Southeastern Wisconsin

Regional Planning Commission

Regional Water Quality Management Plan Update

Prospectus

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
May 8, 2026

#00278579

Meeting Agenda

1. **Review February TAC Meeting Notes**

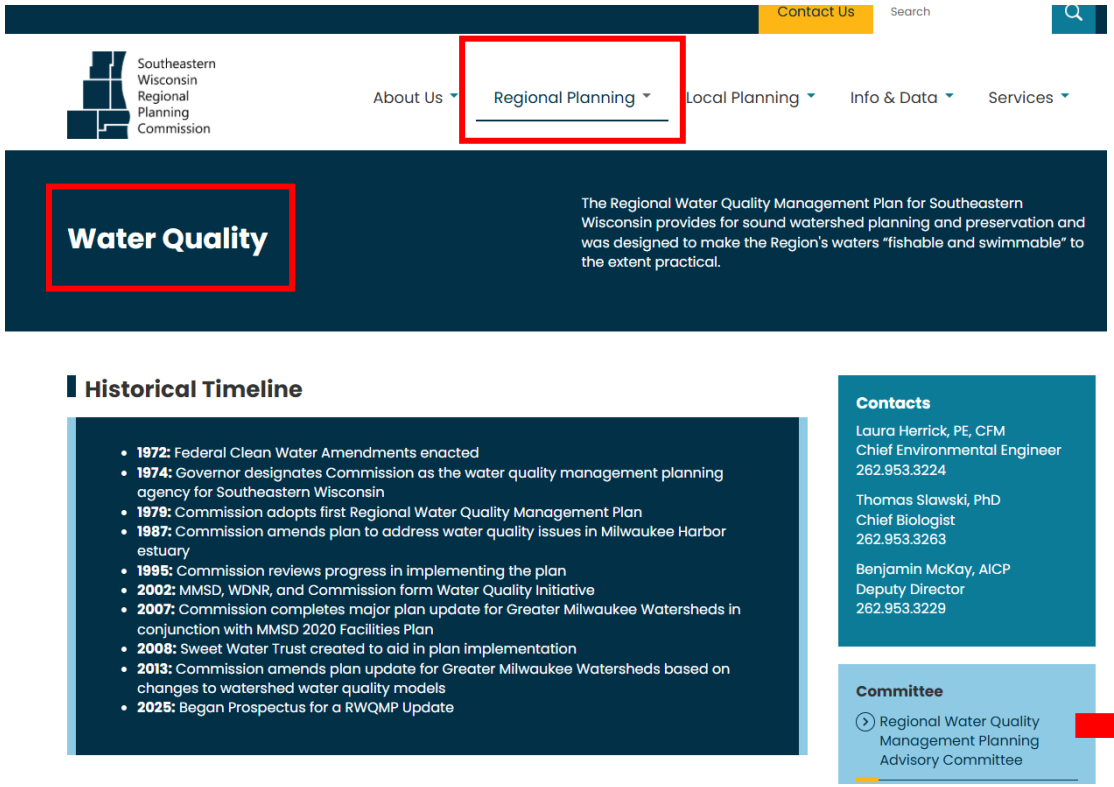
2. **Continue Prospectus Scope Discussion**
   - Changes and Additions

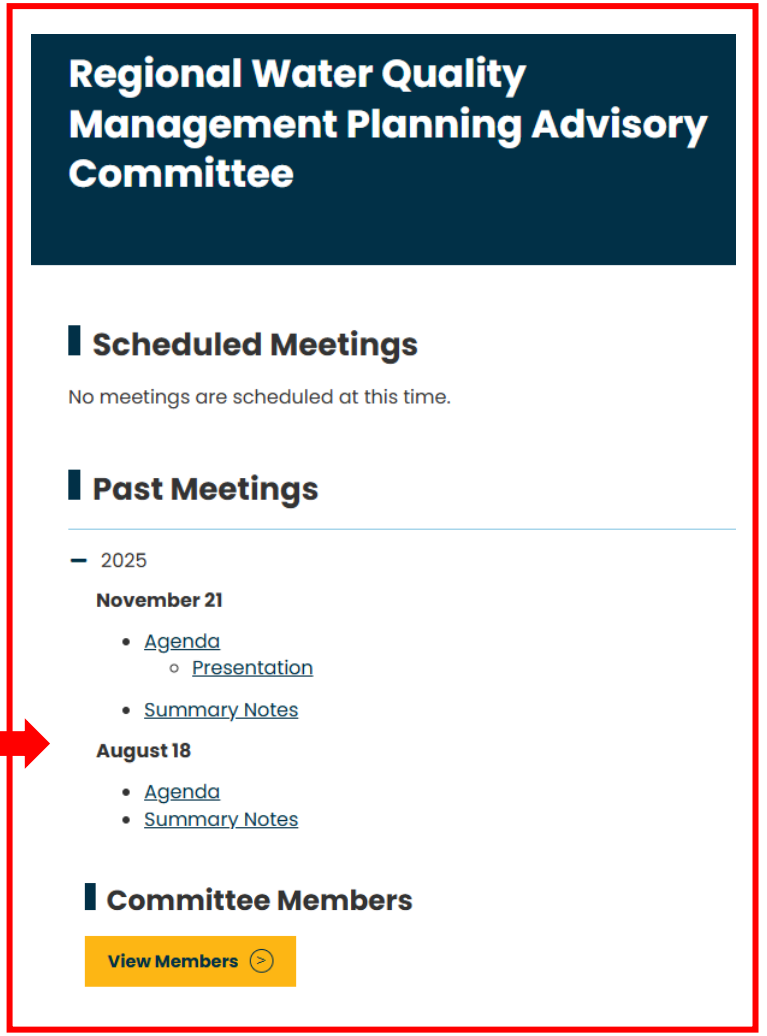
3. **Water Quality Scope Follow-up**
   - Sources of pollution in the Region
   - Plan Recommendations and Outcomes

