Minutes of the Third Meeting of the

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
A PROSPECTUS FOR A REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

DATE: May 8, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TEAMS LINK:
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/257447740109430?p=1WdY7qoCD4fbb3zvEa
Meeting ID: 257 447 740 109 430
Passcode: t8AK3it7

Members Present

Laura K. Herrick, Secretary ..... Chief Environmental Engineer, SEWRPC
Alan Barrows..... Land Resources Manager, Waukesha County
Kevin Berg ..... Engineering Services Director, Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District
Mandy Bonneville .....Deputy Director/County Conservationist, Walworth County Land and Resource Management Department
Jacob Fincher ..... Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc.
Dave Giordano .....Executive Director, Root Pike Watershed Initiative Network
Elizabeth Hellman..... Water Quality Compliance and Lab Services Manager, WEC Energy Group
Aliyah Kousheh ..... Water Engineer-in-Training, Kenosha Water Utility
Jamie Ludovic..... Chief Community Development Officer, Washington County
Janette Marsh .....Nonpoint Source Technical Program Manager States and Tribes, Water Division U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
Cheryl Nenn..... Riverkeeper, Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Katie Praedel..... Field Integration Leader, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Tim Reel .....Operations Manager and Employee Safety Director, City of Oconomowoc, Wastewater Treatment Utility
Mark Riedel.....Total Maximum Daily Load Manager, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Rachel Sabre .....Water Resources Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Chad Sampson .....Land Resources Manager, Racine County Land and Water Conservation
Brett Schmidt .....Wastewater Engineer, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Chelsea Snowden-Smith .....Stormwater Utility Engineering Technician, City of Kenosha
Andrew Struck .....Director, Planning and Parks Department, Ozaukee County
Sue Swanson. ..... Director and State Geologist, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
Paul Tollard.....County Conservationist, Kenosha County
Katie Vogeler.....Director, Land and Water Management, Ozaukee County

Staff Present

Benjamin R. McKay ..... Deputy Director, SEWRPC
Emily E. Porter..... Planner, SEWRPC
Aaron W. Owens..... Principal Planner, SEWRPC
Thomas M. Slawski ..... Chief Biologist, SEWRPC

[Secretary's Note: The agenda for this meeting is attached herein as Exhibit A.]

CALL TO ORDER

The May 8, 2026 meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for *A Prospectus for a Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update* (RWQMPU) was convened online at 10:03 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Committee Secretary Ms. Laura Herrick, Chief Environmental Engineer with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Attendance was taken using the online software.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Herrick welcomed the attendees to the third TAC meeting for a *Prospectus for a Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update* and noted the addition of one new TAC member, Ms. Aliyah Kousheh with the City of Kenosha. Ms. Herrick then introduced the agenda for the meeting. She explained that Ms. Porter would first provide an overview of changes and additions to the water quality inventories discussed during the February 13, 2026, TAC meeting. She then noted that the meeting would cover two Prospectus scope discussion topics: sources of pollution in the Region and RWQMPU outcomes and recommendations. She also shared where to find information for the Prospectus effort, directing the TAC to the Regional Planning tab on the Commission's website (www.sewrpc.org). Past meeting agendas, summary notes, and the committee member list can be viewed on the Water Quality page. This page will also house up-to-date information about the Prospectus effort and future draft documents.

Ms. Herrick next provided a brief review of the content discussed during the TAC meeting on February 13, 2026, and asked the committee for any comments or edits from the February Summary Notes. The previous meeting reviewed the water quality and wastewater inventories to be included in Prospectus scope. TAC members offered no questions or comments on the Summary Notes.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY INVENTORIES

Ms. Porter reviewed the minor changes requested by the TAC to the water quality inventories that will be included in the RWQMPU. She noted the addition of streams with approved or pending total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) as well as the addition to the stream inventories of six minor streams. Ms. Porter also informed the committee that aquatic invasive species presence and absence data will be added to lake and stream assessments, and ice on and ice off data will be included for inland lakes. She asked the TAC for any additional suggestions or thoughts related to the water quality inventories and assessments to be included in the Prospectus scope. TAC members offered no additional comments.

