

From: [Hicklin, Laura](#)
To: [Flooding, Yahara](#)
Subject: FW: "2018 Yahara Lakes Chain of Lakes Flooding" report
Date: Monday, February 04, 2019 8:36:47 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2019 9:51 PM
To: Crary, Janet; Balousek, Jeremy; Brouwer, Stefanie; Buckingham, Tanya; Chawla, Yogesh; Erickson, Chuck; Hicklin, Laura; 'James, Angela'; Miles, Patrick; Minks, Kyle; 'O'Connor, Mary'; 'Pfeiffer, David'; 'Phillips, Rob'; 'Porter, Pam'; Reimer, John; Ripp, David; Ritt, Michele; Sandford, Susan; Stubbs, Shelia; 'Vieth, Eric'; 'Wells, Topf'
Cc: Corrigan, Sharon
Subject: "2018 Yahara Lakes Chain of Lakes Flooding" report

Task Force Members

I will not be able to attend the meeting on Monday and wanted to share the comments I made to John Reimer on the "2018 Yahara Lakes Chain of Lakes Flooding" report. See my comments below.

Thanks

Mike

Michael Gerner

[REDACTED]

John

I read the 2018 Yahara Lakes Flooding report in great detail and am impressed and in agreement with most of the findings.

As you know I would, I do have a few comments. I will not be at the meeting next week and wanted to communicate them to you.

I strongly agree with A (not THE) combined dredging and pumping solution. In the proposed combination (see page 40 of the report) dredging is limited to the river channel between Monona & Waubesa. As you have stated, weed cutting below Waubesa is very problematic because of the irregular river bottom, the fishing weir, the corduroy bridge other sediment. I am very concerned that effective weed cutting and flow control will not be achieved without some dredging down stream of Waubesa. Going back to my lake level analysis only 200CFS (cubic feet per second) was leaving Waubesa before the August 20th rain event because of weed growth. As the report states, dredging below Waubesa will allow cutters to operate efficiency and enable the removal of weeds during lower river water levels. Let's get to the right long term solution that will provide the flood protection that is needed and that will provide the County staff the tools that they need to efficiently

manage the lakes.

Thanks to the team for the great in depth report.

Mike

Michael Gerner



From: [Hicklin, Laura](#)
To: [Flooding, Yahara](#)
Subject: FW: Questions for tonight's meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 8:36:55 AM

From: Topf Wells [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Hicklin, Laura; pamela porter; Ritt, Michele
Subject: Questions for tonight's meeting

Laura, Pam, Supervisor Ritt,

Thank you for providing the report on Friday. I was able to read and have some questions. I'm forwarding those questions to Pam, Supervisor Ritt, and you so that all of you and staff are not surprised at the meeting. I had hoped to review the report again today but Sally's and my internet service has become quite erratic. If it's okay, I'll be at Fen Oak a little before 4 to get a paper copy to review before the meeting.

I'm always concerned about Open Meetings and Open Records compliance. I think the nature of these questions is such that I can share with the three of you before the meeting. Would you mind having enough copies of them available so I can distribute them to other members (that means I won't talk as much at the meeting, a good thing)? If you think you should put this mail on a website devoted to the Committee's work and communication, please do so. If I should not send such e-mails and reserve any question for the meeting, let me know.

1. In discussing the option of reducing the Lake Mendota level by 4 ft., the report seems to assume that all the dams should be taken out. Could that reduction be accomplished by leaving the dams in place with all the gates open? That would reduce the cost of that step and enable that action to be reversed if we tried it and it had as relatively a small effect as predicted and other consequences were as or more negative. That's not to say that I support that alternative but I think that's a question the report raises.
2. If not in this report, we probably should have some discussion of the consequences of pumping and discharging to Badfish Creek. Badfish Creek is too often considered only in its capacity to accept most of the treated effluent discharged by MMSD. The upper reaches of the Creek have been ditched, channelized, and leveed. Nevertheless, it is a significant resource in terms of its size, proximity to the metropolitan area, surprisingly rich aquatic life, and, in its lower reaches, accessibility. What would the impacts be? How can we mitigate those impacts? Would it be possible or desirable to partner with MMSD in such mitigation?
3. Has the Ho-Chunk Nation seen this report? Have County staff had any discussion with the Nation regarding the weir and the challenges it might present as we address flooding issues?