4. **Next Steps**

Online Information

www.sewrpc.org





RWQMPU Inventory Review

➢ Water Quality Assessments (1960-2026)

- Major streams, inland lakes, Lake Michigan & groundwater

➢ Other Water Quality Inventories

- Connectivity/Fish Passage, Environmental Corridors, Coarse Riparian Buffer Analysis & Steep Slopes
- Hydric Soils, Wisconsin Wetland Inventory & Potentially Restorable Wetlands
- Groundwater Recharge Areas & Depth to Groundwater
- Agricultural Practices

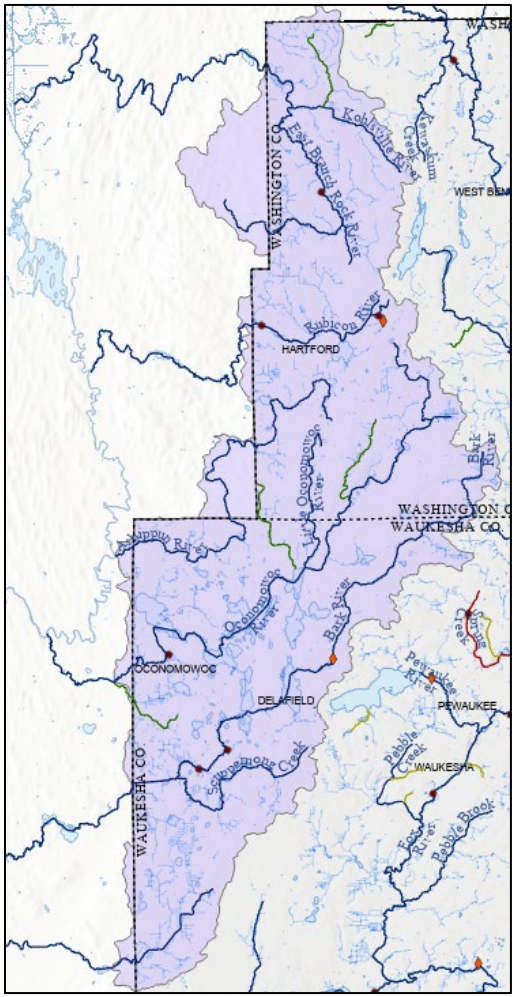
➢ WWTP and SSSA Inventories

Water Quality Inventories

Changes and Additions

