

2020 WisCALM Public Comment Period

UPDATE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

JANUARY 9, 2018



WisCALM Background

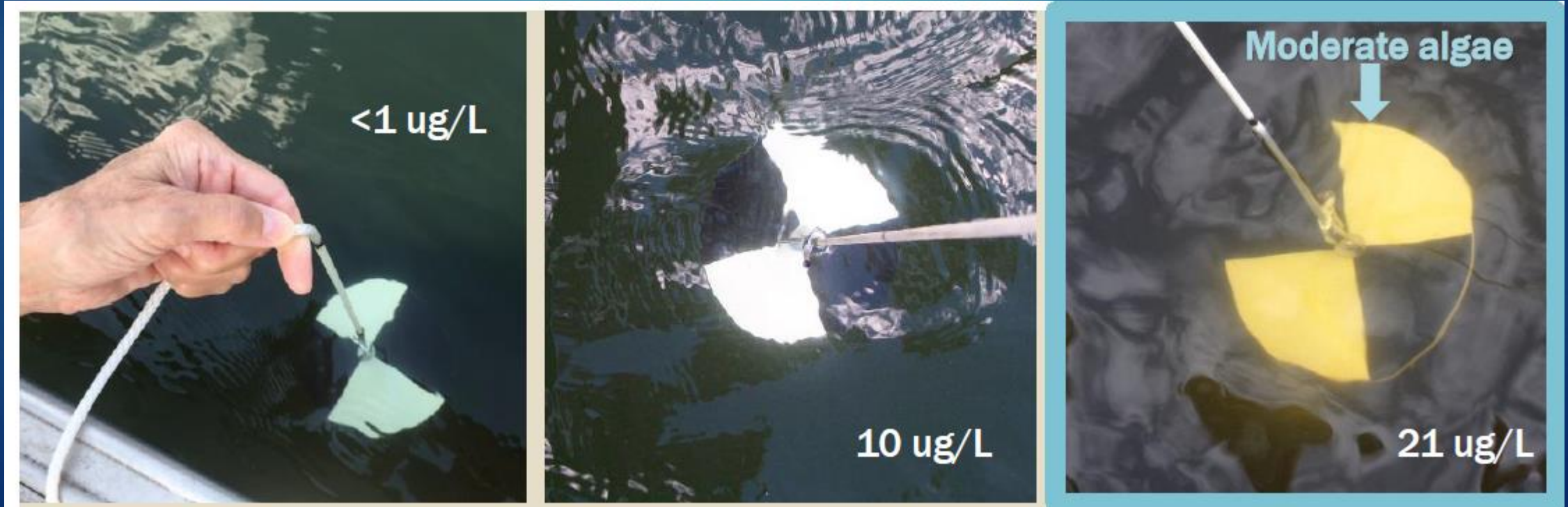
- ▶ **WisCALM:** Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology
 - ▶ Describes standardized procedures WDNR uses to assess surface water quality data against criteria.
 - ▶ Describes how/why a water would be determined impaired or healthy.
- ▶ Updated every 2 years.
- ▶ Every two years Wisconsin assesses the water quality of its surface waters as required by sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. § 130.7(b)).

Major 2020 WisCALM Updates

- ▶ Chlorophyll-a terminology change.
- ▶ Chlorophyll-a Recreation Use assessment benchmark update.
- ▶ Aligned language with current state Water Monitoring Strategy.
- ▶ Updated listing categories to match other EPA Region 5 states.
- ▶ Added more description of general assessments.
- ▶ Removed language on vestigial mercury listings.
- ▶ Added Quick-Link section.
- ▶ Updated References section.

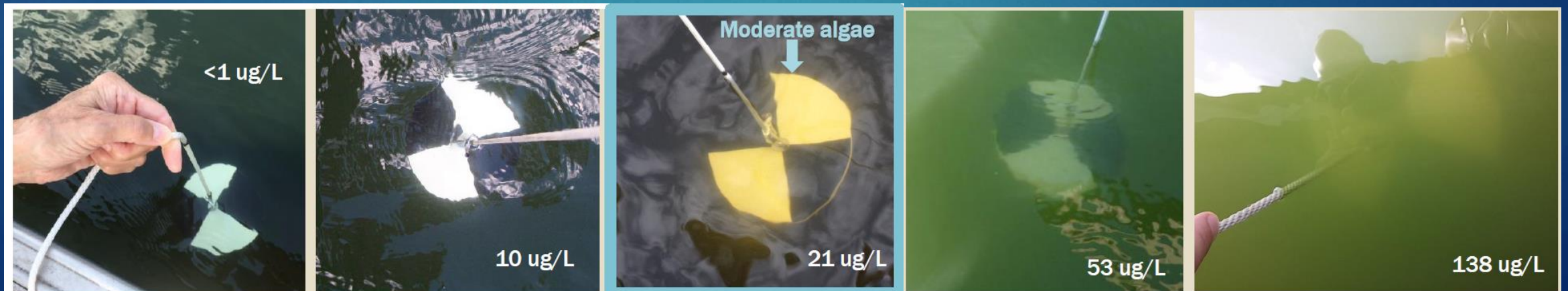
Chlorophyll-a Language Update

- ▶ Change phrase “**nuisance algal blooms**” to “**moderate algae levels**”.
- ▶ Based on External Advisory Committee for assessment standards rule updates.



Chlorophyll-a Language Update

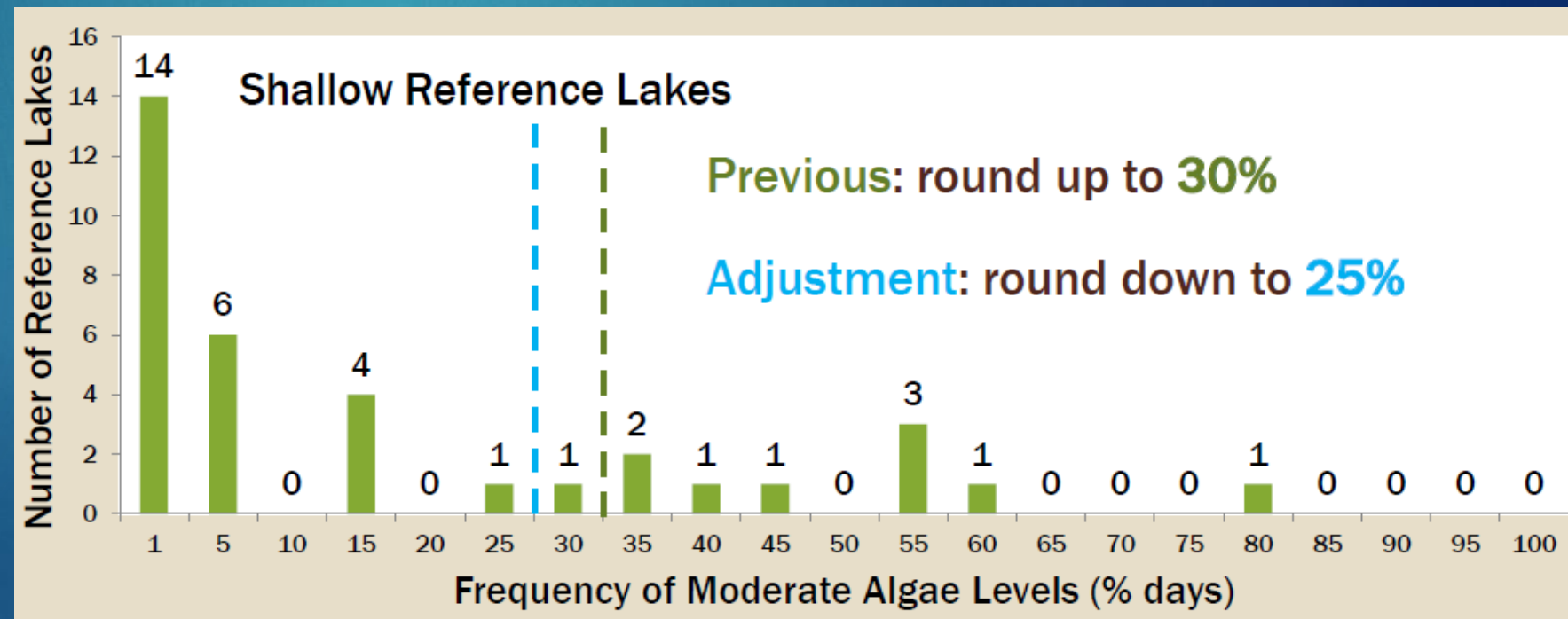
- ▶ “Half of lake users perceive some impairment to their enjoyment & recreation due to algae, but over 90% would still swim.
- ▶ The number of lake users who would not swim skyrockets as chlorophyll-a rises above 20 ug/L.



