1. Agenda

   Documents: AGR_20150825_AG.PDF

2. Complete Packet

   Documents: AGR_20150825_PK.PDF

CITY OF FITCHBURG
Planning Department

5520 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711-5318
Phone: (608) 270-4256 ■ *Fax: (608) 270-4275*
www.fitchburgwi.gov

AGENDA
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Tuesday, August 25, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Meeting Room

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a meeting of the Fitchburg Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at ***4:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room*** at City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road to consider and act on the following:

(Note: Full coverage of this meeting is available through FACTv and Streaming Video, accessible on the city web site at http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/677/Government-Channel)

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes
2. Public Appearances – Non-agenda Items
3. Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) – Olivia Parry, Dane County Planning and Development Department
4. City of Fitchburg Agriculture Plan Work Session
5. Appointment of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair
6. Yahara WINS Semi-Annual Report - 2015
7. Staff Report
8. Announcements
    a. Next Meeting Date
9. Adjournment

Note: It is possible that members of and possible a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI 53711, (608) 270-4200.

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DRAFT MINUTES

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Planning Department

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MINUTES

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Members Present: Ed Kinney, Tony Hartmann, Bill Horns, Tom O'Brien and Tom Thrall
(Excused absences: Roger Cohee and George Vroman)

Staff Present: Wade Thompson – Resource/Project Planner

Others Present: Patrick Reinsma, Wisconsin Department of Tourism

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair Ed Kinney called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Motion by Tony Hartmann, second by Tom O'Brien, to approve the minutes of May 19, 2015, carried unanimously.

2. Public Appearances – Non-agenda items

None.

3. The Power of Tourism – Patrick Reinsma, Wisconsin Department of Tourism

Patrick Reinsma, Regional Tourism Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Tourism presented some general information related to tourism in the State of Wisconsin. Reinsma's presentation focused on the following components:

- Tourism as a business tool
- Tourism's impact on revenue and employment
- The relationship between tourism and marketing
- Department of Tourism support and resources available to local governments

Reinsma's presentation led to a general discussion of tourism amongst the Committee, including trends in vacationing/tourism habits, the potential of the City to bring in additional tourists and tourist revenue, tourist demographics, general areas in which tourists could be drawn from, the appropriate balance of tourism in a community, and potential support/resources available from the Department.

4. Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) Presentation/Discussion

Wade Thompson gave a general overview and presentation on the Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR). Thompson stated the FAR is an example of a tourism concept that could reap many of the benefits identified in Reinsma's presentation, and that the City is in the initial stages of exploring FAR development. Thompson stated the FAR is envisioned as an "Agricultural Main Street", centered on a paved recreational trail corridor (Badger State Trail) running through the City's agricultural lands, and poteinally home to inter-dependent, diverse local food production enterprises, agricultural-related value-added retail outlets, agricultural tourism destinations, and recreational opportunities.

Thompson gave an overview of the City of Fitchburg, agricultural clusters/agricultural tourism and relevant case studies, and status of FAR development. Thompson stated the City's Planning and Zoning Department will be working with the University of Wisconsin –Madison's Graduate Program in Urban and Regional Planning (URPL) to produce a preliminary study/report gauging the feasibility of development of the FAR concept. Thompson stated URPL students would work on the project through the Fall 2015 Semester (September – December), with completion o the study/report slated for December. Thompson also stated the report/study would then be presented to the Committee and other appropriate City officials/committees to determine next steps in development of the FAR concept.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the FAR concept. Chair Kinney stated the City could potentially "earmark" various industrial-zoned lands in the southern portion of the North Stoner Prairie Neighborhood for local food processing-type industries and incubators. Hartmann stated the University's business school could potentially be interested in the FAR concept, and offer additional resources/support.

5. Update on City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Agriculture Plan

Thompson stated the Common Council had approved/signed a resolution directing the Committee to develop the *City of Fitchburg Agriculture Plan*. Thompson reminded the Committee of the Plan development timeline, including a public information workshop/meeting to be held in early fall of 2015.

The Committee agreed to discuss workshop/meeting planning at the August Committee meeting.

Hartman requested a draft statement identifying the Plan intent and purpose be discussed at the August Committee meeting. Thompson stated he would bring a statement to that meeting.

6. Staff Report

None.

7. Announcements.

None.

a. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for August 25, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion by O'Brien, second by Hartmann, to adjourn at 5:50 p.m., carried unanimously.