Streams Water Quality

Rock River Watershed



Major Perennial Streams and Selected Minor Streams

Minor Streams Approved TMDL

Streams with Abandoned or Planned WWTPs

Streams with WWTP Discharge

Planned or Abandoned WWTPs

Active WWTP Discharge Locations

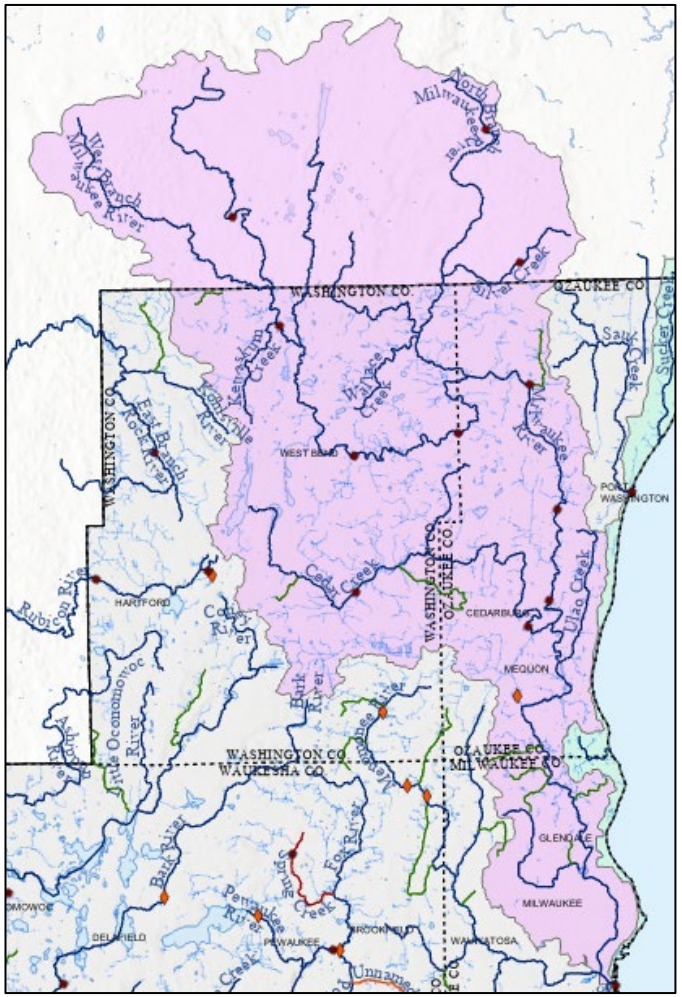
County Boundaries

Region Boundary

Milwaukee River WS

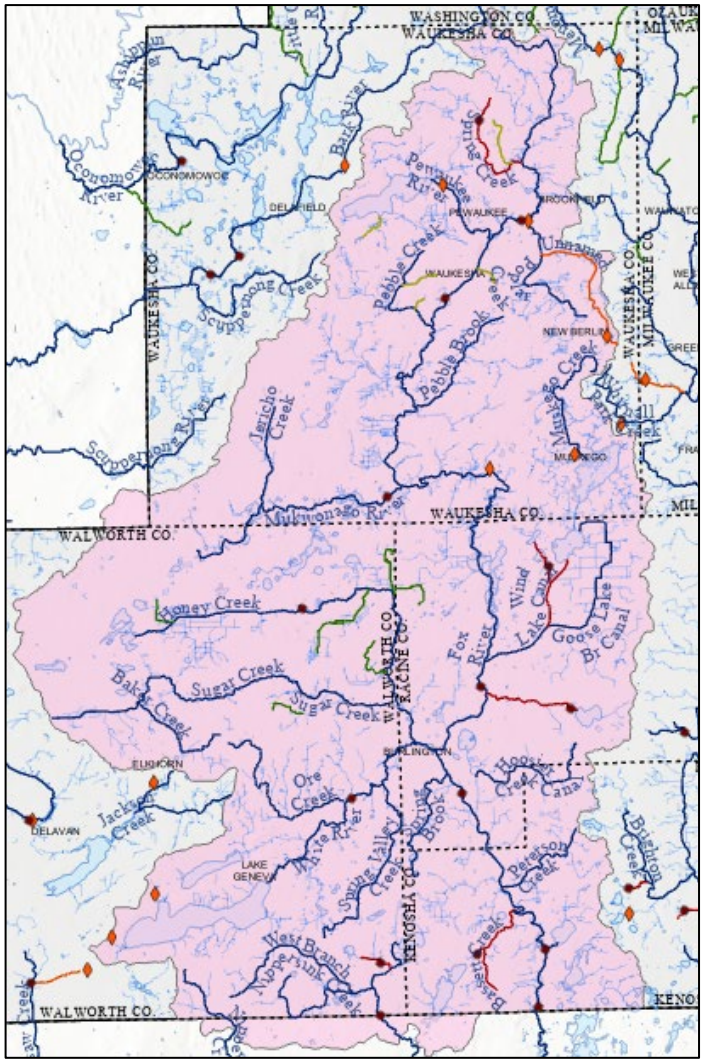
Rock River WS

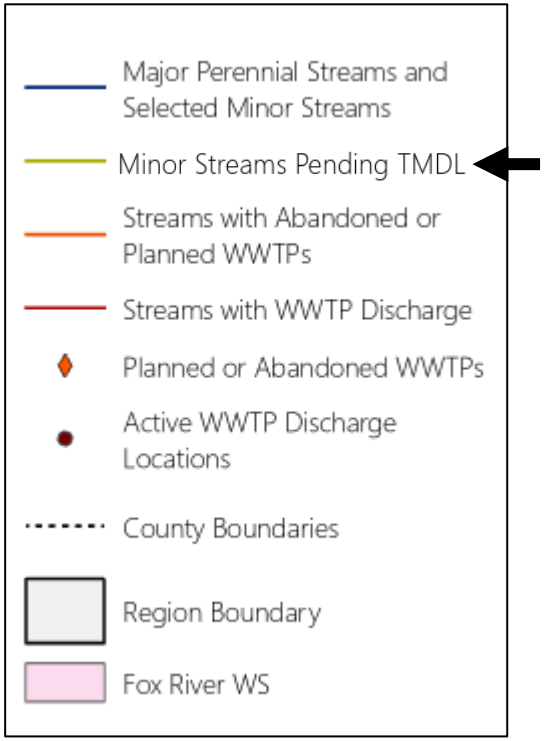
Milwaukee River Watershed



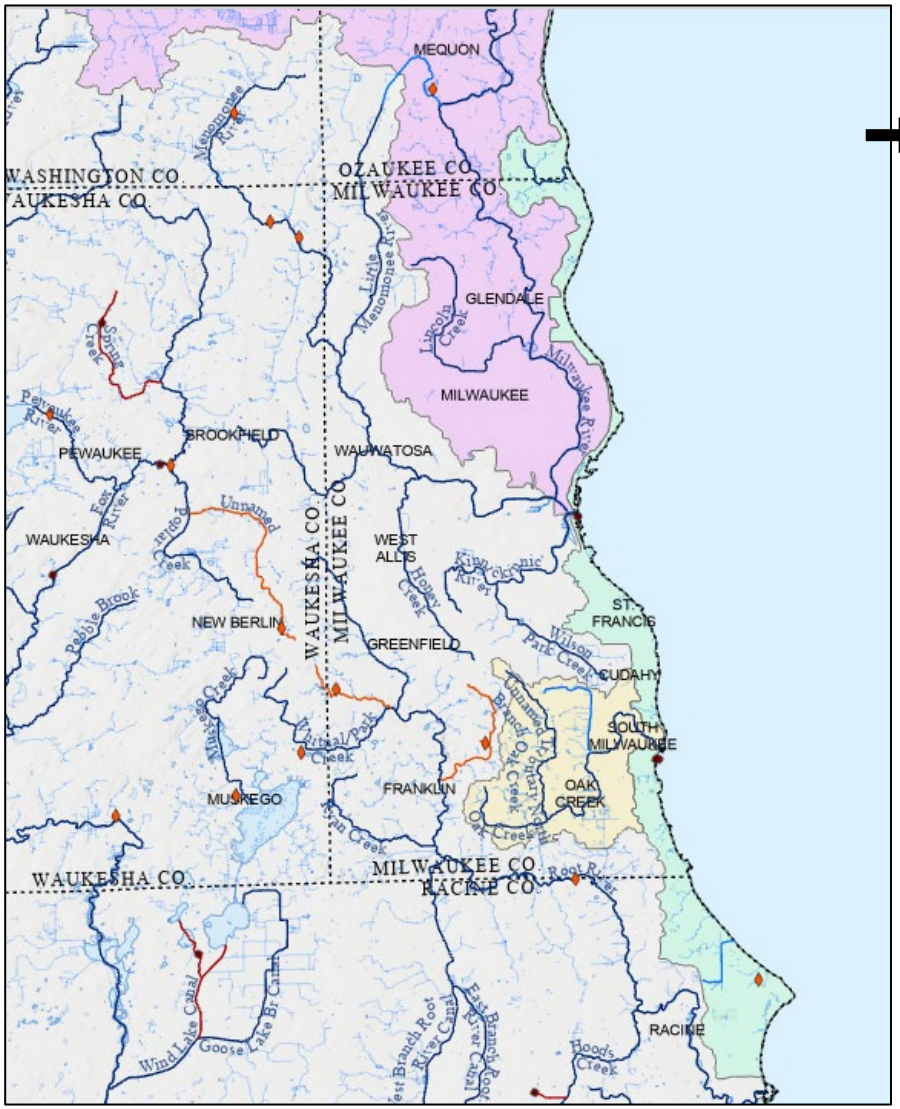
Streams Water Quality

Fox River Watershed



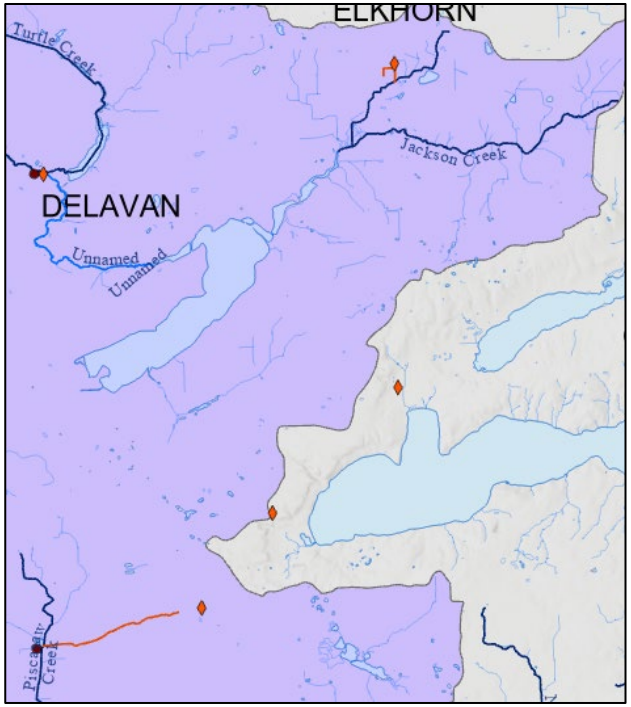


