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Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District  
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Dane County Towns Association



February 13, 2019

Dear Dane County Board Supervisors,

In Greater Madison, the time has come to put lakes at the top of our community agenda. Recent flooding and historically large cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms are symptoms of a changing climate and a harder, less resilient landscape. The Dane County Board has shown leadership in addressing these issues by creating a Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force. The task force recommendations balance the need to **BOTH** support our lakes through updates to Dane County ordinances by incorporating agricultural performance standards and improving manure management **AND** maintain a vibrant farm community through increased cost share funds, support to farmer-led groups, and preservation of agricultural land. Clean Lakes Alliance agrees with this approach and passed a resolution on July 24, 2018 encouraging the creation of firm deadlines for implementation.

To meet two of the task force recommendations, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department has proposed the creation of **Chapter 49: Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management** and held meetings with area producers to get their input. The Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board passed a resolution on January 22, 2019 to support these ordinance changes.

We need bold, transformative action for our lakes. As a good first step, Clean Lakes Alliance supports the approach of the Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force that balances the need for protecting our lakes and maintaining a vibrant farm community. We believe the proposed creation of **Chapter 49: Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management** is consistent with both objectives of the task force and will help lay the foundation for cleaner, healthier lakes. Please support the passage of the proposed ordinance.

Thank you for making the Yahara lakes a priority in our community!

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Tye".

James Tye  
Executive Director

Attachments

- Resolution in Support of Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force's Draft Recommendations
- Resolution in Support of Dane County's Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Establish "Chapter 49: Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management"

# RESOLUTION OF THE CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE COMMUNITY BOARD IN SUPPORT OF THE HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY LAKES TASK FORCE'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, the Clean Lakes Alliance's Community Board is made up of 42 community leaders representing businesses, nonprofits, state and local government, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

WHEREAS, the Clean Lakes Alliance's number one goal is to reduce phosphorous loading to the Madison-area lakes by 50% or more.

WHEREAS, the Clean Lakes Alliance's Community Board has reviewed the Dane County Board of Supervisor's Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force's draft recommendations attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2018, the Community Board voted to support the draft recommendations, with the following proposed amendments (in order of Clean Lakes Alliance priorities):

Goal 5: Include firm completion dates to adopt, fully fund, update and implement the *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction*.

Goal 2: Include a firm completion date, no later than within one year of the Dane County Board of Supervisor's adoption of the Task Force's recommendations, for adopting all needed ordinance changes.

Goal 4: Include a firm completion date, no later than four years from the Dane County Board of Supervisor's adoption of the Task Force's recommendations, for achieving 100% nutrient management plans for all farms in the Yahara watershed (with priority given to the Lake Mendota subwatershed) and for completion of the tracking database within two years.

Goal 1: Include a recommendation expressly calling for an increase of support to and an expansion of the effectiveness of farmer-led groups and other conservation organizations.

Goal 3: Include a firm completion date for the creation and implementation of the "Certificate of Use" program of no later than two years from the Dane County Board of Supervisor's adoption of the Task Force's recommendations.

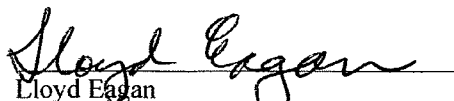
Goal 8: Include a recommendation to establish a measurement tool and implement a plan to address a phosphorus budget imbalance in the Yahara watershed, to ensure reductions over time in the net amount of accumulated phosphorus.

WHEREAS, Clean Lakes Alliance will continue to advocate for these recommendations throughout the Dane County Board of Supervisor's process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that with these changes, Clean Lakes Alliance's Community Board supports the Task Force's recommendations and believes they will help achieve Clean Lakes Alliance's goal of reducing phosphorus delivery to the Madison-area lakes by 50%.

Adopted on July 24, 2018.

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board at a legal meeting held on July 24, 2018.

  
Lloyd Egan  
Executive and Community Board Chair  
Clean Lakes Alliance

## **Resolution #2019-01**

### **Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board in Support of Dane County's Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Establish "Chapter 49: Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management"**

WHEREAS, the Clean Lakes Alliance's Community Board is made up of 48 community leaders, representing businesses, nonprofits, state and local government, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and,

WHEREAS, Clean Lakes Alliance receives support from over 2,000 donors representing a broad range of individuals and businesses, and,

WHEREAS, all five of our Yahara lakes are designated as federally impaired for phosphorus pollution, and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the findings and recommendations of the University of Wisconsin-Madison study, *Phosphorus Loading and Lake Response Analyses for the Yahara Lakes*, Clean Lakes Alliance's number one goal is to reduce phosphorus loading to the Yahara lakes by at least 50% to double the number of days when the lakes are clear and our beaches are open, and,

WHEREAS, Clean Lakes Alliance believes our community needs to come together to support 14 specific urban and rural actions to reduce phosphorus runoff as outlined in the *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction*, and,

WHEREAS, 30% of the planned phosphorus load reduction is identified to come from urban areas through leaf management, improved construction site erosion control, waterway bank stabilization, reduction of total suspended solids in runoff, and the use of green infrastructure, and supported by policies such as Dane County's 2005 phosphorus lawn fertilizer ban, and,

WHEREAS, 70% of the potential phosphorus load reduction is identified to come from rural areas as farmers and livestock owners continue to step up to improve cropping, tillage, and other practices that decrease soil loss and better manage manure, and,

WHEREAS, reports such as the 2011 *Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts* show that the Yahara watershed is and will continue to experience increasing amounts of precipitation and intense storm events compared to previous decades, and with the August 2018 flood event highlighting how these impacts will complicate our efforts to reduce phosphorus runoff, and,

WHEREAS, Clean Lakes Alliance, along with university researchers, farmers, and policy makers, participated in the Dane County Board of Supervisor's Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force that was tasked with building on the work already being done by farmers and coming up with new recommendations to improve water quality, and,

WHEREAS, the Task Force, while recognizing that both urban and rural sources contribute to phosphorus loads to our lakes and that significant progress has been made over the past decade with practices like cover crops, streamside harvestable buffers, urban stormwater detention ponds and rain gardens, recommended eight actions to both maintain a vibrant agricultural community and improve lake water quality, and,

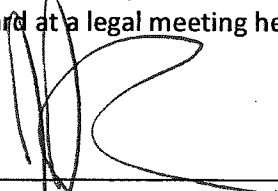
WHEREAS, as set forth in the *Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force Recommendations* approved on August 1, 2018, the Task Force calls for the following amendments to Dane County ordinances (HFHL TF Recommendation Goals #2 and 3):

- Create a new ordinance, "Chapter 49: Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management," that incorporates state agricultural performance standards and prohibitions from chapter NR 151, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and that includes the aforementioned components.
- Expand manure storage permitting requirements to include storage systems used to collect barnyard runoff and process wastewater.
- Create a "Certificate of Use" requirement for all manure storages in the county to ensure nutrient management plans are being implemented, storage facilities are being properly operated and maintained, and applicable safety devices are installed.
- Expand winter spreading permit requirements to cover all manure types (solid and liquid) applied during frozen, snow/ice-covered conditions, and that conform to *NRCS Technical Standard 590 for Nutrient Management*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Clean Lakes Alliance's Community Board supports the Task Force's recommended changes to Dane County's ordinances to help achieve the goal of reducing phosphorus delivery to the Yahara lakes by 50% to protect and improve water quality.

Adopted on January 22, 2019.

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board at a legal meeting held January 22, 2019.



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J. James Tye  
Founder & Executive Director  
Clean Lakes Alliance



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Matt Frank  
Board Chair  
Clean Lakes Alliance