

Dane County Waterbody Classification Project
Shoreland and Riparian Management Plan

Summary of changes from Public Review Draft recommended by Urban Runoff Subcommittee of the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission:

Overall

- Move to a performance standard-based model. Prescriptive standards (minimum lot size, buffer depth, setbacks, etc.) now listed as an alternative "practice" to meet performance standards. (*In unincorporated areas, compliance with NR 115 minimums or use of "setback averaging," "alternate cutting plans" or both, may still be necessary.*)
- Put countywide minimum standards in Chapter 13, Dane County Code (Standards for Water Quality) rather than Chapter 11 (Shoreland Zoning).

Water Quality

- Include compliance with Chapter 14 stormwater standards for residential development as an acceptable practice to meet proposed water quality standards for Urban and Developing Waters.
- Allow credit for lots served by a regional stormwater system that meets or exceeds Chapter 14 stormwater standards for residential development.

Habitat

- Shoreland lots not adjacent to water now exempted from habitat standards.
- Habitat point targets reduced from 100 points to 75 points in Developing Waters, and from 100 points to 50 points in Urban Waters. Target would remain at 100 points for Rural Waters.
- Offsite habitat restoration or protection added as a new practice to meet habitat standards (at a reduced point level).
- New practice "passive buffer" (i.e. no-mow areas) added to meet habitat standards. Invasive species control would be required.
- Points awarded adjusted to score more points per square foot for each practice.

Natural Scenic Beauty

- Scenic point targets reduced from 100 points to 75 points in Developing Waters, and from 100 points to 50 points in Urban Waters. Target would remain at 100 points for Rural Waters.
- New practice added to allow landowners/developers to demonstrate that their proposed development would not be visible from the water.
- New practice "passive buffer" (i.e. no-mow areas) added to meet scenic standards. Invasive species control would be required.
- Increase points awarded for compliance with locally-developed shoreland design and aesthetic standards from 35 points to 40 points in Urban Waters, and from 20 points to 25 points in Developing Waters.
- Increase points awarded for using natural colors, reducing reflective materials and keeping structure height below screening vegetation from 10 points to 15 points in Developing and Urban Waters.

Shoreland changes proposed for all classes:

- Clarify that existing nonconforming structures could become compliant if performance standards are met. (*In unincorporated areas, may be limited by NR 115 requirements.*)
- Expand current county shoreland erosion control standards to cities and villages.
- Clarify statutory, case-law definitions of “navigable waters.”

Implementation

- Real-world examples and cost estimates for water quality practices in Urban, Developing and Rural Waters developed.
- Software tool for calculating habitat and scenic points for Urban, Developing and Rural Waters developed. Some cost estimates developed, but need more info.

Prescriptive standards

- Prescriptive standards now identified as “lot and site design” and listed as one of several acceptable practices. (*Note: NR 115 may limit flexibility to be “less restrictive” than statewide minimum prescriptive standards in unincorporated areas.*)
- For Urban Waters on public sewer, minimum lot size reduced from 20,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet to be consistent with current County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 11, Dane County Code).

Economic Impacts

- Invitations sent for focus group on economic impacts, including municipal assessors, real estate appraisers, UW researchers in land economics and real estate, real estate agents, public and private land acquisition agencies, and others.