

## Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairman Board and Public Works Commission Members

From: Andrew Beyer, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Date: 2/5/2025

Subject: Stormwater Ordinance Revisions (Ch. 288 & Ch. 453)

### Background

Chapters 288 and 453, Municipal Code, serve as the backbone for the City of Watertown's stormwater management program. Chapter 288, Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance, provides details on water quality (pollution) and water quantity (flooding) during construction and in long-term post-construction conditions. Chapter 453, Stormwater Management ordinance, provides a structure for the stormwater utility, an illicit discharge program framework and long-term stormwater facility maintenance requirements.

Chapters 288 and 453 are required to be compliant with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) NR 216 and NR 151 Administrative Codes, per the WDNR Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. There are a few items that should be revised in either Chapter 288 or Chapter 453 to meet the permit requirements, and to clarify implementation.

1. Chapter 288-18 D(2)(b) should be updated to include the post-construction stormwater "peak flow" exemption for sites that drain directly to large waterbodies (the Rock River as it flows through Watertown qualifies as a large waterbody). Adding this exemption will bring the ordinance into sync with the state's stormwater requirements.
2. Chapter 288-15A(2) should be updated to include the post-construction minor road reconstruction exemption. The definition of "Minor Road Reconstruction" should be added to the Section 288-16, Definitions. Adding this exemption will bring the ordinance into sync with the state's stormwater requirements.
3. Chapter 288-24 and 288-25 should be updated to include citation authority and to clarify enforcement options for sites that do not have a permit. Having clear language about enforcement options allows staff to be consistent in communications and enforcement of the Erosion Control and Storm Water Runoff Permit. Available mechanisms to implement

the permit program are reported to WDNR in the MS4 Permit Annual Report. Adding citation authority to the ordinance would provide a simpler and more efficient enforcement method, as an alternative to an injunction and working directly through the attorney's office on sites where time is of the essence.

4. Two Chapter "453-39D" references should actually be Ch. "453-41D"

## Budget Goal

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
2. Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities
3. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends

## Financial Impact

Engineering Division staff can complete these ordinance revisions; no consultant or outside assistance is required.

## Recommendation

Engineering Division staff recommend revising Chapter 288, Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance and Chapter 453, Stormwater Management ordinance.

## 2025 Operational Goals

*Present a budget that (Department select the relevant goals, and delete those not relevant):*

1. Invests in the strategic planning and maintenance of our city buildings
2. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
3. Supports employee retention and growth, while also evaluating operations and the associated staffing
4. Fosters community growth by assessing opportunities, stakeholder input, environmental needs, and modern code and policy priorities
5. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends