



Wisconsin Mitigation Newsletter

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers & WI Department of Natural Resources

Vol.1 | Fall 2019

2019 Listening Sessions

With a specific focus on identifying ways to improve consistency and efficiency in the mitigation programs in Wisconsin, a series of workshops is scheduled in November. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (St. Paul District) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) seek to solicit feedback and discussion on the current state and federal mitigation bank processes from mitigation bank sponsors, consultants, and other mitigation professionals.

Following these workshops, the agencies will develop a report summarizing session results and agency recommendations. This report will be made available upon request and include short and long term agency recommendations resulting from the feedback received at the listening sessions.

As a follow-up to this report and the action items outlined in it, the agencies will host outreach events for the mitigation banking community. These outreach events will include training on various mitigation topics, agency updates, and introductory training on any guidance and agency process changes.



**Pre-construction
Photo**



**Post-construction
Photo**

Innovation in Mitigation

Technology Provides a Birds-eye View of a Manitowoc County Wetland Restoration Site

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) assist with qualitative assessment and planning management activities at mitigation sites and other remote landscapes, providing ecologists with a safe and efficient means to assess, monitor, and plan site management. UAVs offer several advantages for real-time onsite management:

- ◆ Minimize safety hazards and provide efficient access to large, remote, inundated or other difficult-to-access wetlands. Information gathered is used to develop safety and access plans for staff and equipment while minimizing impacts on site resources.
- ◆ Characterize real-time water depths, identify habitat quality, and detect invasive species populations. Information can be used for developing a targeted adaptive management approach for invasive species management timing and techniques in real time when crews are onsite.
- ◆ Following management, the UAV flight teams can return to assess and monitor the efficacy of site management activities. Before-and-after photographs derived from the UAVs are an effective tool for communication, monitoring, and long-term management planning.

<https://www.stantec.com/en/services/ecosystems>



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
St. Paul District



New IRT Representatives

Please welcome the new Interagency Review Team (IRT) representatives for the DNR and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5:

Tom Nedland, Wetland Mitigation Program Coordinator, DNR:

Thomas.nedland@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin DNR, 107 Sutliff Avenue,
Rhineland, WI 54501

Kerryann Weaver, EPA - Region 5:

weaver.kerryann@epa.gov

U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago, IL 60604



Upcoming Training & Events

- ◆ 2019 Wisconsin Bank Listening Sessions :
November 19 in Rhineland, WI
November 20 in Wisconsin Rapids, WI
See joint St. Paul District/DNR Public Notice for details and registration at: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices>
- ◆ St. Paul District Public Notice for Version 1 of Minnesota Stream Quantification Tool (SQT) and draft outline for the District-wide Stream Mitigation Guidelines issued September 4, 2019
- ◆ Stream Mechanics 2019/2020 SQT Workshops
<https://stream-mechanics.com/workshops/>



Stream Quantification Tool

The St. Paul District is developing stream assessment tools for the state of Minnesota and stream mitigation guidance for the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The assessment tools for Minnesota, to include Versions 1.0 of the Stream Quantification Tool (SQT) and Debit Tool, were released in September. An outline of the stream mitigation guidance was published Sept. 4, 2019 and final guidance will be published by January 2020. Once completed, it is the St. Paul District's goal that the SQT next be regionalized for Wisconsin, provided adequate funding is available. Until then, potential stream bankers are welcome to reach out to the District to discuss use of the MNSQT and to obtain guidance for determining the restoration potential for streams in Wisconsin.

On June 18, the St. Paul District issued a public notice advertising the development of the SQT, debit tool, and the St. Paul District stream mitigation guidance. This public notice included additional information on the purpose and use of the SQT, provided the opportunity for public comment, concerns and questions related to development and expected implementation of the SQT, and provided a timeline of major milestones. The public notice is available on the St. Paul District website at:

<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation>

More information on tools, including scientific support, other state SQTs and user manuals may be found at: <https://stream-mechanics.com/stream-functions-pyramid-framework/>