Submitted by: Wade Thompson, Resource/Project Planner

Approved:

Ag Plan Development:

General Timeline – 2015-16

1. Committee initial work sessions – **March, April, July, and August 2015**

2. Committee submit plan development "charge" request to Plan Commission – **May 2015**

3. Public open house and workshop (opportunity for public input and comment) – **September 2015**

4. Committee public open house/workshop follow-up work session – **October 2015**

5. Staff prep of draft plan – **October/November 2015**

6. Staff presentation of draft plan to Committee – **January 2016**

7. Staff presentation of draft plan to Plan Commission – **January 2016**

8. Public open house and workshop – Draft review (opportunity for public input and comment) – **Early 20116**

9. Committee wrap-up work session and final review/approval of plan – **Early 2016**

10. Plan gets sent up the "food chain" (i.e. Plan Commission and Council) ?? – **Early 2016**

DRAFT 4-21-2015

Dear City of Fitchburg Agriculture Landowner:

The City of Fitchburg's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has recently begun the process of developing an "Agriculture Plan" to help maintain and enhance agriculture in the City into the foreseeable future.

The City's agricultural land base has many features that make it unique, including proximity to a large urban area that has a high demand for local food production, as well as proximity to recreational trails. Identify new opportunities examples??

A major component of the Plan will be identifying new agricultural land use opportunities for landowners in the City that take advantage of these unique features, as well as ways in which the City can help landowners take advantage of these opportunities.

As such, the City's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will be holding a public workshop at _____ p.m., _____, _____, City Council Chambers, Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, to gather feedback from the City's agricultural landowners on development of the Plan.

Major questions to be discussed at the public workshop include the following:

1. What are some potential new agricultural land uses in the City?
2. What is preventing agricultural landowners in the City from undertaking new agricultural land uses?
3. What could the City do to help landowners undertake some new agricultural land uses?
4. What are some concerns regarding potential new agricultural land uses in the City?
5. What could the City do to alleviate some concerns about potential new agricultural land uses?

Your attendance at the workshop is encouraged.

The City has also prepared an online survey to gather additional feedback from agricultural landowners in advance of the workshop. The survey is located at _____ and will be available until _____.

If you need further information on development of the City's Agriculture Plan, the public workshop, or the survey, please contact Wade Thompson, the City's Resource/Project Planner, at wade.thompson@fitchburgwi.gov, or 608.270.4258.

Sincerely,

_____, Chair
City of Fitchburg Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

[YAHARA WINS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT] July 2015

Watershed adaptive management (AM) is a new, innovative and collaborative compliance approach designed to meet regulatory requirements for phosphorus throughout a watershed in a cost-effective manner. The Yahara Watershed Improvement Network, Yahara WINs, is made up of thirty partners testing adaptive management in the Yahara River Basin through a pilot project. Currently, the pilot project is in its fourth and final year.

Since its inception in 2012, the Yahara WINs effort has made remarkable progress gathering community support and putting phosphorus reducing practices in place that will help improve water quality within the Yahara watershed. This report complements other Yahara WINs documents and takes time to recognize what is going on within the watershed. Additional information on Yahara WINs can be found at: http://www.madsewer.org/Programs-Initiatives/Yahara-WINs

Based on the success of the pilot project, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is now working to develop a full scale adaptive management (AM) project in the Yahara watershed in a collaborative effort with current partners in the pilot project. MMSD believes that adaptive management is a fiscally and environmentally responsible approach to meeting phosphorus reduction goals in the watershed. MMSD has been and will continue reaching out to pilot project participants in the coming months to share information and obtain input on this important effort!

Yahara WINs Highlights for the first half of 2015

- The *Yahara WINs* Pilot Project entered its final year and began the necessary steps to transition into a **full scale** adaptive management (AM) program.
- **Five mini grants** have been awarded for phosphorus removal in the watershed. They are expected to reduce phosphorus loading by **483 pounds per year.**
- The Harvestable buffer initiative has been expanded and **five agreements** have been signed. They will buffer over 500 acres of cropland and reduce phosphorus runoff by approximately **1,000 pounds per year** to the Yahara.
- A Regional Conservation Partnership Program agreement was signed with USDA/NRCS. It awards **$1.3 million** of federal funding for phosphorus reducing practices and ancillary efforts in the watershed.
- **New staff** have been hired at the County to aide in full scale AM planning and implementation.
- Dane County finalized a phosphorus reduction number for 2014. In total, **3,552 pounds of phosphorus** was reduced in the Yahara Watershed due to the Yahara WINs effort.
- MMSD has reached out to all pilot project participants and/or their consultants to aid in transition to a full scale adaptive management program in the Yahara.
- **200 USGS water quality samples** have been collected and analyzed in 2015.
- **Expanded water quality monitoring** efforts have been made through the Rock River Coalition-Citizen Stream Monitoring program. **47 unique sampling sites** have been added and **69 nutrient samples** have been collected and analyzed.