Chlorophyll-a Recreation Use Assessment Benchmarks

- ▶ Shallow Lakes: changed from 30% to 25%.
- ▶ Use more protective interpretation of previous analysis:
 - ▶ 75% of shallow reference lakes have moderate algae < 27% of days.

- ▶ Based on feedback from External Advisory Committee for assessment standards rule updates.

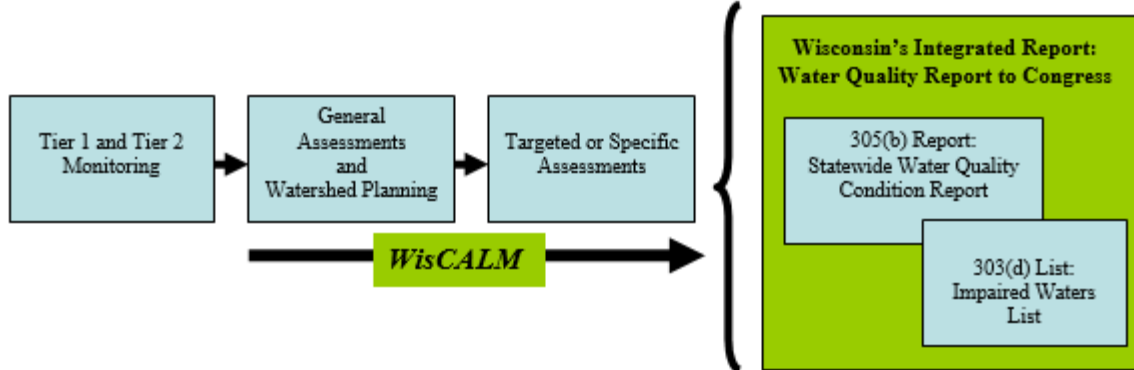


Match State Monitoring Strategy

- ▶ Removed language on “Tiered” monitoring. Updated Figure 1.

