

Phosphorus Implementation and Compliance Updates

Matt Claucherty
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The Nutrient Pollution Challenge

Lake Mendota, Summer 2018

Photo Credit: [Public Health Madison & Dane County](#)

Nutrient pollution is one of America's most widespread, costly and challenging environmental problems.

-US EPA



Statewide Phosphorus Criteria: Adopted 2010



Rivers

100 $\mu\text{g/L}$



Streams

75 $\mu\text{g/L}$



Reservoirs

- Not Stratified = 40 $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Stratified = 30 $\mu\text{g/L}$



Inland Lakes

Ranges from 15-30 $\mu\text{g/L}$



Great Lakes

- Lake Michigan = 7 $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Lake Superior = 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$

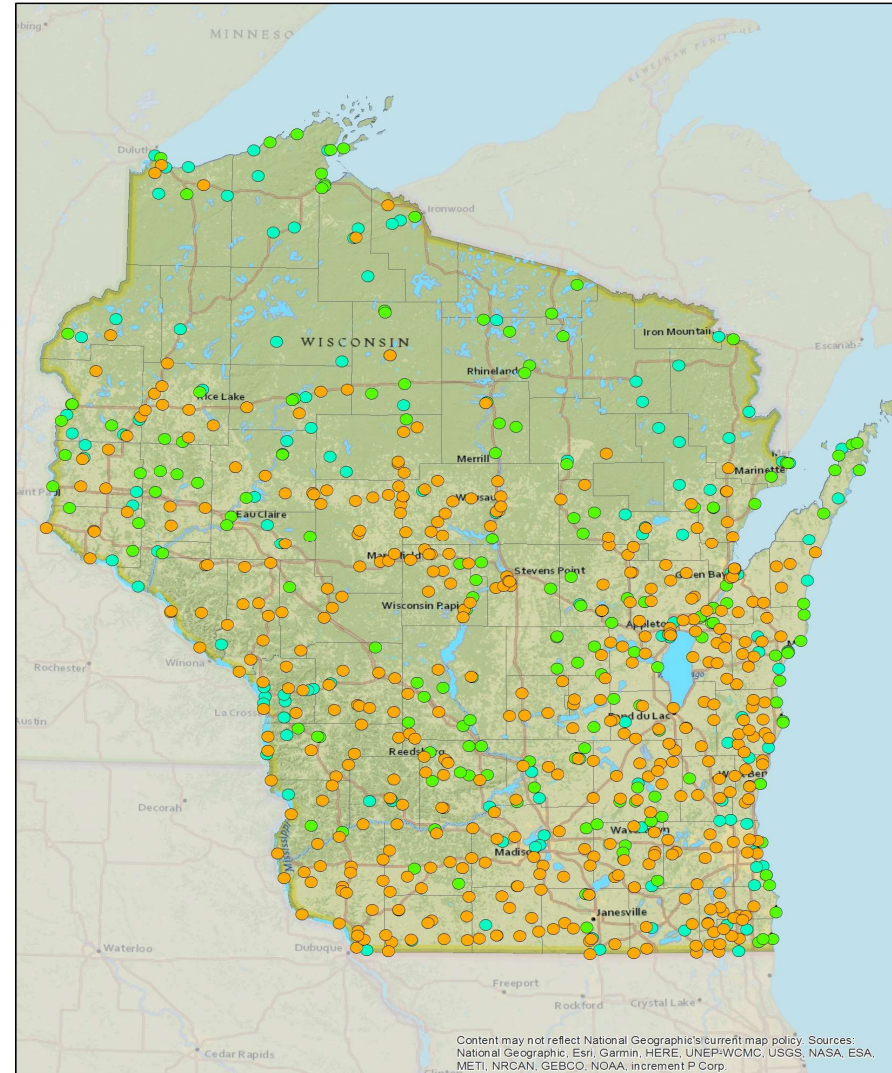
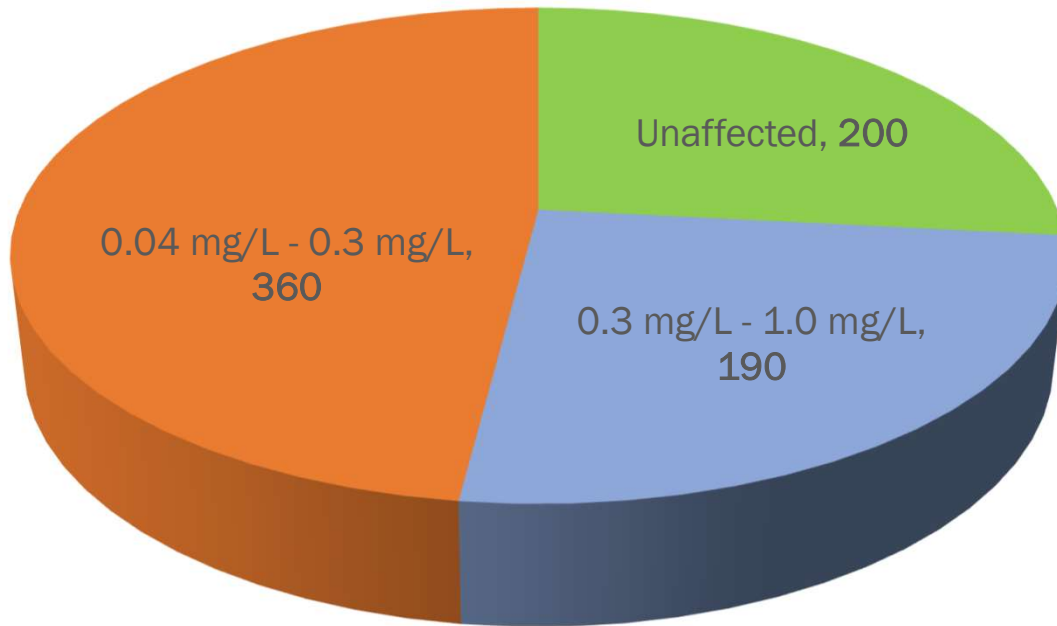
- Growing Season Median Value (rivers & streams)
- Summer Average Value (lakes & reservoirs)

