

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Bad River Boys and Girls Club Youth Center Project/Phase 1 Soil Borings

The Tribe seeks comments on the proposed Antidegradation Decision related to the Phase 1 of the Bad River Boys and Girls Club Youth Center Project.

Project Summary

The Bad River Boys and Girls Club has proposed to construct a new youth center on approximately 3.1 acres located along Abinoojiyag Rd in New Odanah. The new youth center will provide our youth with a safe, accommodating, and supportive environment where they can learn about healthy lifestyles and strengthen their growth and development.

This Antidegradation Decision applies specifically to the Phase I of this project, which includes enough tree clearing and grubbing within the proposed project area to accommodate access needs and up to eleven (11) soil borings. Soil borings provide essential data about subsurface conditions. The proposed project is anticipated to commence late October 2026. All wetlands within the project area are classified as Exceptional Resource Water (Tier 2 Waters) under the Tribe's Antidegradation Policy. These waters are protected for cultural, wetland, wildlife, aquatic life and fish, recreational, and other designated uses.

The Tribe is currently evaluating whether the project meets the Antidegradation Demonstration requirements, and the Decision criteria described in the Tribe's WQS and seeks comments on the proposed work and conditions needed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the water resources. All comments are considered during the project review. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Kaylee Houle, Water Regulatory Specialist
Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
waterreg@badriver-nsn.gov

Comment deadline is November 4, 2026.

Background

On July 6, 2011, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted **Water Quality Standards (WQS)**. The Antidegradation policy within the Water Quality Standards protects existing uses and prevents clean water from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have been potential to lower water quality. Tiers identified in the Tribe's antidegradation policy include Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 waters), Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 waters), and Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters). The Antidegradation policy holds that no new or increased discharges or alterations of the background conditions are allowed to Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters; however, a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality may be allowed if applicable Antidegradation Demonstration and Decision requirements are met, as described in the Water Quality Standards. **A web map of the Reservation waterways and wetlands, highlighting the tier associated with each waterbody, may be found on the Bad River website** (under Services>Natural Resources>Maps & GIS Services. The link found in the Interactive Maps section). <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c5>