

MINUTES: Yahara WINS Executive Committee meeting:

DATE: 10/21/2025

TIME: (approx. 2:05 PM)

LOCATION: Virtual meeting

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Fries - Secretary

Executive Committee:

- X Martin Griffin, President, MMSD
- X Greg Fries, Secretary, City of Madison
- X Tom Wilson, Towns and Villages Association
- X Judd Blau, Village of Deforest, Vice President
- X Kyle Minks, Amy Piaget, Dane County Representative
- X Laura Hicklin, John Reimer, Dane County Representative
- X John Lindert, Strand
- X Mark Riedel – WDNR
- X Ben Schulte – City of Fitchburg
- X Mike Gilbertson, Kathy Lake – MMSD
- X Phil Gaebler – City of Madison
- X Lauren Striegl – Village of Oregon
- X James Tye – CLA
- X Andrew Baaker, Paul King – Rock County

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order – Griffin called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM
- b. Welcome guests and visitors

2. Review and acceptance of September 16, 2025, meeting minutes

Motion by Wilson, Seconded by Blau, Unanimous

3. Other Business:

- A) Action Item: Rock Co./Myhre Farm funding request. There were questions and discussion regarding staffing and costs. To confirm this is a 10-year contract for a \$150,000.00 one-time payment. Additional discussion that the whole farm should be in compliance with state standards not just the barnyard and that future compliance would be on the landowner if they “fall out of compliance with state standards”.

Discussion was had that effectively we are making a significant payment to a farmer to not house animals on this farm. The response was that we are paying \$28/LB of TP which is below the “going” rate. Griffin suggested that staff come back with guidance on how WINS operates in terms of approving projects so this project could be compared to those standards. Additional discussion regarding the idea that WINS funding was “intended” to function as a method to get farmers over the need for ongoing payments to meet the agricultural standards and rather providing payment to farmers to help them once to get over the implementation hump.

Additional discussion was had regarding the viability of “paying” a farmer to not do something, and the temporary nature of the buy in this situation, however it was also discussed that we do pay for 10/15-year contracts for crop changes which are also temporary.

- 1) Motion by Wilson, Second by Blau - to approve the request submitted under conditions as Modified by Hicklin that the landowner shall provide WINS with a certificate of compliance that guarantees the whole farm (all acres under ownership by the farmer) meets state agricultural performance standards and prohibitions. A draft example of certificate of compliance shall be provided by Hicklin.

Fries, Wilson, Striegl (aye), Blau, Griffin (nay) - PASSED

B) Action Item: Renew the Blue Council Partnership

Brief presentation by Tye regarding the intent and goals of Renew the Blue Council Partnership.

Motion by Blau Second by Wilson that Yahara WINS 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. – Unanimous.

- C) Action Item: Yahara WINS Operational funding Underspensing for the 2025 Budget – Griffin gave an update on the budget including where the underspent funds were and why they were underspent and options regarding what to do excess funding.

Motion by Fries, Second Blau to keep the excess funds in the Yahara WINS cash reserves account. Note that 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 - Unanimous.

5. Information Item – USGS Service Agreement Cost Change – Griffin gave a brief presentation indicating that the current agreement ends at the end of 2026 and that costs will increase significantly for the next agreement. Currently, WINS currently pays 385K/5YR the contract is estimated to increase to 536K/5years after 2026 (these are draft numbers).

Informational item so no action taken at this time, but this will come back at a future meeting.

6. Other Business – communications support contract request – Griffin gave a brief presentation regarding a 1-year contract to develop a strategic communication plan for a not to exceed cost of \$2500 to Hadley PR to assist staff in creating the communication plan.

Motion Blau, Second Wilson – to award the above noted contract - Unanimous

7. Future Agenda Items – None noted
8. Adjourn Moved by Wilson, Second by Blau - Unanimous.