Upcoming in 2015

- Yahara WINS, Clean Lakes Alliance and Dane County are partnering to fund a grant program to assist producers in purchasing low disturbance manure injection equipment to help improve water quality with respect to phosphorus.
- Dane County LWRD and partners are evaluating strategies to mitigate **legacy sediments** in the watershed.
- Yahara WINS authorized funds to develop an **intergovernmental agreement** that will be needed to support the full scale adaptive management project. The IGA is expected to be finalized later this year.

Example sediment core for phosphorus analysis.
Photo: Dane County LWRD

Adaptive Management Plan

Per Wis. Admin Code § NR 217.18, Yahara WINs must submit an adaptive management plan for DNR authorization. MMSD is taking the lead in this effort and will provide opportunity for input by all pilot project participants. The DNR does not require individual plans from each permitted facility, therefore; this plan will serve as the **one adaptive management plan** for the entire Yahara watershed.

Significant progress has already been made in the plan's development, due in large part to information generated as part of the *Yahara WINs* pilot program. Upon completion, the adaptive management plan will be consistent with the requirements in Wis. Admin Code § NR 217.18, and will be informed by both the "Adaptive Management Technical Handbook-A Guidance Document for Stakeholders" (DNR, 2013) and the USEPA "Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters" (EPA, 2008). The plan will address:

- Geographic scope and land use
- Phosphorus reduction goals by stream reach
- Phosphorus reduction practices anticipated to be used in the Yahara Watershed
- Practice cost and associated staff cost
- Water quality monitoring and associated cost
- Communication

MMSD has and will continue to meet with WDNR representatives throughout the plan development phase to ensure that the plan is developed consistent with DNR guidance.

[YAHARA WINS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT] July 2015

Intergovernmental Agreement for Yahara WINs

Yahara WINs is working with Attorney Paul Kent from Stafford Rosenbaum LLC to develop an Intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between agencies that will participate in the full scale adaptive management project. An IGA will be necessary due to the increased complexity of scale, funding, and the number of partners associated with program the size of the Yahara WINs full scale adaptive management. The IGA will replace the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) currently in place for the pilot program.

Creation of the IGA is funded by Yahara WINs and the first draft has been shared with partners for review and comment. This document will lay out specific requirements of signatories and establish a framework for cooperation and collaboration between partners as the full scale adaptive management project moves forward. The goal is to finalize the IGA by the end of 2015.

Meeting with Pilot Partners

MMSD continues to meet with partners from the pilot project and their consultants as the pilot enters its last year and the transition into full scale adaptive management begins. These meetings allow MMSD and partners to review the necessary steps needed to move to full scale implementation. MMSD asks that all partners take the steps towards full scale adaptive management as noted below:

What is needed from Yahara WINs Partners in 2015?

Inform your decision leaders, boards, consultants, etc. of the advancement of a full-scale managment program.

Maintain your pilot project payment allocation in your 2016 budget to ensure continued success through the transition year.

Partners with TDML allocations should review all possible compliance options to determine adaptive managment is best.

MS4s should revisit their modeling results to determine how much phosphorus and sediment (TSS) are needed to meet their requirements under the TDML.

[YAHARA WINS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT] July 2015

RCPP Approval and Agreement

Dane County's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application was submitted to and approved by the USDA/NRCS. A final agreement was signed May 2015. This five year program will provide crucial funding via cost share for agricultural conservation practices in the Yahara watershed to reduce phosphorus loading to the watershed. Through the RCPP, NRCS will provide an additional **$1.3 million** towards the Yahara WINs adaptive management effort. This substantial financial aid will help foster the success of full scale adaptive management.

Yahara WINs Grants 2015

The *Yahara WINs* Grant program, an initiative that began in 2103, allows pilot project MOU signatories to apply for funding for low-cost individual phosphorus reduction programs in the Yahara watershed. In 2015, *Yahara WINs* budgeted for $60,000 to be allocated to the grant program and fully funded the following five projects:

- **Clean Lakes Alliance, $4,000 for the Rake the Lake Challenge Days**
- **Dane County Extension, $15,000 for the Daily Heifer Grazing Initiative**
- **City of Fitchburg, $15,000 for the Schumann Greenway and McKee Farms Northwest Pond Enlargement Project**
- **City of Fitchburg, $10,500 for the Lacy Heights Bioretention Facility**
- **City of Madison, $15,000 for the Acewood Pond Enhanced Sand Filter**

These projects are examples of low-cost phosphorus reducing practices which are helping to improve water quality throughout the watershed. In total, the grant recipients are estimated to reduce phosphorus by **483 pounds per year** in the Yahara Watershed.