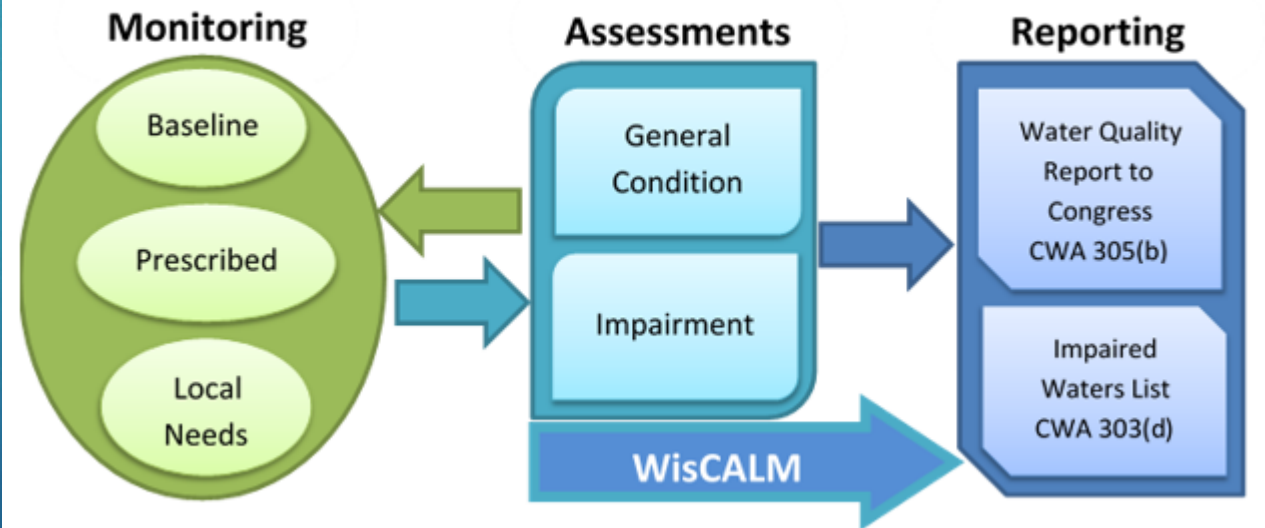
2018

Figure 1. Wisconsin's integrated reporting process.








2020

Figure 1. Wisconsin's integrated reporting process.



Updating Listing Categories

- ▶ Category 4 no longer considered part of the Impaired Waters List (aligns with other EPA R5 states).
- ▶ Newly created “**Restoration Waters**” List for all waters with TMDL or alternative plan.
- ▶ Newly created “**Healthy Waters**” List.

	1 Attains all uses.	Healthy Waters
	2 Attains at least one use; no use impaired.	
	3 Insufficient information for an attainment decision.	
	4 An impairment exists and a cleanup plan (TMDL or alt.) has been approved by the EPA.	Restoration Waters
	5 An impairment exists but a cleanup plan (TMDL or alt.) is still needed.	Impaired Waters

General Assessments

- ▶ Added water chemistry metrics as way to do a general assessments (previously only described as biology).

2018

2020

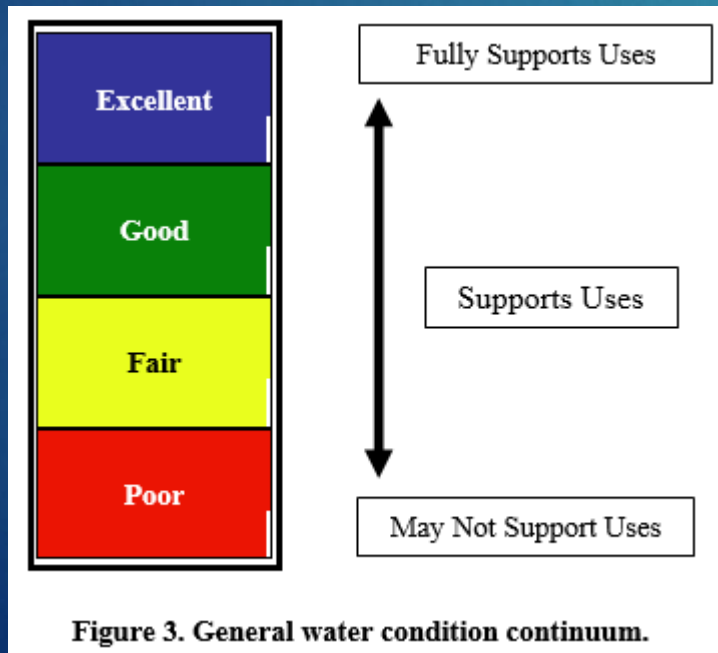


Table 7. General water condition assessment decisions based on biological and water quality metrics.

Metric		Assessment	
Biological Metrics (TSI*, mIBI, fIBI)	Water Quality Metrics (TP, Temp., Chloride, etc.)	Designated Use Support	Attainment Decision
Excellent	Meets Criteria	Fully Supports Use	Attaining
Good		Supports Use	
Fair			
Poor**	Exceeds Criteria**	May Not Support Use	Insufficient Information

*Secchi, chlorophyll, and satellite-based values.
 **Not enough data to do a full impairment assessment.

