement projects only - Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap.

   Note: The purpose for this is to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

8. Riprap or other vegetated armoring shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native plantings which may include native non-woody plants, native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings.

9. Riprap repair or replacement activities shall be outside of and not disturb sensitive areas identified in ch. NR 107, Wis. Adm. Code.

10. Riprap repair or replacement activities shall be located along moderate or high energy shorelines, based on the wave energy category as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculation tool or the *Erosion Intensity* (EI) Score Worksheet tool promulgated in rule by the Department.

11. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

12. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides are not considered to be riprap material.

13. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the EI Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the impoundments (pools) of the Mississippi River, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The Mississippi River Pools are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation.

c. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR UMR NEW RIPRAP OR VEGETATED ARMORING

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all UMR new riprap or vegetated armoring:

1. Riprap or vegetated armoring may not exceed 200 linear feet of shoreline along a Mississippi River pool impoundment.

2. The project site is a moderate or high energy site (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool or the *Erosion Intensity* (EI) Score Worksheet tool); or a low energy site where the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year and a biological erosion control structure was previously placed according to the standards described in Section 1.B.a. above. The time between separate bank-edge recession measurements shall equal or exceed 3 months during the open-water season. The applicant will satisfy the “equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year" requirement by demonstrating that the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 1.5 inches per 3 months during the open-water season.

3. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.

4. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

5. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

6. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

7. Riprap or other vegetated armoring along moderate or high energy sites (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool) shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings.

Note: Erosion control treatments may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.

8. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the EI Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the impoundments (pools) of the Mississippi River, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The Mississippi River Pools are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation.

d. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR UMR REPLACEMENT OF SEAWALL WITH VEGETATED RIPRAP ARMORING

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all UMR seawall replacement with riprap or vegetated armoring projects:

1. Riprap or vegetated armoring may not exceed 500 linear feet of shoreline along a Mississippi River pool impoundment.

2. The project site is a moderate or high energy site (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool or the *Erosion Intensity* (EI) Score Worksheet tool); or a low energy site where the bank-edge recession described in rule is equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year and the applicant can show a biological erosion control structure was previously placed according to the standards described in Section 1.B.a. above.

   Note: The time between separate bank-edge recession measurements shall equal or exceed 3 months during the open-water season.

   Note: The applicant will satisfy the “equal to or greater than 0.5 feet per year" requirement by demonstrating that the bank-edge recession is equal to or greater than 1.5 inches per 3 months during the open-water season.

3. Riprap materials shall consist of clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter. Stones with any flat sides (such as but not limited to dimensional stone, flagstone, etc.) are not considered eligible to be riprap material.

4. The toe of the riprap may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the OHWM.

5. The final riprap slope may not exceed (be steeper than) two (2) feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical.

6. Filter cloth or clean-washed gravel shall be used as a filter layer under the riprap to extend the life of the structure, improve effectiveness, allow for vegetation rooting and establishment within the stone crevices, and prevent soil erosion behind the riprap.

7. Riprap or other vegetated armoring along moderate or high energy sites (as calculated by the inland storm wave height calculator tool) shall be re-vegetated above the OHWM

by using native shrub plantings, native live stakes, or native jointed plantings. Note: Erosion control treatments may include a 10-foot shoreline segment where plant establishment is not required for the purpose of ingress/egress associated with the placement of a pier or access to the waterway or associated with public park activities.

8. Riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool or the EI Score Worksheet tool promulgated by the Department in rule. For the impoundments (pools) of the Mississippi River, riprap may not be placed at an elevation higher than the OHWM plus 1.5 times the storm-wave height as calculated by the inland lakes storm wave height calculation tool promulgated by the Department in rule. The Mississippi River Pools are typified as impoundments, 2500 acres and larger, waterbodies experiencing extensive water level fluctuation or high shoreline recession rates, and/or those with known historic loss of shoreline vegetation.

e. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR UMR REPLACEMENT OF SEAWALLS

In addition to the general standards in Section 1A, the following standards apply to all UMR seawall replacement projects:

