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To: Local Government Stormwater Group  
From: Curt Witynski, Deputy Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
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On March 27, Bill Selbig, USGS, gave a PowerPoint presentation at a webinar the Local Government Stormwater Group organized summarizing the findings of research into the leaf management studies conducted in Madison, Fond du Lac, and Oshkosh over the last several years. A copy of the [presentation](https://www.lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/3965/MS4-update-03_27_2020_final) is posted on the League's website. [https://www.lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/3965/MS4-update-03\\_27\\_2020\\_final](https://www.lwm-info.org/DocumentCenter/View/3965/MS4-update-03_27_2020_final)

Nearly 40 communities helped to fund that research. The studies examined the impact on phosphorus levels in stormwater made by different methods and frequency of both leaf collection and street sweeping.

Based on research conducted to date, the WDNR is in a position to expand the current "Interim Municipal Phosphorus Reduction for Leaf Management Programs" (March, 2018) guidance. Revisions to the guidance will include an additional practice option to receive quantifiable phosphorus reduction credit. With additional analyses, the guidance might be further expanded in the future to include new management procedures and/or land use conditions for phosphorus reduction credit.

To that end, the following topics have been identified for future monitoring consideration:

1. Measure the phosphorus control impacts of weekly street cleaning with mechanical broom sweepers along with a terrace leaf removal schedule of 3 – 4 times during the fall.
2. Measure the phosphorus control impacts from leaf removal / street cleaning programs in land uses other than medium density residential. Most likely candidates for this effort would include different densities of single-family and multifamily residential land use.
3. Measure the phosphorus control impacts from leaf removal / street cleaning programs in watersheds discharging to regional wet basins. The question to be addressed is if fall leaf removal impacts the phosphorus discharge from the downstream regional wet basin.
4. Measure the fall phosphorus content in stormwater based on the tree species in the monitored area.

There may be additional topics for study. The criteria for selecting a topic for a next study should include:



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- Be an issue that provides potential for the most widespread application and usefulness for the MS4s to enhance their fall leaf management program and receive quantifiable “credit” for phosphorus control.
- Be an approach that can be field measured with a reasonable assurance of results applicable to revising the WDNR guidance.
- Be an issue that can be analyzed in 2-3 years in a cost-effective manner.

**Next Steps and invitation:**

The League is creating an MS4 Leaf Management Study Advisory Group to meet to: 1) gauge interest in continuing the leaf management research; 2) discuss what should be the focus of additional research; and 3) obtain a sense of the willingness of communities to contribute to the cost of additional research. If you are from an MS4 community who contributed funds to the current studies and are interested in participating in the MS4 Leaf Management Study Advisory Group that would meet virtually in the next couple of weeks, please email me and let me know. (No need to contact me if you have already expressed an interest). Thanks.

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