Mercury Listing Language

- ▶ Removed language referring to listings made before the 2001 statewide mercury advisory.
 - ▶ EPA originally wanted WDNR to sample all waters that had been listed for mercury before delisting even when sample levels used for listing were below the new statewide criteria.
 - ▶ Worked with EPA in Fall 2018 to approve proposal to remove these vestigial 1998 listings (total of 90).

Quick-Link Section

- ▶ Links to federal guidance, state administrative code, monitoring plans, topic pages, resources and tools, and other sources.
- ▶ Added to give easier access to these documents.

10.0 Quick Link Guide

Federal Clean Water Act & EPA Guidance

How US EPA Manages the Quality of its Environmental Data:

<https://www.epa.gov/quality>

Drinking Water Contaminants- Standards and Regulations:

https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations?_sm_au=iVVVMN2W4PQ7iM2QN

Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act):

<https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/about-beach-act>

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Ch. I, Subchapter D, Part 131- Water Quality Standards:

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title40/40cfr131_main_02.tpl&_sm_au=iVVW3452QBmB6LmN

Use Attainability Analysis:

<https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/use-attainability-analysis-uaa>

Wisconsin State Administrative Codes

Chapter NR1.02(7), Trout Stream Classification:

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/001/1/02

Chapter NR102, Water Quality Standards for Wisconsin Surface Waters:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/102

Chapter NR 103, Water Quality Standards for Wetlands:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/103

Chapter NR 104, Uses and Designated Standards:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/104

Chapter NR 105, Surface Water Quality Criteria and Secondary Values for Toxic Substances:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/105

Chapter NR 107, Aquatic Plant Management:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/100/107

Chapter NR 207, Antidegradation and Antibacksliding:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/200/207

Chapter NR 281, Paint and Ink Formulation:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/200/281

Monitoring Strategies and Protocols

Wisconsin's Water Monitoring Strategy 2015 - 2020, June 2015. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Madison, WI:

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/monitoring/strategy/Strategy_2015_2020.pdf

Minor 2020 WisCALM Updates

- ▶ Terminology changes:
 - ▶ Fish and Aquatic Life Use (FAL) → Aquatic Life Use (AL).
 - ▶ Impairment “Water Quality Use Restrictions” is now “High Phosphorus Levels”.
- ▶ Clarifying Language:
 - ▶ More information on assessment station selection (section 4.2).
 - ▶ Updated lake dissolved oxygen assessment language (section 4.5).
 - ▶ Added Wildlife Use sections 4.8 and 5.5.
 - ▶ Further description of TMDL Status (High, Medium, Low) determination (section 8.1).

Minor 2020 WisCALM Updates

- ▶ New Tables & Figures:
 - ▶ Assessment cycle date ranges (Table 1).
 - ▶ New List definitions (Figure 3, Tables 2 & 3).
 - ▶ Station selection in database, for DNR staff (Figures 7 & 14).
 - ▶ Outline of what parameter assessments result in certain impairments (Table 22).
 - ▶ Examples of listing decision process based on parameter attainment and use (Figures 16 & 17).
 - ▶ Example of pollutant-level and waterbody-level category determination (Table 24).
- ▶ Other Changes:
 - ▶ Added Acronyms & Terminology to Quick-Reference Section.

Public Comment Period

- ▶ A 30-day public comment period on draft WisCALM changes.
- ▶ **January 22nd to March 1st, 2019.**
- ▶ Submit comments:
 - ▶ Via Email: dnrimpairedwaters@wisconsin.gov
 - ▶ Via Mail to Ashley Beranek, DNR, Bureau of Water Quality, 101 S. Webster St. WQ/3 Madison, WI 53707.
- ▶ WDNR will respond to comments with finalization of guidance.