

Opportunities for Wisconsin's Land Trusts to Participate in Water Quality Trading

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With credit to Emily Jones, former Clean Wisconsin staff, for assembling most of this presentation



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Where and When Did Water Quality Trading for Phosphorus Emerge?

Phosphorus Rule Compliance

Facility
Upgrades

Watershed
Approach

Filtration

Multi
Discharger
Variance?
(Pending)

Trading

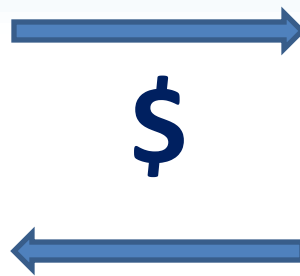
Adaptive
Management

What is a Water Quality Trade?

- Permitted facility uses “credits” obtained from a project that reduces phosphorus pollution elsewhere to comply with their permit requirements
- Must obtain an amount of credits equal to or greater than their required reduction in phosphorus discharged



Flickr/eutrophication&hypoxia



**Phosphorus
reductions**



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

How can credits be generated?

- Many different activities, or practices, can generate phosphorus credits
 - Facility upgrades
 - Urban stormwater management
 - Conservation tillage practices
 - Cover crops
 - Riparian buffers or grassed waterways
 - Streambank restoration
 - Wetland and prairie restoration
- Credits must be quantified and tracked according to DNR guidelines



Image courtesy of WI Land and Water Conservation Association

What Is Involved In A Successful Trade?

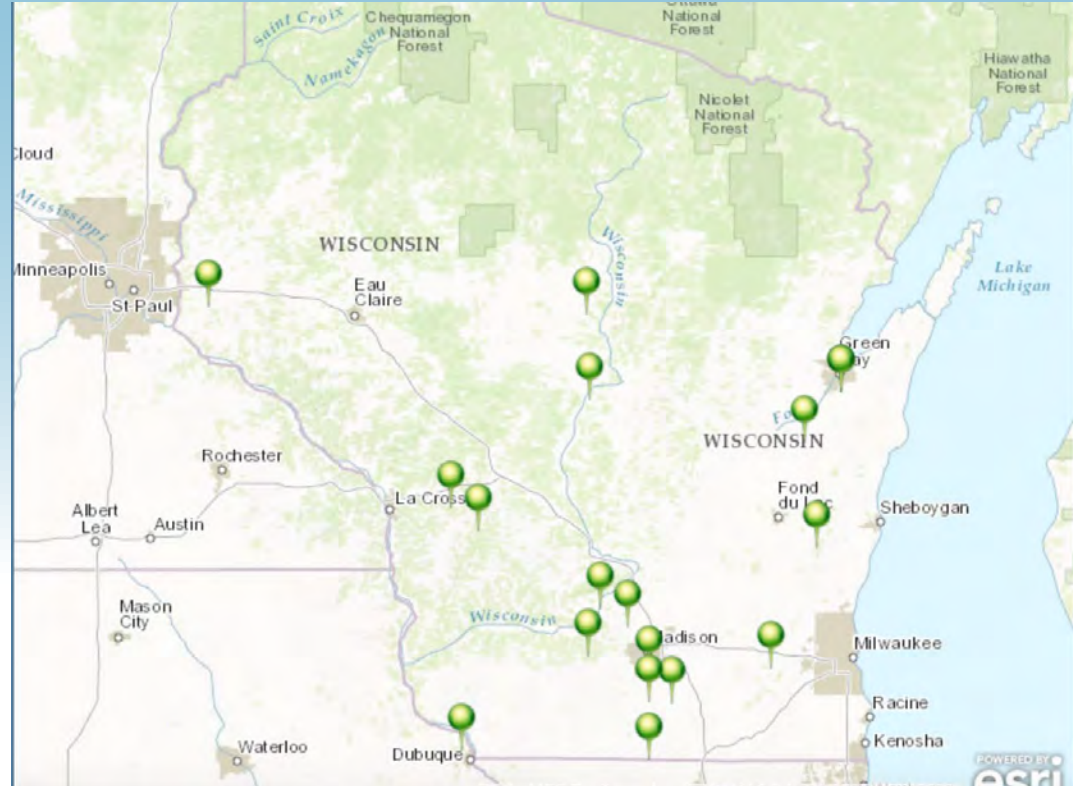
- Working relationship between facility in need of phosphorus credits (Credit User) and the entity generating them (Credit Generator)
- Accurate quantification of credits generated
- Associated paperwork (Water Quality Trading Plan and Agreement) for permit compliance
- Monitoring and verification of practice establishment and maintenance

Situations Generally Favorable for Trading

- Smaller load reduction required
- Watersheds with lots of non-point phosphorus pollution
- Existing relationships with landowners
- Interest in conservation among landowners
- Opportunity to save permitted facilities money on compliance costs

Trading Projects in Wisconsin

- DNR Map of ongoing projects
- Excellent resource for information and overview on existing trading projects



- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/AmWqtMap.html>

Why Should Land Trusts Get Involved in WQT?

- Land Trusts could offer certainty that phosphorus reducing practices will be maintained
- Established community connections and relationships with landowners
- Established history and expertise with monitoring and verification
- Conservation benefits of many practices extend beyond phosphorus reductions
- Opportunity to bring more \$ to conservation

Resources

- DNR Trading Website

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/WaterQualityTrading.html>

- Includes trading guidance documents

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