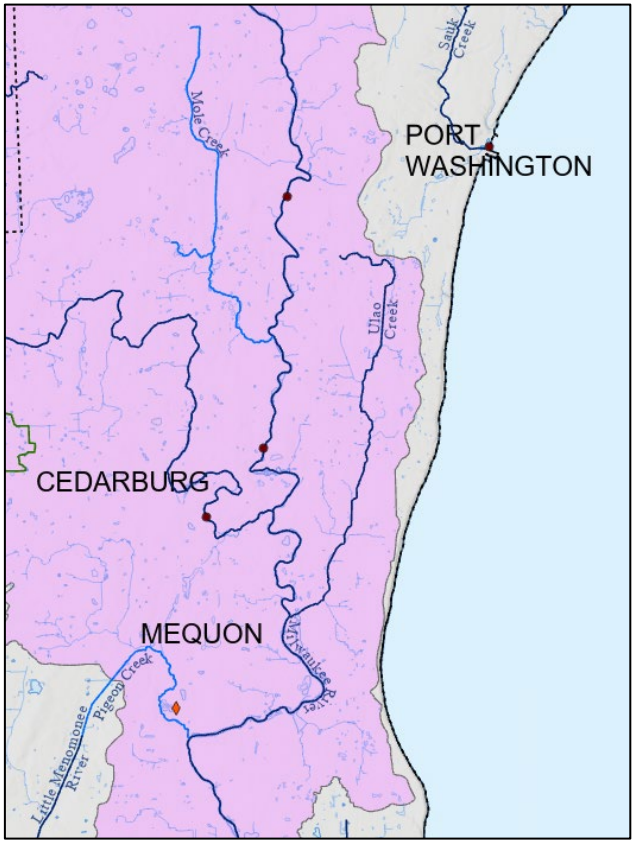
Streams Water Quality



- Pigeon Creek
- Klema Ditch
- Mitchell Field Drainage
- Barnes Creek (not shown)

Streams Water Quality





- Major Perennial Streams and Selected Minor Streams
- Suggested Streams (TAC)
- Streams with Abandoned or Planned WWTPs
- Streams with WWTP Discharge
- Planned or Abandoned WWTPs
- Active WWTP Discharge Locations
- County Boundaries
- Region Boundary
- Milwaukee River WS
- Rock River WS

- **Pigeon Creek**
- **Mole Creek**
- **Turtle Creek Tributary**

Water Quality Inventories

- **Additional inventories added:**
  - Aquatic Invasive Species (Lakes and Streams)
    - Presence/absence data
  - Ice on/Ice off data (Lakes)

Photo of Schlitz Park Mural: OnMilwaukee

Prospectus Scope Discussion

Sources of Pollution

Regional Pollutant Sources

- **Purpose of Source Identification**
  - Identify point and nonpoint sources
  - Compare sources from PR-30 (1970s) to current sources
    - Changes in land use, number of WWTPs, etc.
  - Determine best management practices and state-of-the-art methods for pollution reduction
  - Identify ways in which BMPS can be better adopted and implemented to improve water quality