Water Quality Based Effluent Limits: Total Phosphorus

Permitted Facilities:

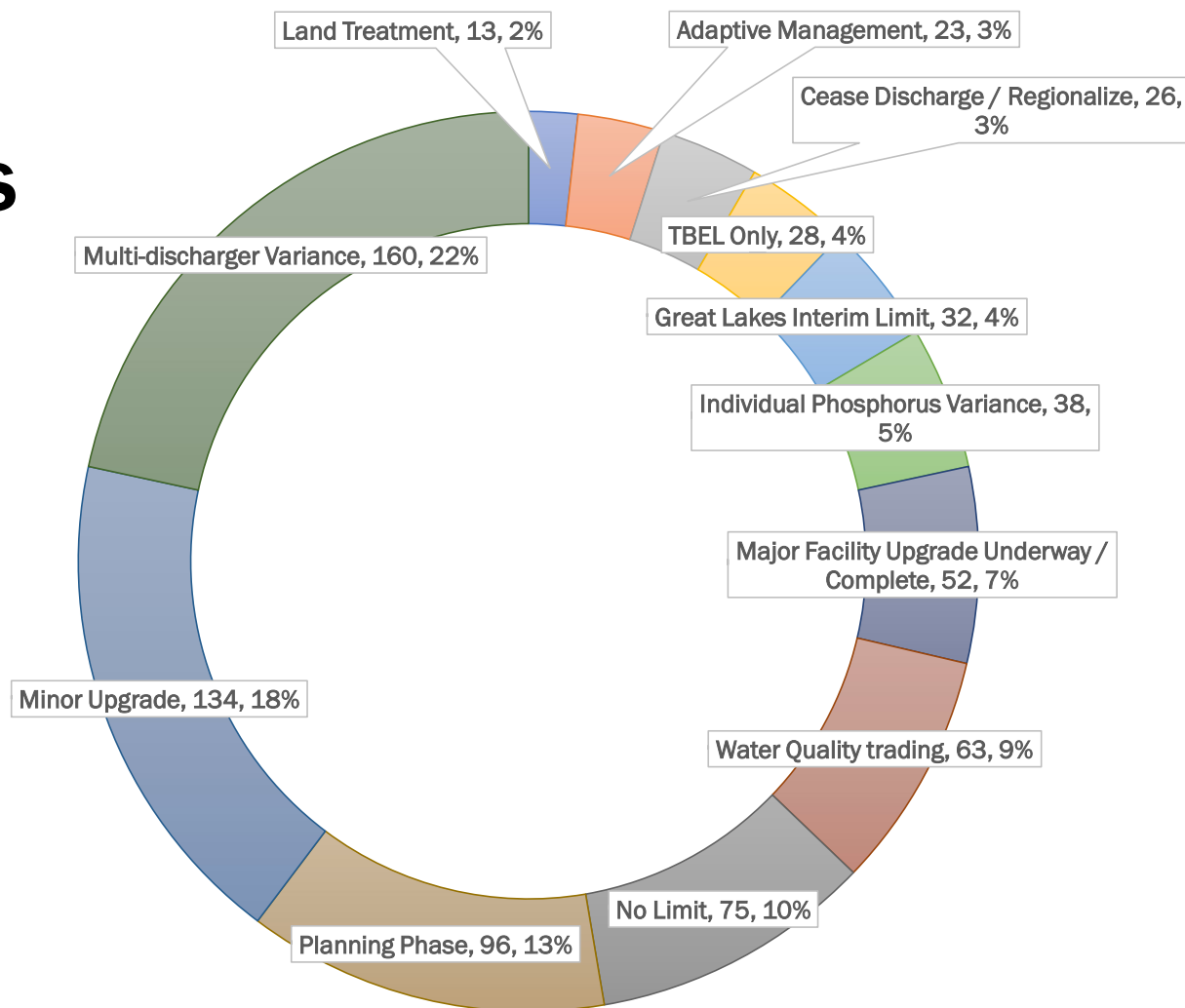
- 750 surface water dischargers

Initial Phosphorus WQBELs Statewide

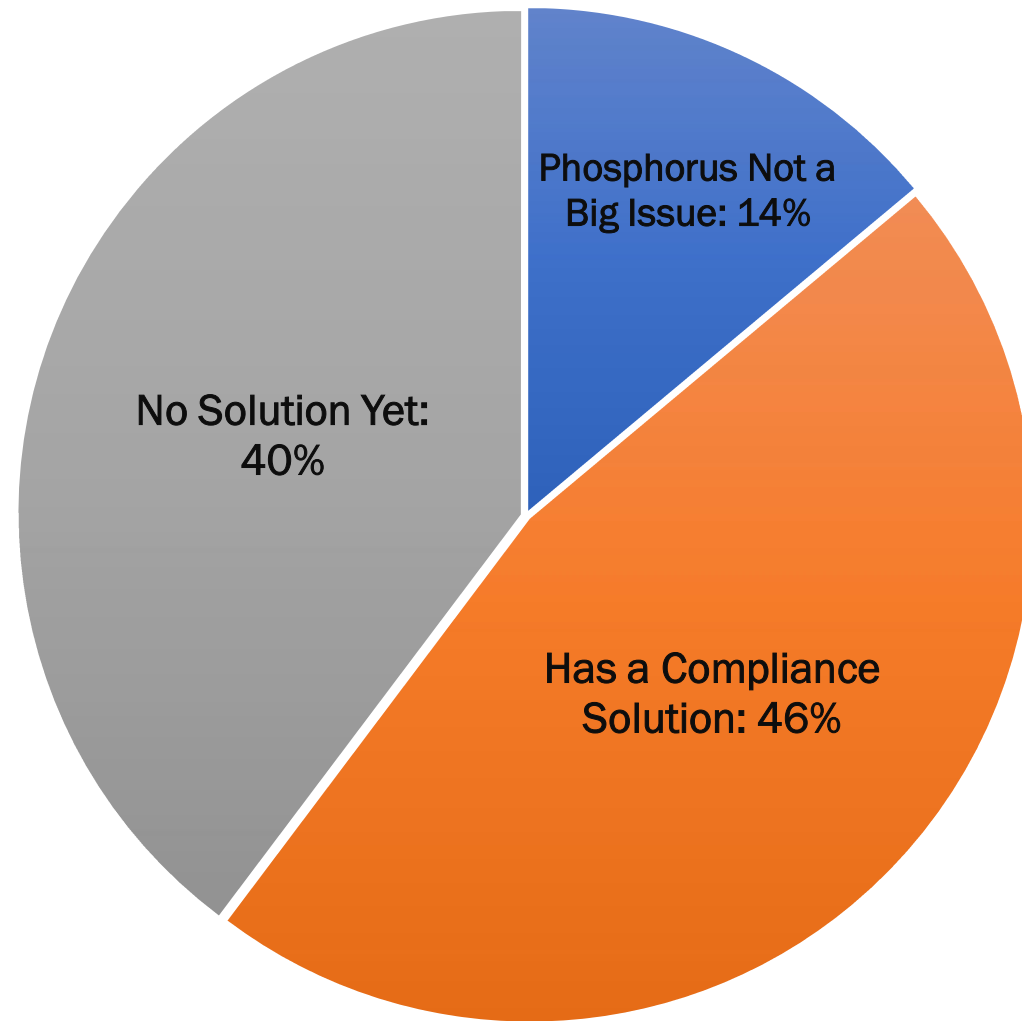


Phosphorus Planning Outcomes Statewide

- 63 facilities engaged in water quality trading
- 23 facilities engaged in adaptive management
- 160 with MDV coverage
- 38 with Individual Phosphorus Variance
- 214 employing treatment only



Put Simply:



Phosphorus-related happenings:

- Multi-discharger Variance: Status and Reauthorization
- TMDL Development Update
- Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse

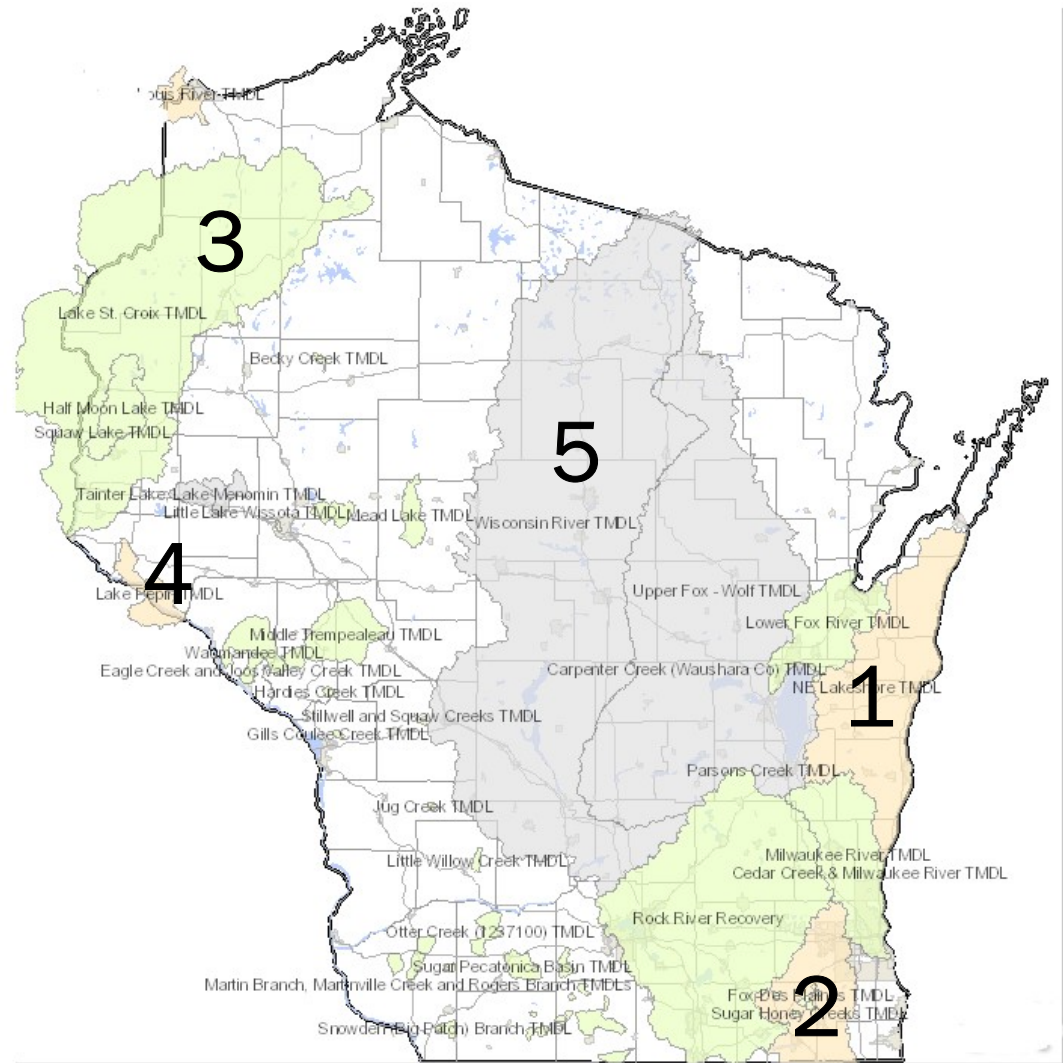
MDV Reauthorization

- Current MDV: EPA-approved in 2017, expires in 2027
 - Reauthorization would propose a 10-year extension
- DOA and DNR are currently working to update the economic justification
 - Information available at: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/StatewideMDV.aspx>
 - Held public listening sessions in November
- Evaluation of nonpoint reductions achieved by county payments and self-directed projects
 - Nonpoint reductions are the key “selling point” of the MDV
 - In-plant treatment/optimization is more effective than predicted
- Considerations for reauthorization (DNR and EPA discussions)
 - Environmental benefits accounting (10-year projection)
 - New EPA guidance regarding variance justification



