

MINUTES: Yahara WINS Executive Committee meeting:

DATE: 03/17/2026

TIME: (approx. 2:30 PM)

LOCATION: Virtual meeting

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Fries - Secretary

Executive Committee:

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

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order – Griffin called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM
- b. Welcome guests and visitors

2. Review and acceptance of December 16th, 2025, meeting minutes

Motion by Blau, Seconded by Striegl, Unanimous

3. Other Business:

A) Study Session Decision Item: Considerations for Yahara WINS funding requests

- 1) Discussion regarding what types of projects should WINS be funding – should we be funding projects on ag lands to get to NR-151 compliance or only above NR-151 compliance. Should we be funding projects on urban lands only in watersheds where we cannot get the reachshed goal that cannot be achieved with ag alone in that reach?

Discussion by Dane Co staff that it is sometimes difficult to determine whether a project is in compliance before giving funding. Recall that compliance is only required if the cost sharing requirement can be met (70%) – and many counties cannot provide that funding. Discussion that blanket policies are sometimes difficult to enforce in these situations. Question, can the reachshed goals be met by only pushing people who

are already in compliance to do more or is it more efficient to push producers who are not in compliance to come into compliance with by law requires matching funds.

Comment that sometimes there is one thing that is stopping people from doing something to improve their landuse practices and bring them into compliance. More discussion that guidelines are appropriate but a black and white policy could be difficult for Dane Co and Yahara Pride Farms to respond to and deal with.

Could we have a tiered review approach where funding goes first to producers that are already in compliance but would not prohibit granting funds to producers that are out of compliance?

There was some discussion that tracking what all project funds are used for (ie to get to compliance vs going above compliance) that will cause problems with Dane Co in terms of tracking and certainly for YPF who do not address “compliance” in any meaningful way.

We would recommend that Dane Co staff give us thoughts with regard to agricultural proposals brought to WINS by other agencies to review against a professional standard.

Griffin suggested that we proceed with:

WINS will review proposals on a case-by-case basis and work on creation of an application format that must be used so that the Executive Committee has the needed information to review proposals.

Motion by Fries, Seconded by Griffin, Unanimous

4. Future Agenda Items – None noted
5. Adjourn