



Rock County Land Conservation Department

51 S. Main Street

Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: (608) 289 – 0877

Email: paul.king@co.rock.wi.us

July 24, 2025,

File No. **William Myhre Barnyard Rehabilitation**

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
c/o Yahara WINS IGA Executive Committee
1610 Moorland Road
Madison, WI 53713-3398
Sent Via Email

SUBJECT: Innovative Project Funding Request

Dear Executive Committee,

As Yahara WINS representatives and Rock County Land Conservation Department staff work towards finalizing a three-year Service Agreement, advanced program and budget management is being considered. The LCD is actively participating with Yahara WINS program coordinator Mike Gilbertson throughout the Yahara River Basin in Rock County, and are continuously seeking cost efficient, phosphorus reduction projects. Expanding eligible agricultural practices throughout the greater Yahara River Basin has been described as one of Yahara WINS top priorities. Assuring agricultural landowner participation in the Yahara WINS program is essential to the continuous growth of the program and meeting WDNR adaptive management requirements. Rock County's TMDL Reach 69 portion has great potential for continuous agricultural landowner participation with several landowners interested in enrolling once a new Service Agreement is finalized. As discussed in our most recent Service Agreement meeting, the annual budget available to the Rock County LCD would amount to \$150,000, for combined project acquisitions and staff costs. The current cost reimbursement rate is 18%, totaling \$123,000 for project payments and \$27,000 for staff reimbursement. The LCD anticipates adequately distributing these funds each year of the Service Agreement contract.

The LCD has been in communication with landowner William (Bill) Myhre regarding his barnyard lot directly adjacent to the Yahara River, see Figure 1. Bill has expressed interest in enrolling in a Yahara WINS program for a barnyard rehabilitation project with a 10-year contract. Bill's barnyard contributes phosphorus runoff directly into the Yahara River, and the

opportunity to address this resource concern must be taken. Bill's cattle lot contributes 538.2 pounds of phosphorus annually into the Yahara River, with a 10-year total phosphorus reduction of 5,382 pounds, see Figure 4. The barnyard rehabilitation project contract requires the revegetation of the entire lot, regrading and revegetation of any gullies caused by the lot, and a cattle restriction for the contract lifetime. Bill's anticipated timeframe from removing cattle is tentatively June of 2026. Bill's cattle contracts typically are planned out several months in advance, and he requests a decision as soon as possible to adequately prepare. The enrollment of Mr. Myhre's barnyard lot into the Yahara WINS program ensures the reduction of the current phosphorus and sediment loading into the Yahara River. Due to the project location north of the Badfish-Yahara River confluence monitoring station, Yahara WINS would take credit for the cumulative phosphorus reduction credits as well as the water quality benefits. Bill has already verbally agreed to the terms and restrictions of this proposed project.

The LCD is requesting supplemental funds for Bill Myhre's barnyard rehabilitation project in the amount of \$150,000, for a 10-year contract with Yahara WINS. The LCD requests the Yahara WINS Executive Committee to consider this as a special funding application for a one-time barnyard rehabilitation project and would be uncommitted to any current contract budget allocations. The reason behind requesting funds separate from the Service Agreement is that this project would require Rock County's entire annual budget to be accomplished. Rock County is actively developing relationships with agricultural producers and desires to continue acquiring projects into 2026. The LCD believes that we can accomplish Bill Myhre's barnyard rehabilitation project as well as utilizing the full \$150,000 annual budget for significant phosphorus reductions in TMDL Reach 69. Payments allocated for a direct landowner payment total \$145,000, with a 3.33%, \$5,000 LCD staff reimbursement rate. This is a cost-effective project with a \$27.8 per pound of phosphorus reduction rate, see Figure 4. This project presents unique opportunities in reducing significant quantities of phosphorus, achieving cost-effective solutions, and expanding Rock County's agricultural producer involvement with the Yahara WINS organization. As projects become more difficult to identify throughout the Yahara River watershed, innovative approaches must be considered to ensure Yahara WINS adaptive management requirements are met, and the watershed is protected.

The LCD has researched and considered various funding opportunities for this barnyard rehabilitation project. From a federal perspective, this project is not eligible because it does not conform to a specific practice standard listed in the NRCS field office technical guide. We also have explored state funding opportunities, which similarly resulted in the inability for application due to nonconforming practice standards. State funding requires a permanent restriction on the property; the Rock County Land Conservation Committee will not support permanent abandonments. When the process of a temporary barnyard abandonment project was initiated, the LCD contacted all other Wisconsin county land and water resource conservation departments via email. A survey was sent asking if any abandonments were considered, what funding sources

were used, and how this process typically worked. Limited counties implemented abandoned barnyard sites, and all were permanent abandonments, none temporary.

The LCD is exploring an innovative approach with a temporary abandonment to solve the phosphorus runoff resource concern specifically for the Yahara WINS program. If cattle were allowed to be brought back on site after the Yahara WINS contract was expired, Rock County LCD would require direct approval first. Government funding assistance can be integral when resolving conservation issues, but only if you are following specific practice standards in this situation. We are considering innovative approaches that may not fit a conforming state or federal practice standard but will work within Yahara WINS requirements. For this reason, Yahara WINS funding is our best and only current option for achieving the phosphorus reduction and water quality improvement goals.