[YAHARA WINS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT] July 2015

Adaptive Management Timeline

2015

- **Finish Pilot Project**
- Engage community
- Develop Adaptive Management Plan
- Continue funding program
- Continue water quality monitoring

2016

- **Transition year**
- Submittal and approval of Adaptive Management Plan
- Put intergovernmental agreement in place
- Continue funding programs
- Continue water quality monitoring

2017

- Begin **full scale** project: spanning the entire Yahara Watershed
- Expand funding practices
- Expand water quality monitoring

Yahara Pride Farms

In 2014, Yahara Pride Farms received an $80,000 grant from Yahara WINs to fund strip tillage, vertical manure injection and cover crop practices throughout the Yahara River watershed. Table 1 summarizes the results of this effort.

Table 1. Yahara Pride funded conservation practices, acres covered and the corresponding estimated P reduction in 2014

P reducing practice	Total Acres	Estimated 2014 P reduction (lbs)
Strip Tillage	52.5	47*
Vertical manure injection	273	164*
Cover crop	1329	3786*

* Calculated from lbs P reduced/acre averages in Yahara Pride Farms 201 4 Phosphorus Reduction Report

In 2015, Yahara WINs will again provide cost share funding to Yahara Pride for phosphorus runoff reducing practices. A total of $80,000 will be provided and findings will be available in 2016.

[YAHARA WINS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT] July 2015

Dane County Land and Water Resources 2015

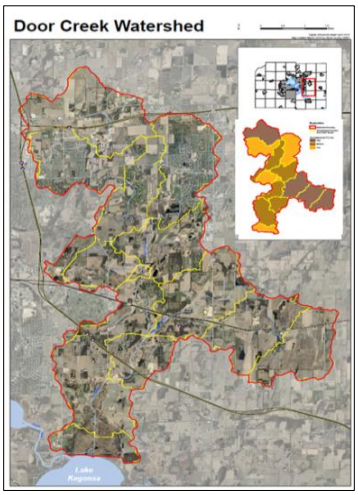
Dane County Land and Water Resources has **fully committed** to implementation of a full scale AM plan. In 2015 they hired two new soil conservation specialists dedicated to adaptive management. Additionally, the County has expanded efforts in the Door Creek Watershed, expanded the harvestable buffer initiative, and is moving forward with a grant program to help expand the use of low disturbance manure injection equipment in the Yahara Watershed.

Harvestable Buffer Initiative

The Harvestable Buffer Initiative has gained much popularity in 2015. Five agreements between Dane County and local farmers were made. In total, they will cover 44.3 acres, provide a buffer for over 500 acres of crop land and will reduce approximately **1,000 pounds of P/year**. This year producers were given the option of either 5 or 10 year program lengths, differing from previous programs that only spanned 5 years. Each cost share participant chose the longer ten year period, further showing the harvestable buffer initiative's popularity among producers. Extended agreements like these will do much to aid in the long term implementation and success of adaptive management in the Yahara.

Low Disturbance Manure Injection

Dane County, Yahara WINs and Clean Lake Alliance partnered to create the Low Disturbance Manure Injection Program of 2015. In 2015 Dane County finalized the Low Disturbance Manure Injection cost share program and application. A total of $220,000 is available for equipment purchase and the deadline for the first round of applications is set for **August 3rd** of this year. This program will be crucial to phosphorus runoff reduction to the watershed and help farmers retain key nutrients in their soil.



Door Creek Watershed Plan

A rough draft of Door Creek watershed plan was completed in accordance to the EPA/WDNR 9-Key Elements of a Watershed Plan in June of this year. The County will submit a final plan to EPA in September, 2015. This plan will serve as a guide for the development and structure of Yahara WINs full scale adaptive management plan. The lessons learned in Door Creek combined with the pilot in Nine Springs will be crucial to full scale adaptive management implementation throughout the larger Yahara watershed.

Expanded Water Quality Monitoring in 2015

Rock River Coalition Volunteer Citizen Stream Monitoring

In 2015, *Yahara WINs* provided funding to the Rock River Coalition (RRC) to expand the citizen stream monitoring network in the Yahara River watershed to augment existing monitoring established by the WDNR, the District and USGS, and to lay the groundwork for a full-scale adaptive management project. A robust monitoring effort is crucial to full scale adaptive management. This expansion will fill gaps in Yahara monitoring that were discovered during the pilot project and further prepare Yahara WINs partners for a successful adaptive management program. The RRC follows a nested approach to monitoring and their volunteers are trained in three different levels of data collection. The 2015 expanded project adds:

- 1 new *Level 1* site monitored for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, water velocity and Biotic Index once a month for a total of 20 sites,
- 6 new *Level 2* sites monitored once a month for dissolved oxygen and water clarity with water temperature measured continuously with data loggers for a total of 28 sites and,
- 5 new *Level 3* sites where volunteers collect nutrient samples for analysis at MMSD lab for a total of 31 sites

This spring, RRC staff facilitated three training workshops. With new and continuing volunteers, RRC has established a total of **47 unique sites** for the adaptive management effort—one more than what was proposed in the RRC grant submitted to Yahara WINs.

