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Public comments sought on waterway and wetland general permit for water quality activities

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MADISON, Wis. —The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on a proposed waterway and wetland general permit for certain agricultural water quality conservation activities. An informational hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2-3:30 p.m. in room G09 at 101 S. Webster Street, Madison. The public comment period ends at close of business March 30.

“The proposed general permit would allow county, state, and federal agencies to implement water quality conservation practices in agricultural settings through a streamlined permitting process,” said Amanda Minks, waterway and wetland policy coordinator for DNR.

Several activities can be covered under the proposed general permit so long as they meet the applicable permitting standards and include grassed waterways, filter strips, lined waterways, grade stabilization structures, stream crossings, water and sediment control basins, dams, sediment basins, and constructed wetlands.

“This permit supports conservation work done by partner agencies, including county land conservation department, NRCS, and others, Minks said.

DNR does not anticipate this general permit to result in a significant negative effect on the environment. To view a copy of the draft permit or to view other information about the Department of Natural Resources individual and general permitting process, visit dnr.wi.gov and search “wetland disturbance.”

For more information or to submit written comments via U.S. mail, contact Amanda Minks, DNR-WT/3, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, 608-264-9223.

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