INDENTIFYING SOURCES OF POLLUTION

To begin the Prospectus scope discussion, Ms. Porter first described the purpose of identifying sources of pollution in the RWQMPU and reviewed urban and rural point and nonpoint sources in the Region. Members of the TAC offered feedback on additional sources to include. Mr. Riedel mentioned that drain tile use has increased significantly in the Region and suggested that they be estimated as a rural pollution

source. Ms. Snowden-Smith commented that sump pumps in areas with contaminated groundwater may also be a source of pollution to consider. Mr. Riedel added that water softener salts should be considered as an additional point source for wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS).

Ms. Herrick next described plans for assessing sources of pollution in the Region using the approved and draft TMDLs. She noted that most of the Region's watersheds are covered by the Rock River, Milwaukee River Basin, Northeast Lakeshore, and Fox River TMDLs and that the RWQMPU will leverage these existing TMDL calculations as a framework to quantify pollution source contributions. Ms. Herrick explained that TMDL calculations and 2020 land use data will be used to extrapolate and develop source contributions for watersheds that do not have a TMDL in place. She then provided an example from the Milwaukee River Basin TMDL to illustrate how annual load allocations for various point and nonpoint source categories will be used to estimate the percentage of the total load contributed by each source type. She noted that the goal is to determine the major sources in each watershed.

Mr. Reel asked if the RWQMPU would be used as a tool to prioritize improvements within a TMDL and noted that including load mass (pounds per year) in addition to percent contributions may be important for estimating improvement costs. Mr. Reidel offered support for using a percentage-based approach to estimating pollution loads, noting that the TMDL baseline loads were not meant to represent existing conditions and therefore do not offer a direct comparison across the Region. He also mentioned that the TMDL percent reduction calculations were designed to include the assimilative capacity of a river. Mr. Reidel added that the RWQMPU can help provide guidance on how TMDL reductions can be achieved and help identify where these reductions should come from in order to meet water quality goals. He noted that there are significant barriers to implementing TMDLs that should be identified, adding that more flexibility exists for agricultural land and that the focus should be on stormwater in more urban areas where MS4 pollution loads are dominant. Ms. Snowden-Smith informed the committee that the City of Kenosha will be completing modeling in anticipation of TMDL requirements in the coming years and will have data to share.

Next, Ms. Herrick briefly discussed sources of pollution to groundwater, noting that TMDLs are for surface waters but can also provide insights into sources of groundwater contamination through losses from streams. She explained that pairing land use data with the TMDL allocations will provide insights for groundwater pollution sources.

To conclude the sources of pollution discussion, Ms. Porter described how the RWQMPU will assess the sources for emerging contaminants. Where available the RWQMPU will take advantage of water quality data for emerging contaminants. Predominantly these sources will be estimated by conducting a literature review of emergent contaminant sources and connecting findings to land uses in the Region. For neonicotinoids and herbicides, she added that this process would also include a review of crop types in the region, a determination of the area covered by these different crops, and an evaluation of pesticide, and herbicide application practices for each crop type.

Ms. Nenn asked if the review of pollutant sources for the RWQMPU will result in policy recommendations. Using chloride as an example, she noted that recent research has shown that there is a need for policy solutions to address sources of pollution. Ms. Herrick agreed and informed her that the Regional Chloride Impact Study Planning Report will include policy recommendations such as a state contractor certification program. No additional comments were provided by the TAC on the sources of pollution.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RWQMPU OUTCOMES

Water Quality

Ms. Porter continued the Prospectus scope discussion by introducing possible RWQMPU recommendations and outcomes identified by Commission staff. She explained that RWQMPU recommendations will identify which water quality constituents and locations to prioritize, describe current water quality monitoring needs and plans for continued monitoring, recommend best management practices to address point and nonpoint sources of pollution, identify ways in which high quality waters can be protected, provide recommendations for how TMDLs and 9-Key Element Watershed Plans can be implemented in the Region, and suggest new or revised water quality standards for specific constituents. Ms. Porter noted that the RWQMPU will also consider future conditions such as climate and temperature projections, population and land use changes, and new tools for water quality data sharing. She then asked the TAC for additional recommendations or outcomes that they feel should result from the RWQMPU.

