WISCONSIN’S DRAFT 2014 IMPAIRED WATERS LIST

Public Informational Webinar
February 12, 2014
INTRODUCTION

• Water quality standards are the foundation
• Impaired waters don’t meet water quality standards
• States are required to develop list of impaired waters
• Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), or cleanup plans, are developed for impaired waters
• Restored waterbodies are removed from the list
LISTING PROCESS

1. Preparation of listing methodology
2. Compilation of readily available data
3. Assessment of available data
4. Public notice of draft list
5. Send finalized list to EPA for approval
UPDATED ON EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS

- The 2010 impaired waters list is the most current, EPA-approved list.
- The final draft 2012 list was submitted to EPA for approval in August 2013.
  - [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/2012IR_IWLIST.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/2012IR_IWLIST.html)
- The 2014 list is the current update
HOW IS THE LIST USED?

• Management tool for tracking water quality status
  • Cleanup plans are tracked
  • Delisted waterbodies are often reported as success stories
• DNR does not use the list as a measure of water quality trends
  • Changes can be driven by updated water quality standards, assessment methods and monitoring strategies
WATER QUALITY TRENDS

• Trends have been both positive and negative over the last 20 years at long-term river monitoring stations
  - Phosphorus, ammonia and suspended solids concentrations have decreased
  - Nitrate and chloride concentrations have increased
DESIGNATED USES AND CRITERIA

- **Fish and Aquatic Life**
  - Fish, invertebrates and algal data
  - Phosphorus, sediment, and stream habitat
  - Aquatic toxicity
- **Public Health and Welfare**
  - Fish consumption
  - Human health criteria
- **Recreational Uses**
  - Beaches - bacteria
  - Inland lakes – algae and phosphorus
- **Wildlife**
  - Aquatic toxicity
NEXT STEPS FOR RESTORING IMPAIRED WATERS

• Identify the cause, where unknown
• Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
• Alternative restoration plans
NEW PHOSPHORUS LISTINGS IN TMDL AREAS
IMPAIRED WATERS CONSEQUENCES

• Point Source Dischargers
  • Dischargers with potential to cause or contribute to an impairment
  • Important considerations:
    • TMDL areas
    • Offsets allowed (e.g. pollutant trading)
IMPAIRED WATERS BENEFITS

• Provides impetus for restoration work
• Funding Incentives
  • USDA’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  • Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants
  • EPA Section 319 Grant
PROPOSED 2014 LISTING UPDATES

• The comprehensive draft list has 856 waterbody listings
• 192 waterbodies are newly proposed for the list
  • A majority of new listings (137) based on phosphorus data
  • Most others based on biological data
• Thirteen waterbodies are proposed to be removed from the list
LAKES AND IMPOUNDMENTS
LISTINGS TO DATE

312 Listed Lakes and Impoundments
LAKES AND IMPOUNDMENTS
NEW 2014 PROPOSED LISTINGS

78 New Lakes and Impoundments

Legend
2014 Proposed Lakes
Status
Addition
Proposed for List

Degraded Biology (chlorophyll), 35, 36%
Total Phosphorus, 54, 55%
Mercury, 8, 8%
PCBs, 1, 1%
RIVERS AND STREAMS
LISTINGS TO DATE

342 Listed Rivers and Streams

- Bacteria, 25, 5%
- Other Metals, 28, 6%
- Mercury, 13, 3%
- PCBs, 33, 6%
- Sediment/Total Suspended Solids, 180, 35%
- Other, 53, 10%
- Total Phosphorus, 178, 35%

Legend
- 303d Listed Rivers and Streams
RIVERS AND STREAMS
NEW 2014 PROPOSED LISTINGS

130 New Rivers and Streams

Legend
2014 Proposed Rivers/Streams
Status
- Proposed for List
- Addition

- Degraded Biology (fish and inverts), 15, 10%
- PCBs, 1, 1%
- Sediment/Total Suspended Solids, 9, 6%
- Chlorides, 4, 2%
- Total Phosphorus, 122, 81%
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

• A 30-day comment period
  • Ends March 6, 2014
• The draft list was announced via the following communications:
  • Press release from Central Office
  • Posting on DNR’s website
  • GovDelivery message
RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE

- Comment period
- Press Release
- Fact Sheets:
  - Listing Process
  - 2014 Listing Updates
- Wisconsin’s Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods (WisCALM)
  - 2014 Version

2014 Impaired Waters List Updates

A majority of the new listings are water bodies, including the Lake Winnebago system, which was not previously impaired.

A significant number of new waterbody listings are degraded biological condition with unmet aquatic and benthic conditions.

The remaining new listings are due to poor water chemistry, concentrations of mercury or PCB in Big Bay, or elevated levels of salinity or estrangement.

**Criteria**
- Tributary reach is proposed to be removed from the list.
- One stream is proposed to be removed from the list, among several streams in Grant county, based on criteria indicating healthy physical habitat and benthic conditions.
- Pool closure is proposed to be removed based on observed fish population.
- West waters are to be removed based on observed mercury in Lake Michigan.
VIEW THE LISTINGS

• **Link to draft of comprehensive list**
  • Tab A. Impaired without TMDL
  • Tab B. Impaired with TMDL
  • Tab C. 2014 Proposed Listings
  • Tab D. 2014 Proposed Delistings

• **The Impaired Waters Search Tool**
  • Search DNR’s WATERS database for impaired waters listings

• **The Surface Water Data Viewer**
  • Search impaired waters listings on a map
QUESTIONS?

Contact Information

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http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/