1. The replacement may not exceed 100 feet of shoreline.

2. Seawall replacement may be permitted only at the following locations:
    a. Municipal or commercial marinas where vertical docking facilities are a practical alternative after considering the public interest.
    b. Navigational channels actively used as thoroughfares or for access, where slopes leading down to the bank are greater (steeper) than 1.5 feet vertical to one foot horizontal, showing evidence of erosion, where alternative methods of erosion control would impede navigation.
    c. Locations where slopes leading down to the bank are greater (steeper) than 1.5 feet vertical to one foot horizontal, and where the applicant demonstrates that alternative measures are not practicable taking into consideration bank height and the location of other permanent structures on the property.

3. The seawall replacement shall incorporate an adequate footing to prevent settlement, tipping, or undermining.

4. The seawall shall be attached to tieback anchors placed on the upland to prevent or minimize tipping of the wall.

5. The seawall shall include weep holes to relieve hydrostatic pressure in upland soils. A filter fabric or gravel filter layer backing at weep holes shall be installed to facilitate drainage and prevent the loss of soil from behind the wall.

6. For locations identified immediately above in criteria Section D.e.2, rock riprap shall be placed in front of the seawall to dissipate wave energy, minimize scour at the base of the wall and provide aquatic habitat. Riprap shall be clean fieldstone or quarry stone 6 to 24 inches in diameter, consists of blasted quarry stone or fieldstone with angular or rounded shapes (having no flat sides), placed at a slope not to exceed (be steeper than) two (2)

feet horizontal to one (1) foot vertical, and may not extend more than 8 feet waterward of the face of the seawall.

7. Each end of the seawall shall be buried or keyed into the bank to prevent flanking.

8. The seawall may be built only high enough to prevent the over-topping by storm waves.

SECTION 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. After you have carefully confirmed the proposed activity meets all the terms and conditions of this permit you must submit a complete application package to the Department as outlined in item 6 below. Pursuant to s. 30.206(3), Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 300.06(3), Wis. Adm. Code, the complete application package should be received a minimum of 30 calendar days before the desired project start date. Permit application materials can be found and submitted online at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "water permit".
2. Unless notified by the Department to the contrary, the effective date of coverage under this permit is 30 calendar days after the Department receives a complete application package.
3. The Department has one opportunity to request that you provide additional information necessary to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. If additional information is needed, the Department will notify you within 30 calendar days after receiving your application package. If the Department makes a request for additional information, the 30-day period is paused on the date the person applying for authorization receives the request for additional information. The clock remains paused until the date that the Department receives the information at the designated Department office, at which point the clock resumes from the point it was initially stopped.
4. As provided under s. 30.206(3r), Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 300.06(4)(i), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department may determine the project is not eligible for this general permit and require the project to be modified to meet eligibility criteria under this general permit or be reviewed through the individual permit process outlined in ss. 30.12(3m) and 30.208, Wis. Stats., If the Department determines your project is not eligible for this permit, you will be notified within 30 calendar days after your complete application package is received by Department.
5. A complete application package must include all of the following information:
    a. Complete and Signed Application Form certifying project meets the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP26-2026. This form can be found at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "water permit".
    b. Permit fees as shown on the fee sheet at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "Waterway Permit Fee" except as follows: Waterway projects authorized under s. 30, Wis. Stats., funded in whole or in part by a state or federal agency are exempt from permit fees under s. 30.28(3), Wis. Stats.
    c. A copy of the deed or similar proof of ownership of the riparian property adjacent to the site where the activity will occur.
    d. A signed permit checklist that confirms the applicant understands the eligibility standards specified in Section 1.
    e. Project plans that include final project design and construction including a project diagram that shows all of the following:
        - The methods, materials, and equipment that will be used to carry out the project.

