

MINUTES: Yahara WINS Executive Committee meeting:

DATE: 12/16/2025

TIME: (approx. 2:50 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
- John Lindert, Strand
- X Mark Riedel – WDNR
- Ben Schulte – City of Fitchburg
- X Mike Gilbertson, Kathy Lake, Emily Jones – MMSD
- X Phil Gaebler – City of Madison
- X Lauren Striegl – Village of Oregon
- X James Tye – CLA
- X Andrew Baaker, Paul King – Rock County
- X Jeff Endres – Yahara Pride Farm
- X Christopher Castle - University of Wisconsin

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order – Griffin called the meeting to order at 2:50 PM
- b. Welcome guests and visitors

2. Review and acceptance of October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes

Motion by Blau, Seconded by Wilson, Unanimous

3. Other Business:

A) Decision Item: Approval of 2026 YPF Funding Request

- 1) Discussion regarding the requested increase in funding from 525K to 746K – the increase funds both new acres, new practices and continuing practices on existing lands and for a first time for administration and verification costs (that have never been charged in the past). General discussion regarding how people can come to WINS to request additional funding – Griffin gave a response that it is an open and rolling request so requests for funding can come in throughout the year and there are criteria on the website that need to be documented. YPF discussed that they have moved their project sign up to March of 26 (vs fall of 26) to allow them to better manage their demand. Blau mentioned that if this is approved, it will essentially max out our dollars spent in 2026 and if the funding request increases again in 2027 WINS will spend more than we are taking in and we may have to increase our rate of charge from our partners.

YPF clarified that this money is for practices signed up for in fall of 25 and spring of 26 for work done in fall of 25, or summer of 26, which are verified in fall of 26 for payment in 27. Discussion moved to long-term funding and that as federal and state matching funds dry up the cost for this to continue this is going to increase as it is unlikely that farmers will step up to pick up these costs.

Wilson made a motion that we fund YPF request to the max amount allocated in the budget (525K), and that as YPF has additional projects which they want to fund YPF can come back for additional budget requests to WINS later in calendar year 2026 and WINS can act based budget availability and project priority. Second Blau. Unanimous.

B) Decision Item: Increase Authorization for WINS Strategic Communications and Support Contract.

Brief discussion by Griffin regarding the corrected funding request – we funded the “retainer”, but it was intended to fund approximately 30K for the full calendar year of work.

Blau made a motion that we approve the corrected amount and the unbudgeted amount be funded by the budget surplus, second by Striegel, Unanimous.

C) Decision Item: Approval to Sign 2026 Agreements YPF and Rock Co. LCD.

Motion by Blau allowing the Executive Director to sign the agreements noted above, Second Castle, Unanimous.

4) Future Agenda Items – None noted

5) Adjourn