Point and Nonpoint Sources

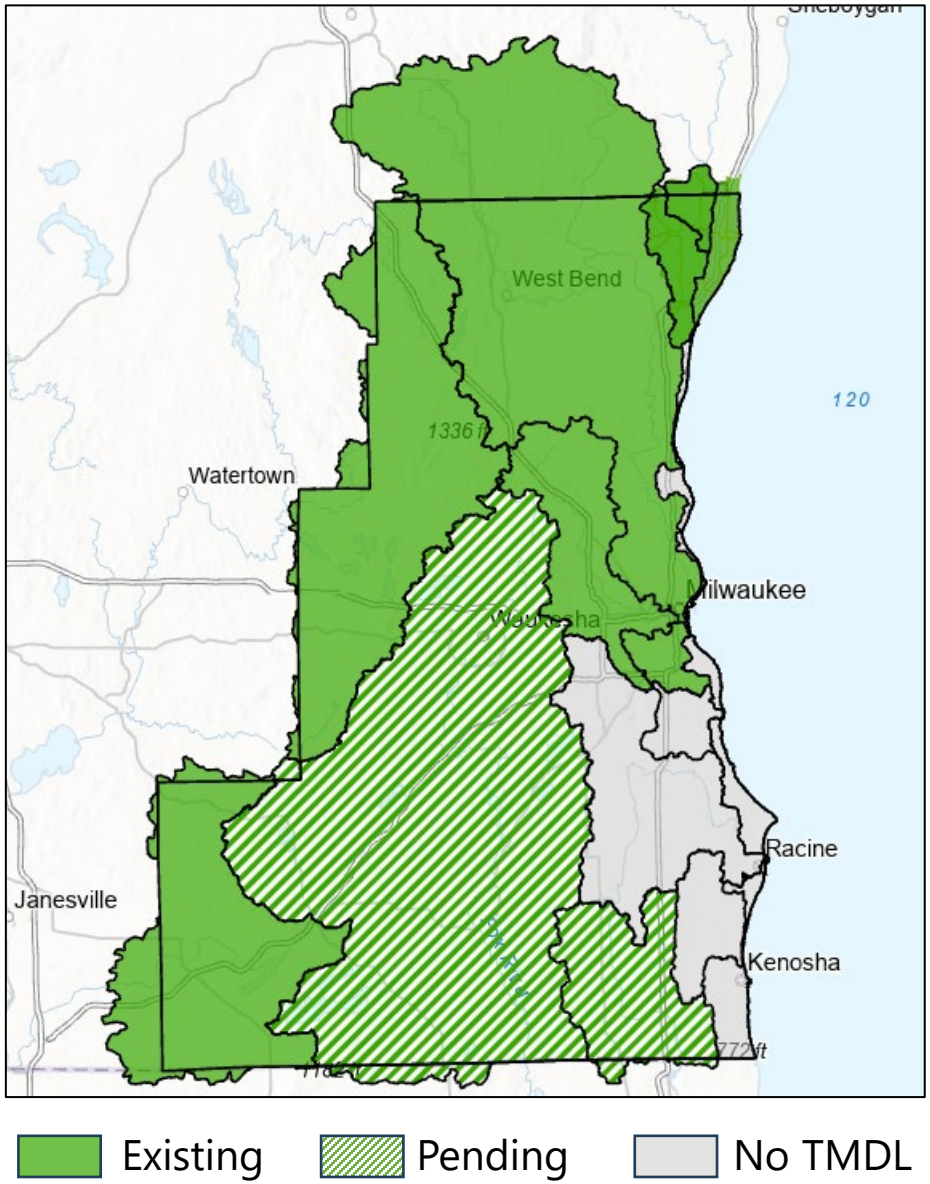
- **Point Sources**
  - Identifiable, discrete discharge locations
  - Permitted
  - Types
    - WWTP – Public and Private Discharge Locations
    - Sanitary Sewer Overflow Sites – Separate and Combined
    - Industrial Discharge Locations

Point and Nonpoint Sources

- **Nonpoint Sources**
  - Diffuse pollution
  - **Urban**
    - Stormwater runoff from parking lots, streets, rooftops, lawns, etc.
    - Industrial stormwater and construction site stormwater runoff
    - Landfills
  - **Rural**
    - Livestock operations
    - Cropland/Agriculture
    - Natural areas (woodlands, wetlands)
    - Septic systems