Thanks to all for your considerable work on this difficult topic. I look forward to our first meeting.

Topf Wells

From: Eric Vieth
To: [Flooding_Yahara](#)
Subject: Questions for Technical Work Group - Eric Vieth
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 7:42:05 AM

Technical Work Group -

The report is very thorough and impressive, especially given the amount of time the group had to put this together. Some questions/comments that may be helpful to share ahead of future meetings:

- 1) Page 38, Figure 29: Is this flow reroute and pumping or just pumping?
- 2) Page 44, Table 5 (c): Is this flow reroute and pumping or just pumping?
- 3) Page 44, Table 5 (d): Is item (c) flow reroute and pumping or just pumping?
- 4) Page 44, Table 5 (d): How does Flow Rerouting and Pumping + only dredging between Monona and Waubesa reduce peak water levels in Waubesa and Kegonsa in comparison to only Flow Rerouting and Pumping option?

- 5) If dredging were completed throughout the chain, would lowering of all lakes 6" provide an additional peak water level benefit? If so, of what approximate magnitude (I am thinking 25 years out...say we dredge now, need to dredge again in 25 years + additional measures because our stormwater volumes continue to increase)

- 6) Past observations (pre-2018) showed lowering the Stoughton Dam (below its Orders) does not improve flow. Given the work that was done in 2018 (aquatic plant removal, sediment removal @ RR Bridge), would lowering the Stoughton Dam now (below its Orders) improve flow?

- 7) People may be very interested in understanding the flow re-route and pumping options, and therefore I would continue to expect lots of questions related to size, cost, etc. It may be worth spending a little additional time looking at this if possible. A 54" pipe was mentioned at the meeting for the pumping option. My understanding is a 54" force main pipe is what currently exists at the outfall of the MMSD sewage line. I believe we would be looking at a much larger stormwater force main than 54" to keep discharge velocities down, with massive pumps/motors.

- 8) Public Comment Regarding Upper Yahara Watershed Storage Solutions: My initial impression is that providing storage upstream of Mendota is currently not feasible/cost effective. If this has not been studied, it should be. If this could be briefly addressed at a future meeting that would be helpful.

Thanksfor all your hard work,

Eric Vieth

From: Eric Katte
To: [Flooding, Yahara](#)
Cc: [Kiefer, Timothy](#)
Subject: Immediate Plans For Dredging?
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 11:56:00 PM

Res-227 concludes with lines 46-50 that state:

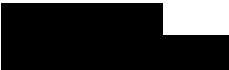
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, consistent with the Lake Level Management Guide that calls for attaining minimums in the fall and winter, Dane County will continue to implement any tools that may be available to lower lake levels to DNR designated minimum levels as soon as possible and work to maintain lakes at that level until the County Board acts on recommendations from the task force.

My question is why have there not been any plans put in place to start dredging the Yahara below Lake Monona as soon as weather/season allows? Given the above language, coupled with the clear conclusion that is spelled out in the Technical Work Group's report, dredging should start as immediately as possible. Any delay in planning seems to be in conflict with the resolution.

Emergency weed cutting permits were obtained this past summer to improve flow. Why aren't the same measures being taken now to prepare for dredging as soon as the seasons allow?

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Eric Katte



From: Ben Rohr
To: [Flooding, Yahara](#)
Subject: Yahara-Flooding Technical Report Comment
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 9:26:12 AM

To whom it may concern,

I agree with many of the recommendations for continuing efforts (p.45), but I think there is also a missing piece to them. As the flood is on the forefront of Dane County resident's minds, its a prime opportunity to leverage awareness, motivation, and education. The analyzed larger-scale physical changes are important to a very large portion of the mitigation effort, but there are many small-scale initiatives that can be accomplished by individuals or small groups of people at the individual lot level. This could be as simple as a Neighborhood Association agreeing to give rain-barrels to each house in a subdivision or a school-wide project where students come up with innovative ways to improve stormwater on-site.

While it is important to make changes that will address flood mitigation and resiliency at the watershed level, it is also imperative to use the recent flooding events to motivate people, groups, businesses, and governments to make as many small changes as possible and avoid long-term apathy.

Thanks,
Ben Rohr