In response, Ms. Swanson asked that extreme rainfall and its impact on runoff be included in future condition considerations. Mr. Struck suggested that the impacts of dams on water quality and fish passage be considered as well as policy recommendations for dams. Ms. Nenn agreed with Mr. Struck's dam suggestion. She then expressed that there is currently a lack of clarity around TMDLs and implementation. She noted the cumulative land spreading of sludge as well as significant shifts from family farms to controlled animal feeding operations (CAFOs), adding that these sources have not been fully represented in past work.

Mr. Riedel noted that there is a lot of flexibility for projects on agricultural land, but in southeast Wisconsin there are several limitations to doing this type of work. He suggested a greater focus on MS4 stormwater recommendations.

Mr. Reel inquired about future outreach efforts and asked how the Commission plans to share the completed RWQMPU with the public. Ms. Herrick agreed that education and outreach are intended to be major outcomes of the RWQMPU and said that there may be a need for a separate future outreach committee to guide this effort.

In reference to TMDL discussions, Mr. Riedel said that all point sources have been making substantial progress toward achieving TMDL reductions in the Region and that the WDNR would be happy to share reports tracking these improvements. Ms. Herrick suggested that the RWQMPU include recommendations for packaging and using these WDNR TMDL reports. Mr. Tollard then emphasized that the key to TMDL implementation will be to coordinate efforts across organizations and suggested that the RWQMPU provide guidance on a collective strategy.

Success Stories

Next, Ms. Porter explained that the RWQMPU will also highlight successful water quality projects and initiatives in the Region and use these success stories to guide management recommendations. She noted two successful efforts mentioned in previous TAC meetings: the Ozaukee County Fish Passage Program and the use of adaptive management as a strategy to meet phosphorus reductions in the City of Oconomowoc. Ms. Porter then asked the TAC for additional examples of projects, methods, or programs that they would like to see highlighted in the RWQMPU.

In response, Mr. Reel thanked Commission staff for mentioning the City of Oconomowoc's adaptive management program and added that he would also like to highlight the many partners that made the program successful in the RWQMPU. Mr. Barrows suggested that four Waukesha County pollutant trading projects using bank stabilization for TMDL and MS4 compliance be included. Mr. Giordano added that the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network's Stormwater Pond Playbook has been a very effective resource that could be referenced as well. Mr. Barrows mentioned that information about stormwater sewer networks

was compiled as part of the Pewaukee River Watershed Plan in 2013 and noted that this data was difficult to gather and that there is no standard for documenting stormwater facilities. He suggested that the RWQMPU include recommendations for mapping standards for stormwater facilities.

Mr. Riedel recommended including success stories from projects carried out within the Area of Concern. Ms. Nenn informed the committee that she is part of a group that is also looking to elevate Great Lakes success stories as part of a larger effort to reform the Clean Water Act and that she would be happy to report back the TAC after the group's next meeting. She requested that the TAC send any good case studies her way to share with the group during a meeting in Chicago in a few weeks.

Organization of Recommendations

Ms. Herrick discussed how SEWRPC Planning Report No. 30, *A Regional Water Quality Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* (PR-30) and SEWRPC Planning Report No. 50, *A Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds* (PR-50) presented previous Plan recommendations. She then proposed a similar format for organizing RWQMPU recommendations, suggesting that they be sorted into four planning categories. These categories would include a Land Use Plan, Surface Water Quality Plan, Groundwater Quality Plan, and Water Quality Monitoring Plan. Ms. Herrick emphasized that the plans would not be standalone and would be intentionally interconnected. For example, the Land Use Plan recommendations would indicate their benefit to surface and groundwater and the Surface Water and Groundwater Quality Plans would have clear ties to one another. Ms. Herrick reminded the TAC that the interconnection of the elements was previously requested by Ms. Marsh during an earlier TAC meeting. Ms. Marsh responded that it would also be helpful for the RWQMPU to include a gap analysis of what actions were not completed or that no longer apply from PR-30 and PR-50.

