

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
3911 Fish Hatchery Rd
Fitchburg, WI, 53711

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen Hyun, Ph.D., Secretary
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2/06/2026

Docket #s: IP-SC-2025-13-00417 (Dredging)
IP-SC-2025-13-00418 (Structure)
IP-SC-2025-13-00535 (Streambank Stabilization)
IP-SC-2024-13-03869 (New Dam)
IP-SC-2023-13-03142 (Dam Abandonment)

City of Stoughton
Attn: Tony King
207 South Forest Street
Stoughton, WI 53589
[sent electronically]

Dear Mr. King:

This letter contains important information regarding your Department of Natural Resources (Department) permit applications to place a structure, dredge, place rock stabilization, construct a new dam, and abandon a portion of an existing dam on the bed of the Yahara River in Dane County. Your application has reached its date of closure and is considered complete. Wisconsin law (chapters 30, 31 and 281, Wisconsin Statutes) requires that the public be allowed an opportunity to comment on projects like yours. The next step in the individual permit review process is a Notice of Pending Application (NoPA) letter and public comment period. In addition, a public informational hearing is requested for this process.

The Department has scheduled a public informational hearing on your proposal for February 24th at 6:30pm CST. The location will be at the City of Stoughton Council Chambers, 2nd Floor of the public safety building, 321 South 4th Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin, 53989.

A virtual option for the hearing will also be available at the same date and time. The hearing will be conducted with a Department hearing examiner. The hearing will be available to attend via audio and/or video means through the following:

By computer or smartphone using the following link:

➤ <https://tinyurl.com/riverparkstoughton>

The meeting provides an opportunity for you and the Department to gather additional facts to help gauge the possible environmental impacts of your proposed project. The hearing is informational only. Department staff will manage the hearing agenda according to set procedures to allow all who attend a chance to be heard and to gather as much factual information as possible.

The enclosed document is a "Notice of Pending Application/Notice of Public Hearing" for your project. The Department will publish the notice on our Internet website and in your local newspaper. The 30-day period to submit written public comment will begin on the date on which the Department first publishes the notice on our Internet website. The period to submit written public comment will end March 8th, 2026, in order for them to be considered.

For your information, the Department has determined the parties listed below will be notified. You may notify others at your discretion.

- County Zoning office

- Town/Village Clerk
- Buck Sweeny
- Thomas J. Reiss

Please call me at (608) 228-8107 or you can reach me by email at Jeff.Schure@wisconsin.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff J Schure

Jeff Schure
Water Management Specialist

Notice of Pending Application/Public Hearing for the placement of a structure, streambank stabilization, new dam, dam abandonment, and dredging on the bed of the Yahara River

The City of Stoughton has applied to the Department of Natural Resources (Department) for the Placement of a Structure, Streambank Stabilization, New Dam, Dam Abandonment, and Dredging on the bed of the Yahara River. The project is located in the SW 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 08, Township 05N, Range 11E, in the City of Stoughton, Dane County.

The City of Stoughton (applicant) has proposed a project to enhance recreational opportunities and complete a corridor to provide safe transportation to its public developments. The application consists of the following activities:

Dredging: The applicant proposes the dredging of sediments located in the headrace and tailrace, as well as the main channel of the Yahara River, to facilitate the placement of in-stream structures and to remove documented contaminated sediment.

Placement of a Structure: The applicant proposes to place a rock structure upstream of the 4th street culvert to deflect water, provide grade control and improve safety for river users passing through the culverts.

Streambank Stabilization: The applicant proposed to place rock riprap along the shoreline of the Yahara River in places to prevent erosion to the banks and allow easier access to nearshore areas for recreational opportunities.

New Dam: The applicant proposes a small dam, constructed of grouted boulders, located downstream of the 4th Street bridge, to promote in-stream recreation, enhance aquatic habitat on and around the river, provide grade control, and improve safety for river users, including paddlers, passing through the upstream 4th Street culverts. The design includes a fish passage to allow for fish movement around the grouted boulder dam.

Dam Abandonment: The applicant proposes to abandon the powerhouse of the existing Stoughton Dam by filling the headrace (upstream) and tailrace (downstream) channels leading to and from the powerhouse building. The plan under review does *not* modify the concrete gated section of the existing Stoughton Dam, nor does it propose any permanent changes to water levels in the millpond and channel upstream of the Stoughton Dam.

The Department will review the proposal provided by the applicant and any information from public comments and the public informational hearing. The Department will determine whether the proposal complies with ss. 1.11, 30.12, 30.19, 30.20, 30.208, 31.05, and 31.185 Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

The Department has made a tentative determination that it will issue the permits for the proposed activities.

If you would like to know more about this project or would like to see the application and plans, please visit the Department's permit tracking website at <https://permits.dnr.wi.gov/water/SitePages/Permit%20Search.aspx> and search for the docket numbers associated with the various project activities:

- IP-SC-2025-13-00417
- IP-SC-2025-13-00418
- IP-SC-2025-13-00535
- IP-SC-2024-13-03869
- IP-SC-2023-13-03142

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

The Department has scheduled a public informational hearing on the City of Stoughton's permit applications for February 24th at 6:30pm CST. The location will be at the City of Stoughton Council Chambers, 2nd Floor of the public safety building, 321 South 4th Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin, 53989.

A virtual option for the hearing will also be available at the same date and time. The hearing will be conducted with a Department hearing examiner. The hearing will be available to attend via audio and/or video means by computer or smartphone using the following link:

➤ <https://tinyurl.com/riverparkstoughton>

The hearing will be a public informational hearing where members of the public can learn more about the proposed activity and submit written or oral comments about the waterway and project in light of the legal standards above. Any member of the public may submit written comments to Jeff.Schure@wisconsin.gov or over the phone to Jeff Schure at 608-228-8107. Comments should include the docket number or applicant name and should relate to whether the project meets the legal standards listed above. Comments must be postmarked no later than March 8th, 2026, in order for them to be considered.

The final decision may be appealed as indicated in the decision document.

Docket Numbers: IP-SC-2025-13-00417
 IP-SC-2025-13-00418
 IP-SC-2025-13-00535
 IP-SC-2024-13-03869
 IP-SC-2023-13-03142

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Secretary

BY: *Jeff J Schure*

Jeff Schure

Water Management Specialist