- The location and type of temporary and permanent silt fences or any other sediment/erosion control devices.
- Top, side, and cross section plan profiles with appropriate measurements for the proposed project.
- The construction schedule and sequence of work.
- For disturbance or fill, a description of type, composition, and quality of materials.
- Area impacted, including area of waterway impacted.
- The location of any disposal area for dredged or excavated materials, if applicable.
- Maps of the project site with information that includes: most recent Soil Survey map, WI Wetland Inventory map, topographic map, floodplain information, and aerial photographs. All maps must show basic map elements (e.g., scale) and clear identification of the project site with project and property boundaries clearly labeled. The aerial photo shall also show the locations of all proposed wetland fill or discharge clearly labeled, if applicable.
- Current photographs that represent existing site conditions where the project will occur. Photos must show a clear and unobstructed view of the waterway and/or wetlands within the project area. (i.e., not covered in snow/ice/thick vegetation, etc.).
- Historical photographs depicting the location of any riprap previously placed at the site and any other relevant information regarding the previous placement of riprap, as applicable.

f. Documentation verifying the project will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state cultural/historical resources.

g. Documentation verifying the project will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state threatened/endangered resources. Documentation options include:

   i. An ER Review Verification Form showing that the project is covered by the Broad Incidental Take Permit for no/low impact activities and therefore does not require a review.

   ii. An ER Preliminary Assessment from the NHI Public Portal stating that no further actions are necessary or that further actions are recommended. The NHI Public Portal is located at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “NHI public portal”.

   iii. If the ER Preliminary Assessment from the NHI Public Portal shows that "further actions are required" then submit a Department **or** Certified ER Review letter. The request form for an ER Review letter and a list of Certified Reviewers is located at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keywords “ER review request.

SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION & RESPONSIBILITIES

You certify and agree that upon submittal of a complete application package to Department, the wetland project will be conducted in compliance with all the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP26-2026.

SECTION 4. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

The applicant agrees to comply with the following conditions:

1. Application. You shall submit a complete application package to the Department as outlined in the application materials and application requirements section of this permit. If requested, within

a reasonable timeframe you shall furnish the Department any information it needs to verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

2. Certification. Acceptance of coverage under general permit WDNR-GP26-2026 and efforts to begin work on the activities authorized by this general permit signifies that you have certified the project meets all eligibility standards outlined above and that you have read, understood, and agreed to follow all terms and conditions of this general permit.

3. Reliance on Applicant's Data. The determination by this office that a confirmation of authorization is not contrary to water quality standards will be based upon the information provided by the applicant and any other information required by the Department.

4. Project Plans. This permit does not authorize any work other than what is specifically described in the notification package and plans submitted to the Department and is certified by you to comply with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP26-2026.

5. Expiration. The time limit for completing an activity authorized by the provisions of WDNR-GP26-2026 ends 5 years after the date on which the activity is considered to be authorized under WDNR-GP26-2026 or until the activity is completed, whichever occurs first, regardless of whether WDNR-GP26-2026 expires before the activity is completed.

6. Written authorization for modification of scope. Any modification to the waterway authorized under this general permit must be approved by the Department in writing to ensure that the project continues to meet the general permit eligibility in Section 1. Separate permitting is necessary if the modified project scope no longer meets general permit eligibility.

7. Authorization Distribution. You must supply a copy of the permit coverage authorization to every contractor working on the project.

8. Project Start. You shall notify the Department using the information provided on the confirmation of coverage letter you receive before starting any activity and again not more than 5 days after each activity is completed.

9. Permit Posting. You must post a copy of this permit coverage letter at a conspicuous location on the project site at least five (5) days before beginning the permitted activity. The copy of the permit coverage letter must remain posted at that location until at least five (5) days after the area where the activity took place is stabilized. You must also keep a copy of the permit coverage letter and the approved plan available at the project site at all times until the project is complete.

10. Permit Compliance. The Department may revoke coverage of this permit if it is not constructed in compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Any act of noncompliance with this permit constitutes a permit violation and is grounds for enforcement action.

11. Construction Timing. Once waterway work below the OHWM begins, all construction activities in those waterways must be continuous until the work is completed, and the site is stabilized.

12. Construction. No other area of the wetland or waterway may be disturbed beyond the area designated in the submitted plans.

