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September 27, 2018

To: Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Re: Alum and similar phosphorus treatment projects

Clean Lakes Alliance collaborated with Yahara CLEAN government partners and published the *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction* in 2012. Partners to the plan included Dane County, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, Center for Limnology at UW- Madison, and the City of Madison. The plan focuses on 14 cost-effective and achievable phosphorus reduction actions to clean the lakes.

The recommended Yahara CLEAN actions divert phosphorus from the lakes through on-the-ground projects that reduce runoff in both urban and rural areas. The *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction (2012)* considers phosphorus inactivation (i.e. alum) projects as:

"an emerging technology and suggests pilot testing for two types of alum projects: storm event-based alum and pond additions. Storm event based alum treatments are designed to reduce phosphorus loading in runoff during storm events and have been employed extensively in Florida and Europe. The Department of Natural Resources has used alum treatments to "trap" or inactivate phosphorus in the bottom sediment of water bodies since the 1970s. Since alum has not been used extensively for stormwater treatment in Wisconsin, detailed planning and pilot testing were recommended at a few sites prior to more widespread implementation as part of the Yahara CLEAN project."

As part of an innovative, multi-faceted approach to lake rehabilitation, Clean Lakes Alliance supports funding for pilot and demonstration projects as a way to further test the use of in-stream phosphorus treatments in the watershed. These strategies are intended to complement watershed-based practices that focus on addressing the sources or transport of phosphorus.

In partnership,


James Tye
Founder & Executive Director
Clean Lakes Alliance