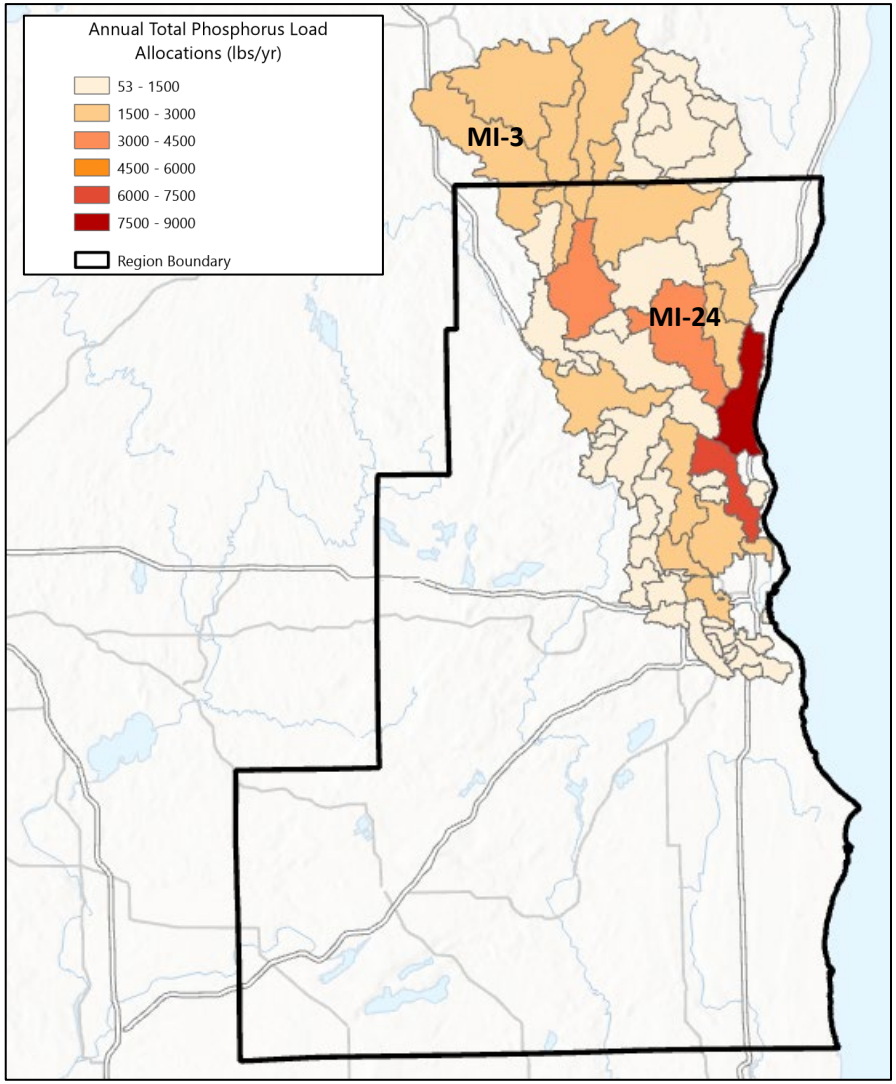
Total Maximum Daily Loads

- **Existing TMDLs**
  - Rock River, Milwaukee River, NE Lakeshore, Fox-Illinois*
- **RWQMPU**
  - Leverage existing TMDL calculations as a framework to quantify pollutant source contributions
  - Use TMDLs + 2020 land use data to extrapolate and develop source contributions for watersheds that do not have a TMDL in place



Total Maximum Daily Loads

Milwaukee River Basin TMDL Example



Reach MI-3

	Annual Load Allocation (lbs/yr)	
Total Loading Capacity	**2,782.32**	
Reserve Capacity	118.1	
Load Allocation		
Background	324.94	
Agricultural	1039.7	**37%**
Non-Permitted Urban	1202.74	**43%**
Wasteload Allocation		
General Permits - NCCW	--	
General Permit - Other	95.33	
MS4	1.51	
Individual Permits	--	

Reach MI-24

	Annual Load Allocation (lbs/yr)	
Total Loading Capacity	**3,196.44**	
Reserve Capacity	140.58	
Load Allocation		
Background	274.35	
Agricultural	210.89	**6%**
Non-Permitted Urban	386.19	
Wasteload Allocation		
General Permits - NCCW	0.26	
General Permit - Other	110.46	
MS4	413.8	
Individual Permits	1659.92	**52%**

Point and Nonpoint Sources

➢ Example Summary Table for Phosphorus from TMDLs

Watershed	TMDL Subbasin	Stream	Phosphorus % Contribution						
			Point WWTP	Point MS4	Point Permitted Industrial	Point General Permits	Nonpoint Ag.	Nonpoint Non-Permit Urban	Background
Milwaukee	MI-3	West Branch Milwaukee River (entire length)	0	0.05	0	3	37	43	12
Milwaukee	MI-24	Cedar Creek from confluence with North Branch to Mouth	45	13	7	4	6	12	9

Point and Nonpoint Sources

- **Watersheds without TMDLS**
  - Oak Creek, Pike River, Root River, Lake Michigan Direct Drainage (southern portions)

- **Other Regional Plans to support pollutant source development and management recommendations**
  - Restoration Plan for the Oak Creek Watershed (2021)
  - Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed (2014)
  - Pike River Watershed-Based Plan (2013)

Point and Nonpoint Sources

- **Sources to Groundwater**
  - TMDLs focus is streams
  - TMDLs can provide insights for sources of groundwater contamination through losses from streams
  - Here land use information will be key

Point and Nonpoint Sources

- **Sources of Emerging Contaminants**
  - Conduct literature review of contaminant sources and tie findings to land uses in the Region
    - 6PPD, PFAS, Pharmaceuticals
  - Neonicotinoids and Herbicides
    - Review of Regional crop types, area, and likelihood of pesticide/herbicide use