13. Project Completion. Within one week after completing the regulated activity, you shall submit to the Department a statement certifying the project complies with all the terms and conditions of this permit, and photographs of the activities authorized by this permit. This statement must reference the Department-issued docket number and be submitted to the Department staff member that authorized coverage.

14. Proper Maintenance. You must maintain the activity authorized by WDNR-GP26-2026 in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit using best management practices. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained to ensure no additional

impacts to the remaining wetlands and waterways.

15. Site Access. Upon reasonable notice, you shall allow access to the site to any Department employee, representative, or contractor who is inspecting the project's construction, operation, maintenance or permit compliance with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP26-2026 and applicable laws.

16. Erosion and Siltation Controls. The project site shall implement erosion and sediment control measures that adequately control or prevent erosion and prevent damage to wetlands as outlined in subch. III of ch. NR 151, Wis. Adm. Code. The technical standards to implement these performance standards can be found at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "stormwater technical standards". Any area where topsoil is exposed during the project should be immediately seeded and mulched to stabilize disturbed areas and prevent soils from being eroded and washed into the waterway. Unless part of a permanent stormwater management system, all temporary erosion and sediment control practices shall be removed upon final site stabilization. Areas disturbed during construction or installation shall be restored.

17. Equipment Use. The equipment used in waterways and wetlands must be low ground weight equipment as specified by the manufacturer specifications.

18. Wetland Protection. You shall not store any vegetation, material, or equipment in wetlands unless authorized to do so through an approved project design. The project will be constructed in a manner that will maintain wetland hydrology in the remaining wetland complex, if applicable.

19. Invasive Species. All project equipment shall be decontaminated for removal of invasive species prior to and after each use on the project site by following the most recent Department approved washing and disinfection protocols and Department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in ch. NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices along with a factsheet for equipment operators can be found at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword "invasive species BMPs".

20. Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species. WDNR-GP26-2026 does not affect the Department's responsibility to ensure that all authorizations comply with Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act, s. 29.604, Wis. Stats., and other applicable federal and state laws regarding threatened and endangered species. No activities are authorized under this permit that do not comply with these acts/laws. No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or state law or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of a species as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

21. Special Concern Species. If the Wisconsin National Heritage Inventory lists a known special concern species to be present in the project area you will take reasonable action to prevent significant adverse impacts or to enhance the habitat for the species of concern.

22. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources. WDNR-GP26-2026 does not affect the Department's responsibility to ensure that all authorizations comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and s. 44.40, Wis. Stats. No activities are authorized that do not comply with these acts/laws. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places. If cultural, archaeological, or historical resources are unearthed during activities authorized by this permit, work must be stopped immediately, and the State Historic Preservation Officer must be contacted for further instruction.

23. Preventive Measures. Measures must be adopted to prevent potential pollutants from entering a

wetland or waterbody. Construction materials and debris, including fuels, oil, and other liquid substances, will not be stored in the construction area in a manner that would allow them to enter a wetland or waterbody as a result of spillage, natural runoff, or flooding. **If a spill of any potential pollutant should occur, it is the responsibility of the permittee to remove such material, to minimize any contamination resulting from this spill, and to immediately notify the State Duty Officer at 1-800-943-0003.**

24. Suitable Fill Material. All fill authorized under this permit must consist of soil, as defined by ch. NR 500.03(214), Wis. Adm. Code, that is clean and suitable, free from hazardous substances as defined by s. 289.01(11), Wis. Stats., and free from solid waste as defined by s. 289.01(33), Wis. Stats.

25. Transfers. Coverage under this permit is transferable to any person upon prior written approval of the transfer by the Department.

26. Dam Transfers. No transfer of ownership of the dam may take place without proper authority under s. 31.21, Wis. Stats.

27. Reevaluation of Decision. The Department may suspend or revoke authorization of any previously authorized activity and may take enforcement action if the following occur:

    a. The applicant fails to comply with the terms and conditions of WDNR-GP26-2026.

    b. The information provided by the applicant in support of the permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate.