Thank you for your favorable consideration in approving a barnyard rehabilitation project for William Myhre. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Ashley Roscoe

Conservation Specialist III

(608) 931-5135

ashley.roscoe@co.rock.wi.us

Paul King

Yahara WINS Program Coordinator

(608) 289 – 0877

paul.king@co.rock.wi.us

Figure 1.

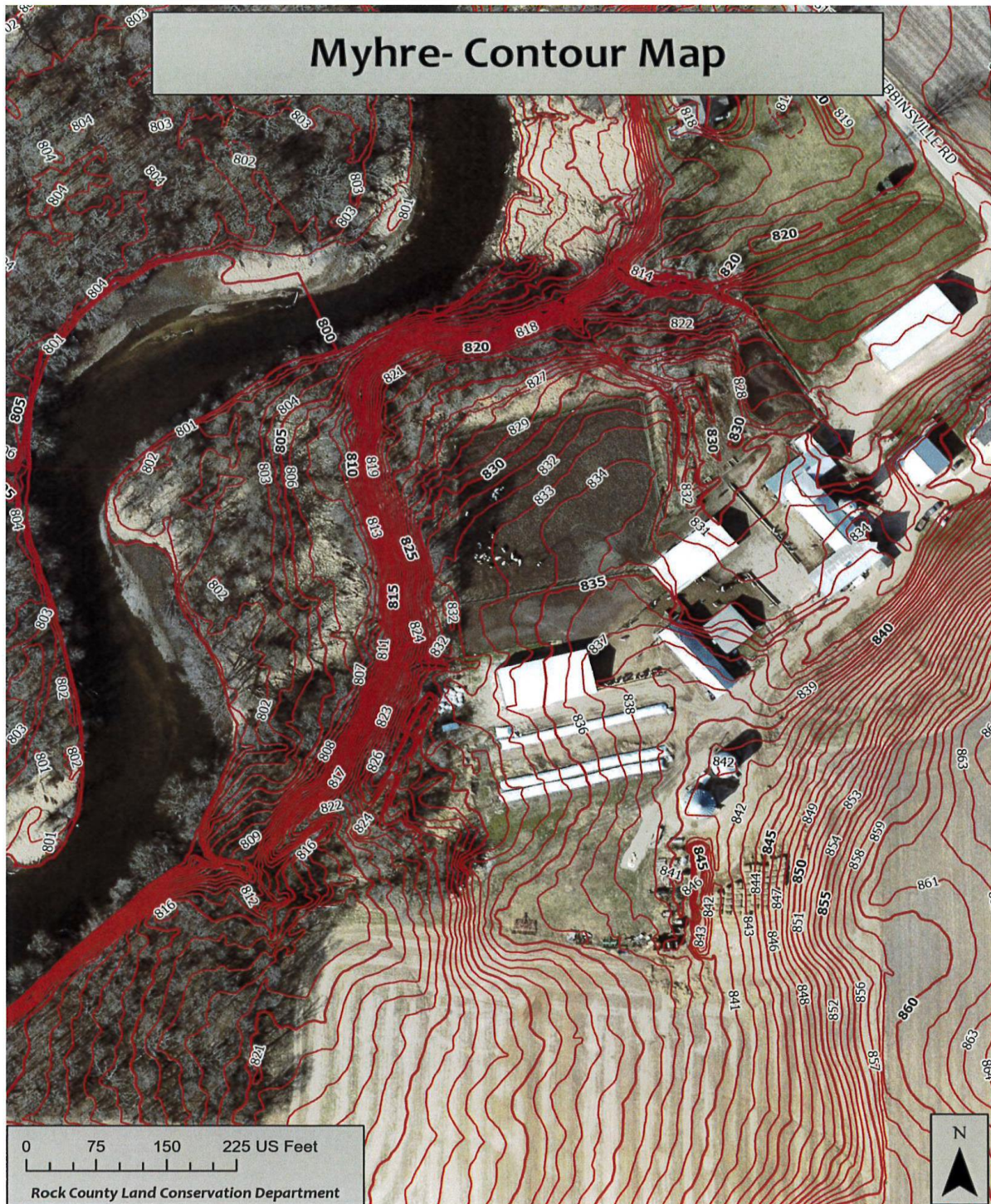
Bill Myhre Barnyard Location



Note. Parcel 6-16-16, 8453 W Stebbinsville RD, Edgerton, WI 53534

Figure 2.

Contour Map



Note. Earthen Lot 1. is approximately 160 feet from its closest point to the Yahara River. With an average of 30 feet of downward elevation change based on current contour mapping.

Figure 3.

Barnyard Lot Identification



Figure 4.

Aple Lot and Phosphorus Reduction Calculations

Aple Lot Phosphorus Reduction Figures

<i>Lot Name</i>	<i>Phosphorus Loss/Year (lbs.)</i>
Concrete Lot 1	<i>124.9</i>
Concrete Lot 2	<i>52.2</i>
Earthen Lot 1	<i>304.2</i>
Earthen Lot 2	<i>56.9</i>
Total	<i>538.2 annual P reduction</i>

Cost Allocated P Reduction per Pound

\$145,000 (project costs) + \$5,000 (staff reimbursement) = \$150,000 (total project costs)

\$150,000 (total project costs) ÷ 5,382 (10-year P reductions) = \$27.8 per pound of P reduced

Note. All phosphorus calculations are based on the most recent version of Aple Lots.

