
From: Wegleitner, Heidi
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 4:55 PM
To: Ritt, Michele; Jones, Nikole; Downing, J Patrick; Chawla, Yogesh; Erickson, Chuck; Ripp, David; Kolar, Mary; McCarville, Maureen; paporter609@gmail.com; Lakes and Watershed Commission
Cc: Wegleitner, Heidi Forward
Subject: 2018 Res 227 - Flooding and Lake Levels

Dear Honorable Supervisors and Commissioners,

I hope to attend your meeting tonight, but I will likely have to leave early to get to an important neighborhood meeting in my district.

I write in strong support of 2018 Res 227. My district has been significantly impacted by the severe rain event of August 21 and the subsequent flooding. I have heard from many constituents that the County must work in earnest to manage lake levels at their minimums and petition the DNR as soon as possible to enable us to lower the lake levels further. At the same time, I understand that this is a complicated issue and there are many factors related to flooding and many strategies that need to be pursued to mitigate our risk and prevent future catastrophe.

I believe that Res 227 is an important step in the right direction. That said, I encourage you to consider strengthening the resolution as follows:

- 1) Set a more aggressive target for policy recommendations coming out of the task force. We do not have time to waste and we must give this the urgent attention it deserves. Please amend the deadline for policy recommendations to Dec. 31, 2018 so we can act on the recommendations in early 2019 and before the spring thaw.
- 2) Include a public health analysis of the impact of flooding and appoint a public health expert to the task force to ensure this lens is being used when developing policy recommendations. I have been contacted by a constituent who has provided a recommendation for a potential appointee who is interested in assisting with this effort.
- 3) Ensure transparency and accountability in the study group and policy task force process. EANR and LWC should be involved in the appointment process for both groups and the study group and policy task force should have open and publicly noticed meetings. Implementing recommendations will be much easier if the public is informed and engaged in this process. There is significant community interest and political will to work for systemic change to make our community more flood resilient.

Thank you for your hard work on this important topic. I look forward to our continued work together to build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient Dane County.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Wegleitner
Dane County Supervisor, District 2
608-333-3676

From: Chawla, Yogesh
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 5:47 PM
To: Hicklin, Laura
Subject: Fw: Health Effects of Flooding: Proposed Resolution

Here is the email to the commission in relation to public health.

Thanks,
Yogesh Chawla
Dane County Board District 6
608 438 5965
Secretary Land Conservation Committee
Secretary Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission
<https://yogeshchawla.com/d6-updates/>

From: Jessica LeClair <jessileclair@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 3:24 PM
To: Chawla, Yogesh; Downing, J Patrick; Jones, Nikole; Ritt, Michele; paporter609@gmail.com; Erickson, Chuck; Ripp, David; Kolar, Mary; McCarville, Maureen; Lakes and Watershed Commission
Cc: Wegleitner, Heidi
Subject: Health Effects of Flooding: Proposed Resolution

Dear Members of the LWC and the EANR,

I listened to Supervisor Chawla's presentation to the Sustainable Madison Committee meeting this week on the resolution proposal to study and create recommendations for the DNR to lower the lake level. I would like to suggest the inclusion of an assessment of the health effects of flooding and extreme weather to inform the benefits of lowering the lake level. Including public health research/data analysis in this lake level assessment would provide valuable information on the chronic health effects of flooding in our community, and the health benefits of lowering the lake level. Here is just one example:

In 2012, I was working as a public health nurse with a neighborhood on the north side of Madison to address resident concerns about increasing violence among youth. As usual, when we talk with communities about any downstream public health issue, the people with the expertise that comes from lived experience tend to talk about the social determinants of health. At a neighborhood meeting, the local Elementary school principal mentioned that children from this neighborhood were increasingly missing school because of increased asthma symptoms and other breathing problems over the last few years. The families shared how their apartment buildings had not recovered from the flooding in 2008, and by 2012 their basements were boarded up due to the mold that had also seeped into the vents. Every time it rained even a few inches, their basements and yards flooded. Families asked that we not call building inspection, talk with the landlords, or get our Environmental Health sanitarians involved because they very much feared eviction. As you know, Madison has very

few affordable housing options, and parents told us that they would rather stay in their unhealthy apartments than sleep in their cars.

Rather than place the burden on this community living on the frontlines of climate change, I met with our storm water engineer, who shared that the water table in these neighborhoods is so high because the lake levels are too high. The lake levels are controlled by the State DNR, and are high because lakefront property owners want to maintain their docks, boats, and property values. I was told it was beyond the control of the City, and that was the end of the story at that time.

This ongoing flooding concern was highlighted again in a neighborhood newsletter in 2016. Residents were noticing the increased frequency of rainfall, storms, and flooding from the neighborhood creek, which in July rose an astonishing 7 feet in less than an hour, pouring out onto adjacent streets, creeping up lawns and flooding basements. This particular creek is known to carry agricultural chemicals. I was no longer working with this neighborhood in 2016, but a resident shared video footage of children playing in flood waters, which we can assume contain sewage, chemicals, bacteria, and mold.

Thank you for taking the time to read my experience of working with a Madison neighborhood on the frontlines of climate change, and please consider including a health impact assessment as you research the potential benefits of lowering the lake levels.

Sincerely,
Jessica LeClair, MPH, RN
District 2