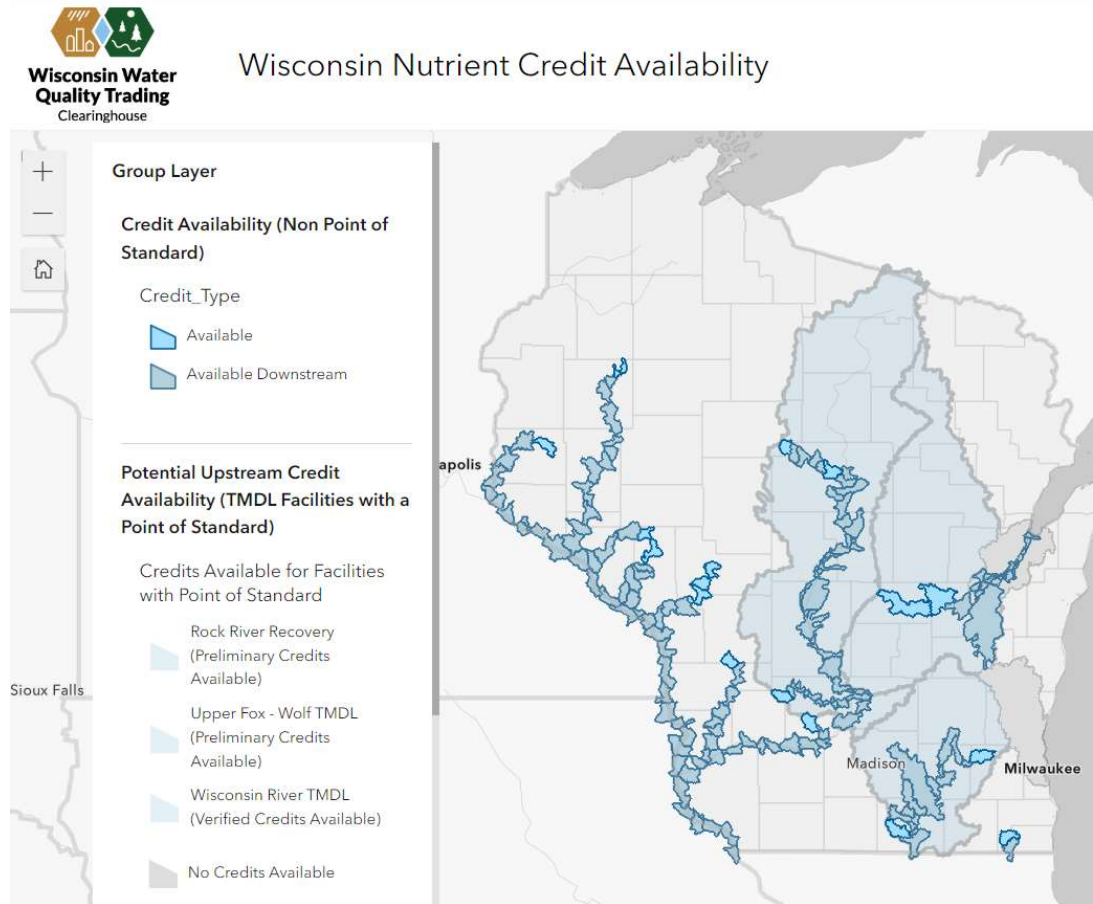
TMDLs Recently Approved and in Development

1. **NE Lakeshore TMDL (TP and TSS):** Approved by U.S. EPA in October 2023.
2. **The Fox Illinois River Basin TMDL (TP and TSS):** Recorded webinars from February and October 2023 are available on-line. Work on the SWAT watershed modeling is ongoing, and webinars and stakeholder meetings will be held to discuss and gather input on the modeling efforts. Exploring methods to include chlorides in the analysis.
3. **St. Louis Estuary TMDL (Mercury):** This ongoing project is led by MPCA with DNR participating on the work team. MPCA contractors updated the water quality model and DNR provided MPCA review comments.
4. **Lake Pepin TMDL (TP):** DNR is developing a TMDL consistent with the EPA approved TMDL submitted by MPCA covering MN's portion of the drainage basin. EPA provided contractor support assisted in conducting an edge of field nonpoint analysis. Allocations are being calculated consistent with water quality criteria.
5. **Wisconsin River BOD TMDL (BOD):** DNR exploring options to update NR 212 to reflect the success of the existing TMDLs in addressing the previous BOD impairments.



Water Quality Trading Clearinghouse

- Wisconsin Clearinghouse LLC is contracted as of March 20th, 2023
- Online portal for credit generators and users is now functional (free registration starts the WQT process)
- The clearinghouse is working to establish a bank of readily-available credits
- Has credits verified for sale in the Wisconsin River Watershed
- Can work on an individual basis to search for opportunities in a specific watershed



CONNECT WITH US

Matt Claucherty

Matthew.Claucherty@wisconsin.gov
(608) 400 - 5596



/WIDNR



@WIDNR



@WI_DNR



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OFF THE RECORD"