SECTION 5. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department and the applicant have completed all procedural requirements under s. 30.206, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 300.06, Wis. Adm. Code, and projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will comply with all applicable requirements of WDNR-GP26-2026, ss. 30.12 and 30.206, Wis. Stats., and chs. NR 102, 103, 299, and 300, Wis. Adm. Code.

2. The Department has determined that the issuance of this general permit, with conditions, will not injure public rights or interests, cause environmental pollution as defined in s. 299.01(4), Wis. Stats., or result in material injury to the rights of any riparian owner.

3. The Department has determined that activities subject to this permit, with conditions, will cause only minimal adverse environmental impacts, will not materially interfere with navigation, and will not have an adverse impact on the riparian property rights of adjacent riparian owners.

4. The project will not injure public rights or interests, cause environmental pollution as defined in s. 299.01(4), Wis. Stats., or result in material injury to the rights of any riparian owner, if constructed in accordance with this permit and authorized project plans.

5. The activity will result in a discharge that will cause only minimal adverse environmental effects.

6. The Department has determined pursuant to water quality standards under ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code, that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit individually and cumulatively will only result in minimal adverse environmental effects.

7. Pursuant to ch. NR 299.04(1), Wis. Stats., the Department has reasonable assurance that projects that meet the eligibility criteria and conditions and are granted coverage under this general permit will

meet all applicable water quality standards.

SECTION 6. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department has authority under ss. 30.12 and 30.206, Wis. Stats., to issue this general permit.
2. The Department has determined that issuance of this general permit is a prior compliance action under ch. NR 150.20(3)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, based on the Environmental Analysis and Environmental Impact Statements prepared previously for statewide general permits. The Department has determined that it has complied with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

SECTION 7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of this general permit, you accept the following definitions:

1. "Area of special natural resource interest" means only the areas listed in s. 30.01 (1am), Wis. Stats., and identified by the Department in s. NR 1.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

   Note: "Area of special natural resource interest" means any of the following:

   a. A State Natural Area designated or dedicated under ss. 23.27 to 23.29, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   b. A surface water identified as a trout stream by the Department in ch. NR 1.02(7), Wis. Adm. Code, and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   c. A surface water identified as an outstanding or exceptional resource water under s. 281.15, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   d. A body of water designated as a wild rice water under a written agreement between the Department and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   e. A body of water in a wetland along Lake Michigan or Lake Superior that the - Department has identified as an ecologically significant coastal wetland and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   f. A river that is included in the national wild and scenic rivers system or designated as a wild river under s. 30.26, Wis. Stats., and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   g. The portion of a body of water that contains a sensitive area and shown on a map published on the Department's Internet site.

   h. A unique and significant wetland specified by the Department in a special wetland inventory study or a special area management plan and shown on a map published on the Department's website.

   i. An area that possesses significant scientific value as identified by the Department in NR 1.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

2. “Bank” means a soil slope rising less than 10 feet above the bed of a waterway as measured from the bank toe.

3. “Biological materials” means living or organic materials that are biodegradable such as native grasses, sedges, forbs, shrubs, and trees; live stakes and posts; non-treated wood; jute netting; fiber rolls and mats; logs; and branches.

4. **“**Biological shore erosion control structure” means a shore erosion control structure that relies

solely on biological materials.

5. “Bluff” means the edge and face of land closest to a body of water, generally higher than 10 feet as measured from the bank toe, and high enough to contain multiple layers of soil and/or groundwater seepage."
6. "Channel" means a natural or artificial water course with defined bed and banks to confine and conduct the normal flow of water.
7. "Complete application package” means a completed and signed application, the information specified in Section 2 of this permit, and any other information which can reasonably be required from an applicant for the purpose of making decision, including information specified in ch. NR 300.06(3), Wis. Adm. Code.
8. “Contaminated sediments” has the meaning specified in the *Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* (WPDES) general permit to discharge carriage and/or interstitial water from dredging operations. (WPDES Permit No. WI-0046558-06-0).
9. "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.
10. "Dredged material" means any material removed from the bed of a navigable waterway by dredging. The bed of a navigable waterway extends landward to the OHWM.
11. "Dredging" means any part of the process of the removal or disturbance of material from the bed of a navigable waterway, transport of the material to a disposal, rehandling or treatment facility; treatment of the material; discharge of carriage or interstitial water; and disposal of the material. For the purposes of s. 30, Wis. Stats., dredging does not include "de minimis" activities.
12. "Fill material" has the meaning given in 33 CFR 323.2(e), and means material placed in wetlands where the material has the effect of replacing any portion of a wetland with dry land; or changing the surface elevation of any wetland. Examples of such fill material include, but are not limited to rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in a wetland. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.
13. "Floodplain" has the meaning in ch. NR 116.03(16), Wis. Adm. Code, and means the land which has been or may be hereafter covered by flood water during the regional flood.