Since the start of the monitoring season, *Level 3* volunteers have collected **69 nutrient samples** as part of the citizen stream monitoring effort.

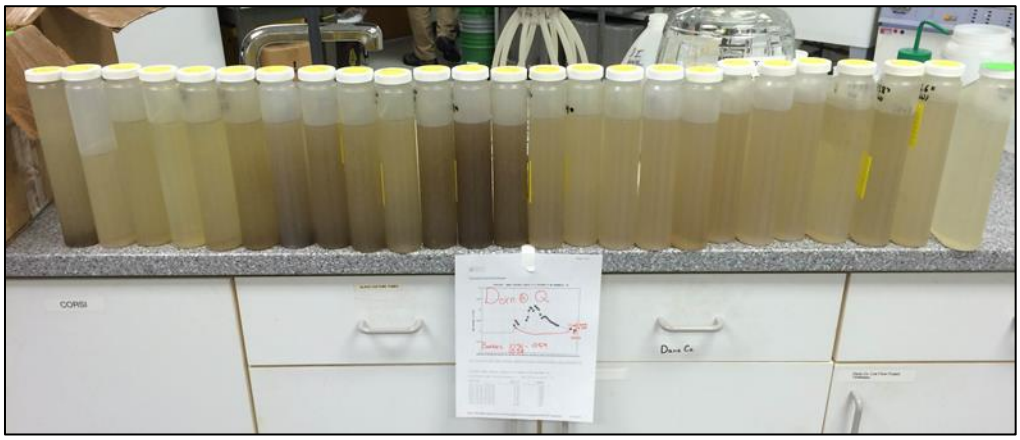
RCC volunteers from left to right: Lloyd Eagan checking water clarity in Pheasant Branch Creek, a group of 2015 trainees in Rock County, and Barb Bauer and Sherry Buechner monitoring and collection water samples at sites near Tolken Creek.

Photos: Nancy Sheehan, RRC

USGS Monitoring Stations

Yahara WINs also monitors water quality at five USGS monitoring stations: Dorn Creek at Hwy Q and Hwy M, Six Mile at Hwy 19 and Hwy M, and the gaging station at Fulton. To date, 200 samples have been collected. USGS will use this data to determine annual loads for the water year (ending on September 30th).

A new 2015 sample site at USGS's gage at Spring Harbor will be used to monitor the total phosphorus (TP) level in municipal stormwater runoff. Data from the urbanized contributing area will lead to increased understanding of urban phosphorus loads.



USGS 2015 samples from station Dorn Creek at Highway Q. Photo: Todd Stuntebeck, USGS

New Faces in Adaptive Management

The Yahara WINs effort welcomed four new employees dedicated to the full scale adaptive management transition:

- **Amy Callis:** County Conservationist for Dane County Land and Water Resources Department
- **Eric Krueger:** Soil Conservation Specialist for Dane County Land and Water Resources Department
- **Shawn Esser:** Soil Conservation Specialist for Dane County Land and Water Resources Department
- **Kaity Taylor:** Yahara WINs Intern

[YAHARA WINS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT] July 2015

Upcoming 2015 Meeting Dates

The *Yahara WINs* Strategic Planning Workgroup and Executive Committee meet quarterly and each meeting covers a variety of topics relating to the *Yahara WINs* Adaptive Management Pilot Project as well as the transition to full-scale adaptive management. The dates and times of the Strategic Planning Workgroup Meetings, which are followed by the Executive Committee Meetings, are listed below. The *Yahara WINs* meetings will be held the Lussier Family Heritage Center. All *Yahara WINs* meetings are open to everyone.

- **Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 1 pm**
- **Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 1 pm**

Aerial view of the Yahara Chain of lakes: Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, and Wingra

Photo: http://limnology.wisc.edu/lake_information/mendota_&_other_Y.html

Questions?

Additional information can be found at Yahara WINs website: http://www.madsewer.org/Programs-Initiatives/Yahara-WINs or contact Kathy Lake at (608)222-1202 ext. 278 or kathyl@madsewer.org