

Yahara Lake Level Advisory Group 2 (YLAG2)

Minutes

November 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	Jack Von Rutenberg	Kevin Connors
Sue Jones	Melissa Sargent	Mike Kakuska
Rob Phillips	Anita Weier	Daniel Stephany
Allan Coville	Richard Gullickson	Thomas Wilson
Chin-Hsien Wu	Bill Fitzpatrick	Mike Amstadt
Susan Tesarik	Kurt Welke	Lloyd Eagan
Sue Josheff	Mindy Habecker	

Participants absent:

Bill Mazanet	Chuck Rolfsmeyer	Kyle Richmond
Melissa Malott	Middleton Representative	Ed Minihan
Tom McGinnis	Ken Potter	Richard Lathrop
Dean Hein		

1. Introductions – All

2. Approval of Minutes – October 27, 2011 meeting - Minutes not available

3. Check-in

4. Selection of final criteria – After review of the participants' submitted proposed criteria, the following 6 criteria were selected:

- Does the proposal or recommendation balance public and private interests in the Yahara chain of lakes? Public interests include navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and natural scenic beauty. Private interests include historic values, riparian and business access, and economic development.
- Is the recommendation based on sound science and technical standards?
- Does the proposal maintain or restore the ecological integrity and function of the Yahara chain of lakes?
- Does the strategy or action provide a long-term/sustainable solution?
- Does the suite of recommendations address both high water (including flooding) and low water issues?
- Is the strategy or action possible to implement from all perspectives including permitting, technical analysis, ability to practically apply proposed action, and funding?

Some criteria may not be applicable to some recommendations.

5. Discussion of decision making process – Mindy will provide a summary handout.

Recommendations must be submitted to Mindy by January 3 – 4:00 pm.

If participants can't attend January 10 meeting, they can still submit recommendations by 1/3.

Participants are asked to review the public comments as well as the presentations and minutes.

Interested individuals should talk to a YLAG2 participant to get their recommendations presented.

At the end of the process, the recommendations will go to DNR. The recommendations that DNR staff could implement will be reviewed. If the recommendation is to change the current water level orders, DNR staff will have to write an environmental assessment and get public input before issuing new levels. If the facts support change, the water level order would be issued. This process can take 6-months to more than a year depending on the information that must be gathered and reviewed to determine the impacts of the change. The water level decision can be appealed. If appealed, an administrative hearing is held and decision is made. That decision can be appealed through the courts. The appeal process can take years. This action doesn't need a Natural Resources Board decision.

Participants that attended 3 or less of the 9 meetings can submit recommendations but will not be able to vote. The group felt that these participants won't have heard enough of the presentations to make fully informed decisions. County Board member Melissa Sargent made a request that if Dane County Executive Parisi appoints County Board member Robyn Schmidt as the second county board member that was initially invited to participate in YLAG2, that Robyn be able to vote since she has been at all the meetings. The group agreed.

The group was told of \$27 million in the proposed Dane County budget for 5 lake activities:

- restore wetlands, remove carp in Cherokee Marsh and Roxbury's Mud Lake
- Increase municipal storm water grants to \$1 million
- Change land acquisition from targeting wetland to targeting lands that benefit water quality
- Begin implementing the Yahara CLEAN recommendations prioritized in the upcoming Strand report
- \$20,000 to install Beach practices for scum/algae and to complete sanitary surveys years.

6. Discuss of recommendation generation

Use SMART (Specific, measurable, action oriented, realistic and time-bound) when writing your recommendations.

Mindy will collate the list and group where possible. The January 10, 2012 meeting will be to discuss and clarify the recommendations. Prior to the January 26, 2012 meeting, we will have an email straw poll so results are available for the meeting. This will help us determine which recommendations we should spend our time on.

The group decided to have a public meeting to discuss the proposed recommendations. Mindy Habecker, Sue Jones, Melissa Sargent, Kurt Welke, Thomas Wilson, Rob Phillips and Scott

Reirson agreed to design a public meeting and bring it back to the group at the January 10, 2012 meeting.

7. Future meeting dates, location and agenda items

January 10, 2012 – Fen Oak office – same location as other meetings

Discuss proposed recommendations

January 26, 2010 - – Fen Oak office – same location as other meetings

Decide on recommendations to forward to DNR and possibly others

8. Public Comment

Three comments concerning how to be involved in the recommendation process and whether the Public will see the proposed recommendations prior to the 1/26 meeting. They would also like to speak at the beginning of the 1/26 meeting.