

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairman Arnett & Members of the Public Works Commission

From: Maureen McBroom, Stormwater Project Manager

Date: September 16, 2026

Subject: Update, no action required: Draft Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

Background

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) first issued a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit to the City of Watertown in 2006. The next 5-year DRAFT MS4 Permit no. WI-S050075-4 was released on August 25, 2026. The DNR's public comment period for this permit closes on September 25, 2026.

City staff are reviewing the DRAFT MS4 Permit and will send any questions and/or comments to DNR prior to the September 25, 2026 deadline. The DRAFT MS4 Permit is also scheduled for discussion at the September 18, 2026 Rock River Stormwater Group (RRSG) meeting. The RRSG may submit comments as a group, if anything is of concern.

Financial Impact

The initial submittals required under the DRAFT MS4 Permit in 2027 are anticipated to be completed by Stormwater Utility staff.

Budget Goal

1. Create a community where all can feel safe and strive for economic success.
2. Encourage community growth by assessing opportunities, involving ALL stakeholders, environmental needs, modern code and policy priorities.
3. Strengthen employee trust and retention by fostering a workplace culture of respect, service, and responsiveness to internal and community needs.

Recommendation

Staff will monitor the anticipated re-issuance of the MS4 Permit and will notify the Public Works Commission of any unexpected changes from the Draft MS4 Permit.