

Dane County's Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance

A Chronology

As of August 22, 2002, amendments to Dane County's existing construction site erosion control ordinance are in effect.

Adopted in 2001, by a vote of 38-1 by the Dane County Board after the unanimous recommendation from the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, the amended Chapter 14 includes county-wide stormwater management standards which address the quantity and quality of the water that runs off of areas under construction in urban and rural areas and on farms. The standards help protect the County's lakes and streams by reducing the negative impacts of rainfall, melting snow and other water runoff.

The erosion control and stormwater management ordinance provides flexibility for landowners in how they meet those standards, in recognition of the unique characteristics of each project and every site.

The stormwater standards are the product of more than 11 public hearings and hundreds of hours of meetings with citizens, technical experts, developers, builders, county staff, local municipalities and other stakeholders. The standards are part of the Commission's long-standing priority to find effective, long-term solutions to the problems created by stormwater runoff.

1992

Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission Implementation Plan gives a high priority to stormwater management, consistent with the Commission's statutory charge.

1995

Construction Site Erosion Control Ordinance, crafted by the Lakes and Watershed Commission and approved by the County Board, takes effect throughout the county.

1998

May

The Dane County Executive's "Design Dane" identifies adoption of stormwater ordinance as part of an action plan for responsible growth.

October - December

Lakes and Watershed and Land Conservation staff conduct mail survey of all 34 towns, eight cities and 19 villages in Dane County for input on stormwater concerns, and solicit their advice to the county in developing a stormwater ordinance. Staff follow-up with contact via phone or personal interview in each town, city and village.

December

Lakes and Watershed Commission begins series of regional meetings in the Village of Black Earth, Town of Cottage Grove and Cities of Verona and Madison to solicit citizen input about stormwater issues.

December

On December 17, the Dane County Board votes 38-1 to adopt resolution 173, 1998-99, directing staff to develop and introduce a stormwater management ordinance.

1999

February

Lakes and Watershed Commission holds last of four regional meetings in the Village of Black Earth, Town of Cottage Grove and Cities of Verona and Madison to solicit citizen input, and bring citizens up to date regarding issues surrounding stormwater management.

September

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adds Dane County to the list of 16 towns, villages, cities and the University of Wisconsin within Dane County which must obtain a stormwater discharge permit under NR 216.

Earlier correspondence from the DNR's South Central Regional Director acknowledges that Dane County's stormwater management program will provide "...important assistance....and should reduce some of the costs associated with complying with the municipal stormwater discharge permit program."

December

Phase II federal stormwater permit program regulations published; these will require smaller urbanized areas in Dane County to control stormwater runoff and also require construction erosion permits on one acre land disturbances (including agricultural developments) by December 2002.

December

Initial stormwater management standards drafted by county staff with input from technical advisors.

2000

March and April

Lakes and Watershed Commission holds regional meetings in the Village of Black Earth, Cities of Verona and Madison and Town of Pleasant Springs to share standards and invite continued input.

April

On April 6, the County Board unanimously adopts Resolution 342, 1999-2000 authorizing Dane County participation in cooperative agreement, with all other designated communities in Dane County, to jointly apply for stormwater discharge permit under NR 216.

Spring and Summer

Staff presentations on proposed standards and discussion with Dane County Cities and Villages' Association, Dane County Towns' Association, Madison Commission on the Environment, Madison Area Builders' Association, "Grow Smart, Grow Green" conservation design workshop and other forums.

Summer

Ordinance drafted by staff and corporation counsel, using standards and input from regional meetings.

Fall and Winter

Staff consult technical advisors from large and small communities and their engineering consultants for refinements to draft ordinance.

2001

January

Public hearing held on January 17; listening sessions with members of the agricultural community held on January 22 and 29.

February through April

Commission and staff discuss and prepare responses to public comment and approve revised ordinance for introduction to the Dane County Board.

May

Proposed standards are introduced to the County Board on May 3.

August

By a vote of 38-1, The Dane County Board of Supervisors adopts the stormwater standards on August 2 as an amendment to existing Chapter 14, the construction site erosion control ordinance.

September through December

County staff from Planning and Development, Lakes and Watershed, Land Conservation and Extension begin work on implementation of the amended Chapter 14.

2002

January

County staff hold workshop for village and city staff on amending their local ordinances to include county minimum standards.

January - August

Villages and cities amend their ordinances and establish administrative procedures for the new program.

May

County staff distribute copies of the Dane County Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Manual, and hold a workshop for developers, contractors, and local government staff on practices that can be used to meet ordinance standards.

August

Standards go into effect county-wide on August 22.

For More Information

[www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/
lakes/](http://www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/)

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