    Note: Information for floodplain regulations and ordinances is available online at https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keywords “floodplain regulations”.

14. “Hazardous substance” has the meaning specified in s. 289.01(11), Wis. Stats.
15. “High Energy Site” means a site where the storm-wave height calculated under ch. NR 320.11(1), Wis. Adm. Code, is greater than or equal to 2.3 feet or where the erosion intensity score calculated under ch. NR 320.11(2) , Wis. Adm. Code, is greater than 67.
16. "Inert materials" means those materials that slowly degrade, such as chemically treated wood, stone, stainless and galvanized steel, plastics, and synthetic polymers.
17. “Inland waters” has the meaning given in s. 29.001(45), Wis. Stats.
18. “Invasive plants” are non-native or native plant species that invade natural plant communities and wild areas replacing desirable native vegetation. For a listing of common invasive plants found in Wisconsin visit https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/, keyword “invasive plants”.

19. "Line of navigation" means the depth contour where the water is 3 feet deep at its maximum depth based on the normal summertime low levels on the waterway or summer minimum levels where established by Department order.

    Note: Where a municipality has adopted an ordinance establishing a municipal pierhead line authorized under Wis. Stats. s. 30.13, the line of navigation is the municipal pierhead line.

20. “Low energy site” means a site where the storm-wave height calculated under ch. NR 320.11(1) , Wis. Adm. Code, is less than 1.0 foot or where the erosion intensity score calculated under ch. NR 320.11(2) , Wis. Adm. Code, is 47 or less.

21. “Moderate energy site” means a site where the storm-wave height calculated under ch. NR 320.11(1), Wis. Adm. Code, is greater than or equal to 1.0 foot but less than 2.3 feet, or where the erosion intensity score calculated under ch. NR 320.11(2) , Wis. Adm. Code, is 48 to 67.

22. "Navigable waterway" means any body of water with a defined bed and banks that is navigable under Wisconsin law. In Wisconsin a body of water is navigable if it is capable of floating on a regularly recurring basis the lightest boat or skiff used for recreation or any other purpose. This incorporates the definition at s. 30.01(4m), Wis. Stats., and current case law, which requires a watercourse to have a bed and banks, *Hoyt v. City of Hudson,* 27 Wis. 656 (1871), and requires a navigable waterway to float on a regularly recurring basis the lightest boat or skiff, *DeGayner &* Co., *Inc. v. DNR,* 70 Wis. 2d 936 (1975); *Village of Menomonee Falls v. DNR,* 140 Wis. 2d 579 (Ct. App. 1987).

23. "Ordinary High-Water Mark" (OHWM) means the point on the banks or shore up to which the presence and action of water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation or other easily recognizable characteristic.

24. “Outlying waters” has the meaning given in s. 29.001(63), Wis. Stat., and means Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Sawyer's Harbor and the Fox River from its mouth up to the dam at De Pere.

25. "Public rights feature" has the meaning in ch. NR 1.06(5), Wis. Adm. Code.

    Note: "Public Rights Feature" means any of the following:

    a. Fish and wildlife habitat, including specific sites necessary for breeding, nesting, nursery and feeding. Physical features constituting fish and wildlife habitat include stands of aquatic plants; riffles and pools in streams; undercut banks with overhanging vegetation or that are vegetated *above;* areas of lake or streambed where fish nests are visible; large woody cover.

    b. Physical features of lakes and streams that ensure protection of water quality. Physical features that protect water quality include stands of aquatic plants (that protect against erosion and so minimize sedimentation), natural streambed features such as riffles or boulders (that cause turbulent stream flow and so provide aeration).

    c. Reaches of bank, shore or bed that is predominantly natural in appearance (not man-made or artificial) or that screen man-made or artificial features. Reaches include those with stands of vegetation that include intermixed trees, shrubs and grasses; stands of mature pines or other conifer species; bog fringe; bluffs rising from the water's edge; beds of emergent plants such as wild rice, wild celery, reeds, arrowhead.

    d. Navigation thoroughfares or areas traditionally used for navigation during recreational boating, angling, hunting or enjoyment of natural scenic beauty. Physical features indicative of navigation thoroughfares includes shallow water areas typically used by wading anglers or areas frequently occupied by regularly repeated public uses such as water shows.

26. “Replacement” means a degree of structural changes to a structure by which some or all of the

structure is being removed and recreated.

- For seawalls, “replacement” includes removal and recreation of a portion of the seawall down to or at the footing of the structure.
- For riprap, “replacement” includes removal and replacement of filter fabric or the base substrate.

27. "Riparian" means an owner of land abutting a navigable waterway.
28. “Riparian Zone” has the meaning given in ss. 30.01(5r), Wis. Stats.
29. “Riprap” means a layer or layers of rocks, including filter material, placed on the bed or bank of a navigable waterway to prevent erosion, scour or sloughing of the existing bank. Riprap consists of clean, washed fieldstone or quarry stone that is free of fines and is rounded or angular with a diameter. Riprap materials do not have flat sides.
30. “Seawall” means an upright structure that is steeper than 1 foot horizontal to 1.5 foot vertical (1H:1.5V) and is installed parallel to the shore to prevent sliding or slumping of the land and to protect the adjacent upland from wave action.

    Note: Seawalls are commonly constructed of timber, rock (including gabions), concrete, steel or aluminum sheet piling, and may incorporate biological components.

31. “Shore erosion control structure” means a structure with defined shape, size, form, and utility constructed and maintained for the purpose of protecting a shoreline from erosion. “Shore erosion control structure” includes vegetated armoring and hard armoring.
32. "Single and complete project" means the total project proposed by the project proponent. For example, if construction of a linear project affects several different waterway and wetland areas, the cumulative total of all regulated areas is the basis for deciding the project's total waterway and wetland impact. For "phased" developments, each phase may constitute a single and complete project if it has an independent objective and would accomplish its intended purpose whether or not other phases were constructed.
33. "Stabilize" means the process of making a site steadfast or firm, minimizing soil movement by the use of practices such as mulching and seeding, sodding, landscaping, paving, graveling or other appropriate measures.
34. “Toe” means the most waterward edge of a structure.
35. “Unconsolidated sediment” is defined as loose materials ranging in size from clay and silt to sand and muck. Unconsolidated sediment does not include bedrock, cobble, rock or gravel.
36. “Vegetated Riprap” or “Vegetated Armoring” is means a shore erosion control structure that combines biological and inert materials and includes three types: integrated toe protection, vegetated-riprap, and vegetated-geogrids.
37. “Watercourse” means a running stream of water; a natural stream fed from permanent or natural sources, including rivers, creeks, runs and rivulets. There must be a stream, usually flowing in a particular direction, though it need not flow continuously. It may sometimes be dry. It must flow in a definite channel, having a bed or banks, and usually discharges itself into some other stream or body of water. It must be something more than a mere surface drainage over the entire face of the tract of land, occasioned by unusual freshets or other extraordinary causes.
38. "Watercraft" under Wis. Stats. s. 30.01(7) means any device used and designed for navigation on water.
39. “Wave height” means the vertical distance between the wave crest and wave trough.

40. "Wetland" has the meaning in s. 23.32(1), Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 103.02(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and means an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wetland conditions. The term "impacts to wetlands" includes temporary or permanent conversion of a wetland.