Myhre Action Plan

The purpose of this document is to define what materials the Executive Committee has requested for the October 21st Yahara WINS budget meeting. All materials must be submitted by October 14th to the Executive Committee for review. Four major components have been requested by the Yahara WINS Executive Committee; detailed budget allocation, deed restriction, certificate of compliance (annual monitoring), and recorded agreement. The original Myhre proposal along with a personal letter from Bill have been included as supplemental information. All information will be submitted to the Executive Committee in a concise folder for review.

Budget Summary

The detailed budget will designate the breakdown of the requested \$150,000 total project cost for the Myhre barnyard rehabilitation project. Of the \$150,000, \$5,000 has been identified for LCD staff reimbursement. Of the remaining \$145,000, cost breakdowns for barnyard lot seedings have been estimated, no other project costs are associated. \$14,500 will be his annual income based on the average 10-year breakdown, and as of the past five years, Bill makes \$30,000 - \$50,000 annually as cattle net income. The loss of profit will be considered as Bill's buy in. The \$150,000 total barnyard rehabilitation project cost is based on the estimated costs to install phosphorus reduction conservation practices. Emails from Justin White, previous DATCP area engineer at the time, had estimated that a Vegetative Treatment Area (VTA) along with a phosphorus reduction system was not a feasible option for the Myhre property. Several reasons based on project complexity, lack of engineering support due to governmental uncertainty, and material scarcity, led to the conclusion that the installation of the phosphorus reduction system and VTA was not feasible. The only realistic alternative solution to achieve these phosphorus reduction goals are to remove cattle from the barnyard site. The basis of the LCD proposed barnyard rehabilitation project is based on the factors that no other phosphorus treatment technology was available. After considering our phosphorus reduction options, estimated technology costs, funding sources, and Mr. Myhre's buy in from a loss of cattle sales, the LCD concludes that a barnyard rehabilitation project of \$150,000 funded by Yahara WINS is the only attainable option to meet our phosphorus reduction goals. 538.2 pounds of phosphorus would be reduced annually with \$27.8 per pound as the phosphorus reduction rate. This is well within our Service Agreement phosphorus reduction goal of \$50 per pound of phosphorus reduction.

Barnyard Rehabilitation Budget Breakdown

\$150,000 – total project cost

\$5,000 – LCD staff reimbursement

\$250 - soil preparation activities

\$250 – seed costs

\$30,000 - \$50,000 average annual cattle sales to be forfeited by landowner for rehabilitation project

Attached Materials

Proposed Deed Restriction

Proposed Contract Agreement

Proposed Vegetation Management Addendum

Proposed Certificate of Compliance

Original Myhre WINS Proposal (2021)

Letter from Landowner



Rock County Land Conservation Department

51 S. Main Street

Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: (608) 289 – 0877

Email: paul.king@co.rock.wi.us

Fall 2026,

Project No. WINS-1.26

Myhre Barnyard Rehabilitation
c/o Bill Myhre
8453 W Stebbinsville RD
Edgerton, WI 53534

Subject: **Certification of Compliance**

Dear Mr. Myhre,

The purpose of this letter is to document the compliance for your Yahara WINS contract WINS-1.26 barnyard rehabilitation project. As of August 2026, all cattle have been removed from the two earthen and concrete lots, and no cattle or other animal units will be permitted within these areas during the full duration of your Yahara WINS 10-year contract, see Exhibit A. Per the site visit conducted fall 2026, adequate vegetation has been established with 100% cover, per Addendum A standards, and all cattle restrictions have been verified. This monitoring report will be conducted annually and shared with the Yahara WINS administrative team and Executive Committee to ensure continued project compliance. For any questions regarding the monitoring process, please contact me at the above information at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul King".

Paul King

Conservation Specialist II

EXHIBIT A: LOT MAP



Figure 1. Site Images

Note. Images of adequate vegetation stands and establishment along with areas of cattle abandonment will be documented in this section of this certificate of compliance report.

Figure 2. Annual Monitoring Report

Yahara WINS: Annual Monitoring Report

Producer Name: _____

Contract Number: _____

Installation Year: _____

Practice Type: _____

Date of Monitoring: _____

Name of Monitor: _____

Is practice in good standing? YES or NO

Notes on visit (please document any issues or areas of concern):

Note. This figure will show the standard annual monitoring report completed with additional site notes describing conditions in greater detail.

