



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

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELEASE OF WISCONSIN STREAM ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Regulatory Division (Corps) is announcing the release of the beta version of the Wisconsin Stream Quantification Tool (WISQT) and Debit Calculator. We are requesting comments on these tools prior to finalizing them and releasing Version 1.0. We expect to collect comments for 60 days and then publish Version 1.0 in late 2023 or early 2024.

The SQT is a functional assessment method that provides a science-based, efficient, and repeatable approach to assess functional stream loss (debits incurred) at impact sites and functional stream lift (credits generated) at restoration sites. The tool consolidates established stream assessment monitoring protocols covering hydrology, hydraulic, geomorphology, physicochemical and biological components in an Excel workbook to characterize stream ecosystem functions at a specific project reach. The Debit Calculator is a companion tool to the SQT and provides a rapid and streamlined evaluation of stream impacts to determine the functional loss at an impact site and credit (mitigation) needs.

The Wisconsin SQT, Debit Calculator, and supporting materials have been adapted for Wisconsin from the Minnesota SQT (MNSQT) and other state SQTs, including North Carolina, Tennessee, Wyoming, Georgia, Colorado, Michigan, South Carolina, and Alaska. The Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office of Great Waters provided funding to regionalize these tools for Wisconsin, through a contract with Ecosystem Planning and Restoration, Inc. Stream Mechanics and McCarthy Ecology were sub-consultants. Staff from the Corps, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, United States Geological Survey, and Dane County collaborated on the WISQT Steering and Technical Committees to develop the beta version of the WISQT and Debit Calculator.

The Corps collaborated with the USEPA, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to finalize and release the MNSQT and Debit Calculator in 2019. Since then, project proponents have used the MNSQT to calculate stream credits for compensatory mitigation in both MN and WI. The development of the WISQT will allow for a more regionalized approach to calculate stream credits for projects in Wisconsin.