Wastewater Treatment Point Sources

Ms. Herrick next reviewed possible water quality recommendations for wastewater treatment facilities as point sources. She noted that the RWQMPU could include recommendations for adding or combining treatment plants, for nutrient programs, and for sanitary service planning. Ms. Herrick asked the TAC if recommendations for sludge disposal should also be included, noting that a Sludge Management Plan was a significant outcome of PR-30. Mr. Reel commented that Wisconsin communities are proactive in biosolid disposal but added that disposal is a major expense for municipalities. He then cited regulatory drivers, cost, other permitting requirements, and aging infrastructure as barriers to implementing sustainable biosolid treatment and disposal strategies.

Mr. Schmidt added that there are growing concerns about available land for sludge disposal and PFAS contamination in biosolids. He suggested that a priority shift is needed toward Class A treatment systems to ensure that WWTPs can properly dispose of contaminated biosolids. Ms. Nenn echoed Mr. Schmidt's comments and mentioned that there is a State interim strategy for contaminated biosolid disposal in place. Mr. Reel added that many contaminants are passed through WWTP processes and suggested that the RWQMPU address ways to minimize contaminants sent to WWTPs. He also suggested that a stronger stance be taken in the Region to encourage WWTPs to improve their treatment methods for contaminants that are not currently being treated for, such as PFAS. Ms. Nenn agreed with this concern, commenting that WWTP pretreatment programs are in need of review. She added that pretreatment should be a solution to PFAS and chlorides but that WWTPs are largely using dilution as their solution. Mr. Schmidt mentioned that WWTPs often cannot receive waste from septic systems and other sources and that waste haulers are currently traveling long distances to find places that will receive and properly dispose of waste. He suggested that the RWQMPU provide recommendations to address this issue as well.

Mr. Schmidt also expressed a need for better communication with developers and communities on sanitary sewer extensions (SSEs) and their relationship to planned sanitary sewer service areas (SSSAs), noting that the WDNR has received SSE requests from developers for outside of the planned SSSAs. This leads to significant delays in completing the development as the SSSA needs to be amended to add the new area. He then mentioned that POWTS are primarily regulated by DSPS but WDNR has some involvement for larger or non-domestic systems (under a 1999 MOU). There is concern for WDNR staff about impacts to groundwater quality due to overuse of POWTS, especially when they are clustered too closely together or where the subsurface hydrogeology does not support it (Karst) or there are water wells nearby. Mr. Schmidt suggested that the RWQMPU investigate whether POWTS are appropriately regulated and if current regulations are enough to protect groundwater quality. Mr. Reel commented that landfill leachates would also be a good topic for inclusion in the sources of pollution discussion and recommendations. Ms. Snowden-Smith suggested the RWQMPU include recommendations for snow management and smarter salting to address sources of chloride.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE PROSPECTUS

Ms. Herrick closed the meeting by sharing next steps in the Prospectus effort. She noted that there are two additional meetings planned for 2026. The Prospectus is slated to be completed in December 2026. Ms. Herrick informed the TAC that the draft Prospectus text for the inventories will be reviewed during the next meeting. She reminded the committee that meeting agendas, presentations, and summary notes along with the draft prospectus text will be posted on the Water Quality page of the SEWRPC website at www.sewrpc.org/Regional-Planning/Water-Quality.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Herrick
Recording Secretary

00281178.DOCX – Summary Notes – RWQMPU Prospectus TAC Meeting – May 8, 2026
300-5100
EEP/LKH
5/11/2026, 6/4/26, 6/5/26

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR

A PROSPECTUS FOR A REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

DATE: Friday, May 8, 2026

TIME: 10 – 11:30 am

TEAMS LINK:

Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/257447740109430?p=1WdY7qoCD4fbb3zvEa

Meeting ID: 257 447 740 109 430

Passcode: t8AK3it7

AGENDA:

1. Review February 13, 2026 TAC Meeting Summary Notes
2. Brief summary of inventory updates to the RWQMPU Prospectus following TAC feedback
3. Prospectus Scope Content Discussion
    a. Sources of Pollution in the Region
        i. Point and Nonpoint Sources
        ii. Use of Total Maximum Daily Load Calculations
    b. RWQMPU Outcomes
        i. Plan Recommendations
        ii. Examples of Successful Projects and Programs
4. Next Steps
5. Adjourn