DECLARATION OF CONDITIONS, COVENANTS AND
RESTRICTIONS FOR BARNYARD REHABILITAION

Document Number

RECITALS:

- A. William L. & Jill E. Myhre Family Trust ("Owner") are the owners of property in Town of Porter, County of Rock, State of Wisconsin, located at 8453 W Stebbinsville Rd, Edgerton, WI, more particularly described as the N 50A W1/2 SW1/4,PT SW1/4 NW1/4 LY W OF HWY& S OF CHURCH LOT & ADOLPHSON & GILLEY LD,PT SE1/4 NW1/4 BDD W BY WLN S BY S LN, NE BY HWY,PT NE1/4 SW1/4 COM NW COR,E TO HWY, S 1.5 RD, W TO WLN, N 1.5 RD TO POB(EXC CSM 35-1), containing approximately 72 acres ("Property").
- B. This Declaration regarding the cattle restrictions located on the property has been recorded and Owner agrees to uphold the defined cattle restriction measures and to grant to the County the rights set forth below in accordance with the terms of the Yahara WINS contract agreement WINS-1.26 and attached Exhibit A.
- C. The LCD approved the request on **September 2026**, with conditions of approval as described below.

Name and Return Address

Rock County Land Conservation Dept.
51 S Main St
Janesville, WI 53545

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the declarations herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the owner agrees as follows:

6-16-16

Parcel Identification Number (PIN)

1. Restrictions. For a 10-year period (**September 2026, to September 2036**), there will be no more than 10 animal units allowed on parcel 6-16-16 (See NR 243.05 Calculating Animal Units). The 10 animal units must be exclusively housed in the concrete lot shown on the attached map (see Exhibit A). Annual checks by the Rock County Land Conservation Department shall be completed for the lifespan of this deed restriction.
2. Covenants Running with the Land. All of the restrictions, covenants and agreements set forth in this agreement are intended to be and shall be construed as covenants running with the land, binding upon, inuring to the benefit of, and enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns and shall continue. This agreement may not be modified in whole or in part unless such agreement is in writing and signed by all parties bound hereby.

Signature of County Representative

*Name printed

Title

STATE OF WISCONSIN, County of _____; Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ by the above-named person.

Signature of notary or other person authorized to administer an oath(as per s. 706.06, 706.07)

Print or type name: _____

Title: _____ Commission expires: _____

DRAFTED BY: Rock County Planning and Development Agency

Signature of Owner

*Name printed

Signature of Owner

*Name printed

STATE OF WISCONSIN, County of _____; Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____ by the above-named person(s).

Signature of notary or other person authorized to administer an oath(as per s. 706.06, 706.07)

Print or type name: _____

Title: _____ Commission expires: _____

This information must be completed by submitter: document title, name & return address, and PIN (if required). Other information such as the granting clauses, legal description, etc., may be placed on this first page of the document or may be placed on additional pages of the document. **USE BLACK INK.**
WRDA 9/22/2025

EXHIBIT A



ADDENDUM A

Establishment, Operation and Maintenance Plan

Landowner: William L. & Jill E. Myhre Family Trust

Agreement Number: WINS-1.26

Standards:

1. The following forage mix shall be seeded in the Earthen Lots documented on Addendum A:

Species of Forage Plant	% of Mix	lbs./Acre
Kentucky Bluegrass	33.33	5.3
Creeping Red Fescue	33.33	7.0
Perennial Ryegrass	33.33	17.5

Species of Temporary Cover Crop	lbs./Acre
Fall Planting - Winter Wheat	

2. There shall be no state regulated invasive plants within the earthen lots at any time during the agreement period. Information on regulated invasive plants and eradication methods are found at:
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/learn/managing-invasive-species/>
3. Landowner shall contact Rock County Land Conservation Department (LCD), 608-754-6617 when an adequate forage plant density is established. **An adequate stand shall consist of species listed in standard #1 at a density of 100% vegetative cover.**
4. Rock County LCD shall evaluate, document results and certify an adequate forage plant density has been established. **Payments stated in the agreement shall be made to the landowner once the Rock County LCD has certified an adequate forage plant density.**
5. Landowner may apply pesticides and fungicides according to federal and state approved label directions.
6. Landowner may apply fertilizers not containing phosphorus if applied per University of Wisconsin publication A2809 which is found at: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A2809.pdf>
7. Landowner must mow, or harvest and remove the forage at a minimum of twice annually within the growing season.
8. No livestock production shall occur within the abandoned concrete and earthen lots at any time during the agreement period, see Addendum B.
9. If rills, gullies or other erosion occurs at any time during the agreement period, landowner shall immediately fill and compact these areas and revegetate immediately.

Addendum B



October 21st, 2025, Yahara WINS Executive Committee Meeting

Agenda Item: Renew the Blue Council.

Action Requested: Approval of recommendation (listed below) by the Yahara WINS Executive committee.

Background:

Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA) serves as the backbone organization for an expansive, cross-sector coalition to create cleaner lakes and beaches in the Yahara Watershed. The coalition is called the Renew the Blue Council, which will begin meeting in early 2026. Yahara WINS has been invited to be a part of the Council. The goal of the Council is to expand the Clean Lakes Alliance State of the Lakes into measuring progress around priority urban and rural land-management practices. This includes tracking our large-acreage undeveloped urban and rural lands; conducting a shoreline survey; tracking acres permanently protected from development; and counting rain gardens.

CLA is asking council members to contribute \$5,000 in 2025 and \$10,000 in 2026 for a total of \$15,000 to support the goals of the council (outlined above). The 2026 draft budget reflects a \$10,000 expenditure associated with the funding commitment requested for members of the Council to support the Council goals. The current 2025 budget does not have an expenditure related to this item as the invitation and expenditure request came after the 2025 budget was approved.

