



Dane County Office

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Yahara Lake Level Advisory Group 2 (YLAG2)

Minutes

September 29, 2011

3 - 5 pm with Public Comment beginning at 5:00 pm

**Location: Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture and Conservation Center
1 Fen Oak Court, Madison**

Participants in attendance

Scott Reiersen
Melissa Malott
Richard Gullickson
Tom McGinnis
Dean Hein
Kevin Connors
Mindy Habecker

Jack Von Rutenberg
Rob Phillips
John Van Dinter
Mike Amstadt
Susan Tesarik
Sue Jones

Mike Kakuska
Anita Weier
Erica Schultz
Bill Fitzpatrick
Melissa Sargent
Sue Josheff

Participants absent:

Bill Mazanet
Kurt Welke
Don Peterson

Chuck Rolfsmeyer
Lloyd Eagan
Ken Potter

Richard Lathrop
Dan Stephany
Chin-Hsien Wu

1. Introductions - All

2. Approval of Minutes – August 25, June 23, and May 26, 2011 meetings approved

3. Check-in -

4. Historical, Cultural and Natural Scenic Beauty Issues Discussion

Presenters: Amy L. Rosebrough, Staff Archeologist, State Archaeolog and Maritime Preservation Program, Wisconsin Historical Society, (608)-264-6494 amy.rosebrough@wisconsinhistory.org

Harry “Chip” Brown – Government Assistance Specialist, Historical Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, 608-264-6508 chip.brown@wisconsin.gov

Powerpoint at -

http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/Yahara_Waterways_Historical_and_Cultural_Presentation.pdf

Questions presenters were asked to cover – 1. What are the significant historic or cultural sites in the Yahara River or near shore areas of the Yahara Lakes between Cherokee Marsh and the Stoughton Dam?

2. Please be sure to address the corduroy bridge and Native American fishing weir in the Yahara River below Lower Mud Lake.

3. If the latter features were found to impede the flow of the river, could they be removed? If so, what would the process be?

There’s 13,000 years of history in the Yahara Basin – since the ice age. Non-native people have only lived in the area for the last 3% of that time.

§ 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act directs federal agencies to:

- Identify structures eligible for the National Register of Historical Places
- Consider effects on eligible historical structures
- Consult with WI Historical Society (WHS) to address adverse impacts to the eligible structures

Wis. Stat. § 44.40: Requires state agencies to consider effect on sites listed on the WI Inventory of Historic Places. WHS reviews all state projects that may affect inventoried sites.

Wis. Stats. § 44.42 and 66.1111: Requires local governments to consider effect on sites listed on the WI Inventory of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. WHS reviews all local units of government's projects that may affect inventoried or registered sites.

Wis Stats. § 157.70: all burials are protected regardless of age or cultural affiliation. Requests to disturb may be denied (only case where this is possible)

The Lower Mud Lake Archeological Complex has three sites

Skare site: Only intact Paleo-Indian settlement known in Wisconsin. This site was occupied during a critical gap of the Late Woodland history. It has been plowed, but is intact below the plow zone.

Dyreson fish weir: The weir consists of large boulders placed in a 'V' shape with gaps between them. Native American's could stand on the boulders and spear fish that swam through the gaps. It was built prior to 1840 (maybe much earlier) and Used through the early 20th century.

Douglas Dam: This corduroy dam was built in the 1840-1860. The dam was built out of logs which look like corduroy. It is the only known intact mid 19th century dam in the state.

Drawing down water levels can expose artifacts that are collected by individuals. Increased water levels might inundate or cause erosion of sites.

5. **Mapping Exercise** - The participants placed comments on lake maps identifying issues. These comments will be put on a GIS layer and will be available for our use.
6. **Discuss next steps** – Mindy explained that we needed to develop criteria to evaluate our recommendations by. She presented examples. Participants were asked to recommend criteria by October 20.
7. **Future meeting dates, location and agenda items**
Next meeting is on October 27, 2011 at 3:00 pm at the Fen Oak office. The topics will be economics, public health and water level history. Also if you want to add additional speakers or topics, get your ideas to Mindy by Oct. 27.
8. **Public Comment** - None