Photo Menomonee River: Eddee Daniel, A Wealth of Nature

Prospectus Scope Discussion

Recommendations and RWQMPU Outcomes

RWQMPU Recommendations

Desired Water Quality Outcomes

- Identify water quality constituents and locations to prioritize
- Describe current water quality monitoring needs and plans for continued monitoring
- Recommend best management practices for point and nonpoint sources of pollution
- Identify ways in which high quality waters can be protected
- Include recommendations for how TMDLs and 9-Key Element Watershed Plans can be implemented
- New or revised water quality standards for specific constituents

Considerations for future WQ conditions (2050)

- Climate and temperature projections
- Population and land use changes
- New tools to share water quality data with communities and between agencies

RWQMPU Recommendations

- **Highlight Regional Success Stories**
  - Identify what has worked/is working
  - Use successful projects and initiatives to guide management recommendations
    - Improved Fish Passage and Habitat

      (*example : Ozaukee County Fish Passage Program*)
    - Adaptive Management to meet phosphorus reductions

      (*example : Oconomowoc*)
- **Which projects, methods, or programs would the TAC like to see in the RWQMPU?**

RWQMPU Recommendations

PR-30 Recommendations

- Land Use Plan
- Point Source Pollution Abatement Plan
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Plan
- Sludge Management Plan
- Water Quality Monitoring Plan

PR-50 Recommendations

- Land Use Plan
- Surface Water Quality Plan
- Groundwater Management Plan

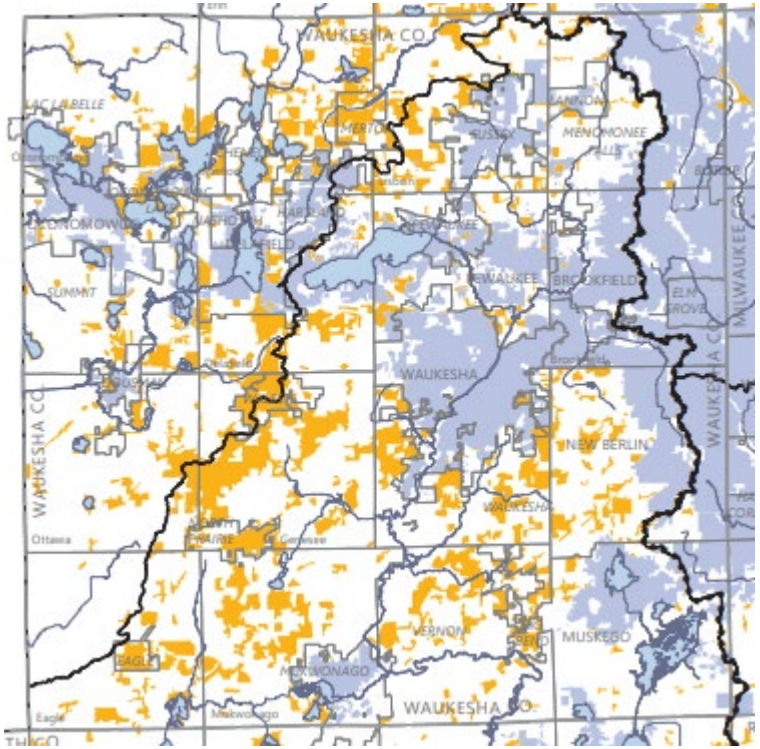
RWQMPU Recommendations

➢ Update Recommendation Format

- Land Use Plan
  - Recs for urban development
  - Recs for preservation and enhancement of natural areas & prime farmland
  - Tie to impacts to surface waters and groundwater
- Surface Water Quality Plan
  - Point source component - WWTPs
  - Nonpoint source component – MS4s, agriculture
  - Tie impacts to groundwater
- Groundwater Quality Plan
  - Nonpoint source component – MS4s, agriculture
  - Tie impacts to surface waters
- Water Quality Monitoring Plan

RWQMPU Recommendations

- **Point Source Wastewater Treatment**
  - Recommendations for adding/combining treatment plants
  - Recommendations for sludge disposal?
  - Recommendations for nutrient programs
    - WQ Trading
    - Adaptive Management
    - Multi-Discharger Variance
    - Other?
  - Recommendations for sanitary service planning
    - SSSA amendment process
    - SSE process for new development
    - Septic systems



Next Steps

Prospectus finished December 2026

Two additional meetings in 2026

- Tentatively August, October
  - Draft Prospectus completed October

Next meeting

- Review Draft Prospectus text for
  - Water Quality Assessments and Inventories
  - Wastewater Treatment Inventories

Meeting agendas, presentations, and summary notes along with draft prospectus text will be posted on our website

www.sewrpc.org/Regional-Planning/Water-Quality

Thank You

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