The attached materials are currently in draft format from CLA and outline the ideas of the Renew the Blue Council including the background, objective, participation levels and responsibilities, scope of work, and other details that will eventually govern the collaborative efforts of the signatories once it's finalized.

The attached materials are included for background and information only and are considered working draft documents until they are officially approved by the partners. Clean Lakes Alliance is currently wrapping up the partner-outreach and recruitment stage and expects the Council to begin meeting in 2026.

Recommendation: Authorize the Yahara WINS executive committee president to sign on as a member of the Renew the Blue council. Expected 2025 monetary contribution will be considered a 2025 unbudgeted item and will be paid using underspent budget funds. Expected 2026 monetary contribution has a budgeted placeholder in the 2026 draft budget.

Key considerations

- Monetary commitment not guaranteed to reduce P in required stream reaches under Adaptive Management

- Continuing Yahara WINS participation in partnerships in the watershed with similar goals as Yahara WINS

Option 1. Do not authorize the Yahara WINS executive committee president sign on as a member of the Renew the Blue council.

Key considerations

- No involvement or potential for decision making as the Council process moves forward.



Executive Board

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Perkins Coie LLP
James St. Vincent, Vice Chair
Yahara Lakes Association
Scott Ducke, Treasurer
Lake Ridge Bank
Laura Skilton Verhoff, Secretary
Associated Bank
Zach Osman
Johnson Financial Group
Pam Christenson
Madison Gas and Electric
Courtney Searles
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Trey Sprinkman
Sprinkman Real Estate
Linda Nedelcoff, Director Emerita
TruStage
James Tye, Executive Director
Clean Lakes Alliance

Community Board

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Darren Port
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Brian Potts
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Gerald Schmidt
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Claire Varrelmann
The Edgewater
Brian Vigue
Audubon Great Lakes
Kim Walz
Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS)
Tom Wilson
Yahara WINS
Jana Gyurina, Director Emerita
Oak Park Dental
Courtney Kruger, Director Emerita
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City of Madison, Office of the Mayor
Martin Griffin, Ex Officio
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Laura Hicklin, Ex Officio
Dane County Land & Water Resources
Patrick Miles, Ex Officio
Dane County Board of Supervisors
Mark Riedel, Ex Officio
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Jason Valerius, Ex-Officio
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC)

June 3, 2025

Dear Friend of the Yahara Watershed,

We're excited to connect with you about the *Renew the Blue* Council, an expansive, cross-sector coalition to create cleaner lakes and beaches in the Yahara Watershed. Clean Lakes Alliance serves as the backbone organization for the Council, which will begin convening in early 2026.

The pages shared below provide an introduction to the Council including:

- An overview of the Council including the collaboration and research that led up to this initiative. (p2)
- An excerpt from *Renew the Blue: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed* that shows the collaborating organizations and the 12 high-impact actions for watershed health that will drive the work of the Council. (pp3-4)
- The Letter of Intent articulating the values and direction of the Council and showing the organizations that have committed to participate and provide financial support to date. (pp5-6)
- A partial list of additional organizations we expect to connect with over the coming months – including potential Council participants and supporters. (p7)

We are currently conducting listening sessions to help refine the Council's direction. We look forward to talking with you further, and to hearing your hopes, questions, and ideas.

J. James Tye
Executive Director & Founder
James@CleanLakesAlliance.org

Alison S. Lebwohl
Consulting Facilitator
AlisonLebwohlConsulting@gmail.com

Cc: Paul Dearlove, Chief Science Officer
Mike Smale, Watershed Programs Specialist

Clean Lakes Alliance

Renew the Blue Council

Shared commitment to a healthy Yahara Watershed

The Renew the Blue Council is an alliance of stakeholders committed to protecting and restoring the interconnected system of waterways, wetlands, and lands of the Yahara Watershed.

Convened and facilitated by Clean Lakes Alliance, the Council uses a [Collective Impact model](#) to build upon years of community-driven planning and science-based action – and to expand our region’s cross-sector alliance to keep our lakes clean and our beaches open.

A history of collaboration: Yahara CLEAN

Efforts to protect water quality in the Yahara Watershed have deep roots. Since 2008, local government, state government, nonprofit organizations, and business associations have come together as Yahara CLEAN (Capitol Lakes Environmental Assessment & Needs) to identify strategies to reduce phosphorus and *E. coli*. In 2019, Clean Lakes Alliance convened 19 organizations under the Yahara CLEAN umbrella to evaluate progress and define a shared path forward. Their work included assessing accomplishments and progress to date, bringing together scientists and practitioners to affirm the scientific fundamentals driving water quality conditions in our watershed, and developing a stakeholder action guide called *Renew the Blue*.

Renew the Blue: Our community roadmap

Renew the Blue: A Community Guide to Cleaner Lakes & Beaches identifies the 12 highest-impact actions to improve water quality. These strategies are grounded in science, shaped by community values, and driven by the belief that everyone has a role to play in watershed stewardship. [Renew the Blue](#) identifies seven direct-action and five indirect-action priorities aimed at reducing runoff, phosphorus, and *E. coli* pollution. It provides a common agenda for the Council; lays the groundwork for shared measurement; and calls upon Clean Lakes Alliance to serve as the backbone organization for sustaining and facilitating this broad alliance and its work.

Clean Lakes Alliance: Convening for impact

Clean Lakes Alliance has answered this call – and has made convening the Renew the Blue Council a strategic priority. As the backbone organization for the Council, [Clean Lakes Alliance](#) brings to this work over a decade of leadership in community-based lake stewardship, a proven track record of convening diverse stakeholders, and the organizational infrastructure and commitment to support long-term collaboration and impact.

Next steps and participation

Invited members of the *Renew the Blue* Council will sign a Letter of Intent and commit to becoming a Clean Lake Alliance Partner, providing data, resources and participation to support the work and goals of the Council. The Council will begin gathering in 2025 and will officially convene in early 2026.

RENEW THE BLUE

A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed

Clean and healthy lakes are a benchmark of a healthy community. We, the undersigned, recognize that the Yahara Watershed's five majestic lakes—Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa—define our sense of place and contribute to the region's natural heritage, economic vitality, and local quality of life. We are proud of our prior work and investments to protect and enhance these assets, but more needs to be done for the lakes to meet their potential.

On this 18th day of May 2022, we come together under the Yahara CLEAN Compact to renew and strengthen our partnership, uniting around a shared vision and path forward. We pledge through our signatures to champion the Compact's goals and objectives, to support implementation of this RENEW THE BLUE guidance, and to stay the course to build a better water quality future for this and future generations.

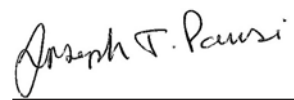
PARTNERS



SATYA RHODES-CONWAY, MAYOR
CITY OF MADISON



JAMES TYE, FOUNDER
& EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE



JOSEPH T. PARISI, EXECUTIVE
DANE COUNTY



REBECCA M. BLANK, CHANCELLOR
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RANDY ROMANSKI, SECRETARY
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

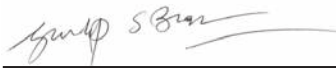


PRESTON D. COLE, SECRETARY
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

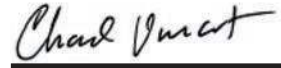
COLLABORATORS



DAVID PFEIFFER, EXECUTIVE
CHAIRPERSON
CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



GURDIP BRAR, MAYOR
CITY OF MIDDLETON



CHAD T. VINCENT, CEO
DAIRY FARMERS OF WISCONSIN



BOB WIPPERFURTH, PRESIDENT
DANE COUNTY CITIES &
VILLAGES ASSOCIATION



JERRY DERR, PRESIDENT
DANE COUNTY TOWNS ASSOCIATION



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D. MICHAEL MUCHA, DIRECTOR &
CHIEF ENGINEER
MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE
DISTRICT



RUTH A. HACKNEY, CEO
REALTORS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-
CENTRAL WISCONSIN, INC.



JAKE VANDER ZANDEN, DIRECTOR
UW-MADISON CENTER FOR LIMNOLOGY



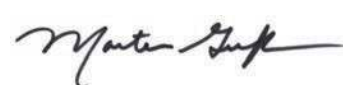
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MARTIN GRIFFIN, PRESIDENT
YAHARA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT
NETWORK (YAHARA WINS)



Top Direct-Impact Actions

1. Build additional manure-processing capacity. Support farmers in using existing manure-processing facilities or to build their own on-farm systems. Pilot a manure-collection and processing program targeting the critical January-March period with the highest overall phosphorus loading.

2. Increase the ability to handle and transport manure. Use composting and other processing techniques to allow for improved timing and targeting of applications. Minimize chemical fertilizer use by substituting with composted manure or other sources of crop nutrients generated within the watershed.

3. Increase farmland acres guided by a nutrient management plan. Use plans to improve operational decision-making, ensure the most efficient use of costly nutrient inputs, and reduce the risk of phosphorus loss.

4. Increase farmland acres under no-till (or reduced tillage) and continuous living cover. Limit soil disturbance and maintain a living root in the soil with cover/forage crops, harvestable buffer strips, overwintering hay, etc. to build better soil health and reduce erosion.

5. Increase municipal street-cleaning miles and frequency during fall. Regularly remove leaf litter from streets to prevent rainwater-leached phosphorus from entering storm sewer systems.

6. Protect internally drained lands and wetlands. Use closed depressions (accounting for an estimated 41% of the watershed) to naturally retain and absorb runoff. Maintain and restore wetland function to achieve similar benefits.

7. Increase green-infrastructure installations in parks, new developments, and on existing residential and commercial properties. Incorporate nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, bioswales, infiltration trenches, and permeable pavement to capture, absorb, and filter runoff. Use tools such as stormwater utility credits, rate adjustments, and recognitions to reward action.

Top Indirect-Impact Actions

1. Continue to work together as Yahara CLEAN Compact members. Maintain ongoing member meetings to collaborate on recommended actions, report progress, and coordinate around new initiatives. Ongoing collaboration should consider how actions might affect the watershed phosphorus mass balance, among other factors.

2. Increase participation in producer-led watershed groups. Expand farmer involvement in conservation planning and practice adoption through continued learning, information sharing, and distribution of cost-share incentives.

3. Complete an inventory of shoreline and beach conditions. Establish guidelines and criteria for the sustainable design, development, management, and restoration of shorelines and public beaches.

4. Increase *E. coli* testing at public beaches. Focus efforts on beaches shown to be most susceptible to problems. Assess *E. coli* bacteria sources at beaches with high closure rates so corrective measures can be taken.

5. Continue to track and report progress. Use and support the annual *State of the Lakes Report* as a means of outreach to the community. Support continued maintenance and operation of stream-gaging stations that track changes in phosphorus loading.

Clean Lakes Alliance
Renew the Blue Council
Letter of Intent

We, the undersigned, recognize that the lakes, lands, and waters of the Yahara Watershed define our sense of place and nourish our communities' economic vitality, recreational appeal, and local quality of life. These include the interconnected system of waterways, wetlands, and lands of our watershed, including our five major lakes: Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa.

We believe we are stronger together and that everyone has a role to play in watershed stewardship.

We acknowledge and commit to learning more about the "Rights of Nature" policy adopted by the Ho-Chunk Nation, the ancestral stewards of this watershed. The core idea of this policy and movement is that natural ecosystems should be treated as living entities that are entitled to exist, thrive, and evolve.

We recognize the value of agriculture in our watershed and its important role in providing food, generating economic vitality, sustaining undeveloped land that absorbs water, and contributing to the scenic beauty of our region.

We celebrate the science, collaboration, and shared values represented in the Yahara CLEAN Compact's *Renew the Blue: A Community Guide to Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed*, recognizing the 12 priority impact action recommendations as the most effective way to achieve water quality goals, and committing to implement those recommendations.

We commit to working together to renew and strengthen this Renew the Blue partnership alliance to accelerate progress around runoff, phosphorus, and *E. coli* reduction in order to protect the health and resilience of the waterways, wetlands, and lands of our watershed.

We believe we have greater impact working together across sectors, jurisdictions, and organizations to align implementation, coordinate outreach, and galvanize collective action.

We recognize Clean Lakes Alliance as the organizing body to convene and align our shared goals to support action and communicate progress.

We value the current collaboration among governments and nonprofit organizations that generates *State of the Lakes* – an annual water quality report shared with the public.

We commit to supporting *State of the Lakes* as it expands into measuring progress around priority urban and rural land-management practices. This includes tracking our large-acreage undeveloped urban and rural lands; conducting a shoreline survey; tracking acres permanently protected from development; and counting rain gardens.

We commit to becoming a Clean Lakes Alliance Partner, providing data, resources and participation to support the work and goals of the Renew the Blue Council. As part of this commitment, we will designate two delegates to the Council — at least one of whom will be an elected official or serve in an official capacity on a common council, committee, or organization board. We will also make an annual financial contribution to Clean Lakes Alliance and actively participate in Council meetings, held approximately two to three times per year.

By signing this letter, we pledge to adhere to the values and fulfill the commitments listed above.



Melissa Agard, County Executive
Dane County

5-13-25

Date



Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor
City of Madison

5/13/2025

Date

Jon Greendeer, President
Ho-Chunk Nation

Date



James Tye, Executive Director
Clean Lakes Alliance

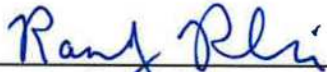
5/12/25

Date

Clean Lakes Alliance
Renew the Blue Council
Letter of Intent


Karen Hyun, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

5/13/25
Date


Randy Romanski, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade
and Consumer Protection

5-13-2025
Date


Eric Dundee, Executive Director
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

5/13/2025
Date


David Pfeiffer, Chair
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

5-13-2025
Date


Emily Kuhn, Mayor
City of Middleton

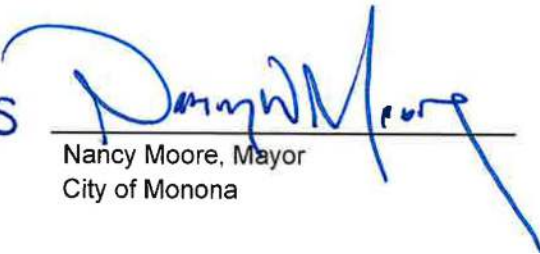
5/13/25
Date


Jeff Endres, President
Yahara Pride Farms

5-13-25
Date


Jayme Powers, Chief Executive Officer
Madison LakeWay Partners

5/13/25
Date


Nancy Moore, Mayor
City of Monona

5/13/25
Date

Lisa Marshall, Chief Executive Officer
Realtors Association of South Central Wisconsin

Date

Chad Lawler, Executive Director
Madison Area Builders Association

Date

Listening Sessions

Renew the Blue Council

Renew the Blue Signatories	Additional Organizations <i>partial list of potential organizations</i>
Clean Lakes Alliance Madison, City Middleton, City Dane County - <i>Discovery Farms</i> UW-Madison - <i>Center for Limnology</i> - <i>Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies</i> - <i>Extension</i> WI Dept. of Natural Resources WI Dept. Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS) Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Yahara Lakes Association REALTORS Association of South Central Wisconsin (RASCW) Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Madison Area Builders Association Dane County Cities and Villages Association Dane County Towns Association	<i>Government</i> Ho-Chunk Nation Wisconsin Legislators (Dane County) Monona, City Fitchburg, City Stoughton, City Blooming Grove, Town Burke, Town Cottage Grove, Town Dunn, Town Springfield, Town Oregon, Town Rutland, Town Pleasant Springs, Town Westport, Town DeForest, Village Maple Bluff, Village McFarland, Village Shorewood Hills, Village Waunakee, Village Windsor, Village U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) <i>Not-for-Profit</i> Friends of Pheasant Branch Friends of Lake Wingra Groundswell Conservancy Rock River Coalition Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society Lake Waubesa Conservation Association Friends of Starkweather Creek Yahara Pride Farms Dane County Parks Foundation Wisconsin Farmers Union Dane County Farm Bureau Madison LakeWay Partners Sand County Foundation BT Farms Rooted Sustain Dane Foundation for Dane County Parks San Damiano Monona
BOLD - committed to participating in the Renew the Blue Council	

Yahara WINS

Clean Lakes Alliance Renew the Blue Council

Invitation & Commitments

Invitation	Seat on the Renew the Blue Council • Advise on direction, priorities, goals
Commitment	Be a current Lake Partner and provide support for project management and facilitation of Council • Annual Lake Partner Membership (\$500 per year) • Annual Council support ○ \$5,000 for 2025 (by 8/1/25) ○ \$10,000 for 2026 (by 1/1/26) Appoint two delegates to the Council • At least one senior leader in the organization, e.g., executive director or board member Attend Council meetings (expected 3 per year)
Next Steps	• 2025 - Council set-up work • Oct 17, 2025 - Council delegate gathering • 2026 - Council begins meeting

October 21st, 2025, Yahara WINS Executive Committee Meeting

Agenda Item: Yahara WINS underspending follow up- where to hold the remaining underspent funds.

Action Requested: Approval of recommendation (below) by Yahara WINS Executive committee.

Background: As part of the June 2025 executive committee meeting, the Yahara WINS executive committee was informed of a previously undiscovered operating surplus. Since 2017, the District has managed the back-end tracking of revenue and expenses to support the annual budget that the Yahara WINS group approves and the Executive Committee administers. District accounting staff provide reports to the Yahara WINS President and Treasurer, and Yahara WINS approves invoices and expenditures per the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Additionally, as required by the IGA, Yahara WINS undergoes a financial audit administered by a third-party auditor annually. In June 2025 the Yahara WINS Executive Committee were informed that as a result of a project undertaken by District accounting staff to prepare for a new Enterprise Resource Planning software it was discovered that the budget to actual reports being provided to Yahara WINS were not calculating the correct amount of unencumbered/underspend funds due to the type of account that the underspent funds automatically went into at the end of each fiscal year. This created a situation where unencumbered funds were being accumulated without being reported to Yahara WINS. It was only after discovering that the numbers used to calculate the reports were not pulled from the correct accounts that the issue of underspending was discovered. It should be noted that this type of miscalculation isn't something that would be uncovered during the annual audit. The audit does not look at controls over what is reported, but rather the audit focuses on the financial reporting itself, looking for mistakes, etc. *In this situation there were no mistakes as the underspent money was being recorded properly; the issue was that the account the money was moving into was not reported correctly to WINS staff.* Now that Yahara WINS and District accounting staff are aware of the reporting omissions it has been corrected and unencumbered revenue will be tracked separately as part of the annual budget process.

While the operating surplus is not part of the Yahara WINS annual budget, it is part of the available resources that Yahara WINS must invest in activities that help meet Yahara WINS goals. The reported operating surplus in June 2025 was a little under \$1,000,000. The executive committee decided in June 2025 to use \$400,000 to fund a targeted phosphorus reduction project in stream reach 69 partnering with a farmer-led group called Biological Farmer Friends (BFF). The executive committee decided in September 2025 to use \$65,000 in 2025 for year 1 of a multi-year watershed prioritization project. This puts the current operating surplus balance at approximately \$535,000. It should be noted that the executive committee has a pending request from Rock County to use \$150,000 from this underspending for a project in addition to the existing funding already committed to Rock county under a service agreement with Yahara WINS. If that request is ultimately funded that would leave the operating surplus balance at approximately \$385,000.

Recommendation: Keep the operating surplus funds in the general Yahara WINS account to be made available to the executive committee as unbudgeted requests come to the committee.

Key considerations

- Executive committee can fund unbudgeted requests for projects that are approved by the committee.

Option 1. Keep the operating surplus funds in the Yahara WINS cash reserves account.

Key considerations

- Cash reserves policy must be followed before the executive committee can decide to fund unbudgeted projects. Note that the policy requires that any project funded must be guaranteed to be in place for a minimum of 5 years and requires approval of a majority of the executive committee. The full cash reserves policy can be found here: <https://yaharawins.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Operating-Reserve-Fund-Policy.pdf>

Option 2. Authorize the Yahara WINS executive committee president to work with District accounting staff to find an alternative account to hold the money until it is needed.

Key considerations

- There is a potential to gain a higher interest rate than the general account or the cash reserves account if the money is expected to not be used for a prolonged period.