



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Yahara Chain of Lakes - Lake Levels Task Force

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

5:00 PM

Lyman F Anderson Ag & Conservation Center
5201 Fen Oak Drive - Room A/B
Madison WI 53718

5201 Fen Oak Drive - Room A/B

A. Call To Order

- Present** 12 - Chair MICHELE RITT, SHELIA STUBBS, TANYA BUCKINGHAM, DAVE RIPP, CHUCK ERICKSON, YOGESH CHAWLA, PATRICK MILES, Chair PAM PORTER, TOPF WELLS, ROB PHILLIPS, STEFANIE BROUWER, and ERIC VIETH
- Excused** 1 - DAVID PFEIFFER

Staff Present: Jeremy Balousek, Laura Hicklin, John Reimer

Others: Dick Lathrop, Chin Wu, Allan Levin, Shaun Abshere (Isthmus Flood Prevention Coalition), Bill Lamm, Connie Hagen, Janice Kellogg, Jane Elmer, Ken Sipsma (Town of Westport), David Petit, Eric Katte, Jim Welsh (Groundswell Conservancy), Carol Gillen, Mike Gerner, Jeff Steuer, Don Sanford, Mitch Buthod, Nemesis Ortiz Decllet, Mitch Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Courtney Botelho, Mary Zillman, Tim Groves, Charles Dykman, Bonnie Dykman, Dea Larsen Converse, Carl Ham, Rob Montgomery, Evan Murdock, Chet Agni, Joel Chapiewsky, Simon Widstrand, Paul Hooper, Christine Pelto, Peter Taglia, Mike Rupiper, Lance Green, Jon Becker, Ed Minihan (Town of Dunn), Steven Schooler, James Tye (Clean Lakes Alliance), Joy Zedler

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chairs PORTER & RITT at 5 pm.

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2018
MIN-470](#)

LAKE LEVELS TASK FORCE MINUTES_2-18-19

Attachments: [2018 MIN-470_LL Task Force Minutes_2-18-19.pdf](#)
[2018 MIN-470 Registration before Co Committee_2-18-19.pdf](#)

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by WELLS, that the minutes of February 18, 2019 be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote: 12/0

C. Public Comment

- Ken Sipsma – Town of Westport, supports dredging and pumping as a good scenario and is opposed to lowering Lake Mendota by one foot.
- David Petit – Waubesa, supports lowering Lake Mendota by at least one foot over a three to four-year period and taking responsibility for overdeveloping the watershed rather than pumping and creating problems for other people. Supports taking action now.
- Joel Chapiewsky – McFarland, no concerns with mitigation scenarios other than time and expense. Adaptation efforts are cartoonish and should be dropped. Lowering Mendota should be chosen and only someone really dense would not agree.
- Ed Minihan – Town of Dunn, wonders why no one from the Town of Dunn was invited to participate, wonders why the world-renowned wetland experts in the Town of Dunn were not consulted, and offered that these individuals could have helped avoid mistakes during this process. Hopes that the task force focuses on viable alternatives and opposes the pumping scenario.
- Simon Widstrand – Madison, is pleased to see the focus on flow, and suggests the following steps for 2019: 1. Hold Mendota at summer minimum, 2. Keep other lakes at minimum and manage to mid and high ranges when necessary, 3. Run additional model events in 2019, 4. Ask for permits for additional weed harvesting, permitting and contracting necessary for dredging, 6. Pursue detention and infiltration, 7. Floodproofing and buyouts of flood prone areas should be pursued, 8. Explore ways to be more creative in interpreting the existing orders and develop a new management guide.
- Allan Levin – Madison, does not support lowering Lake Mendota and has concerns about the DNR petition process.
- Shaun Abshere – Isthmus Flood Prevention Coalition, supports policies that reduce flooding, expects the City and County to cooperate, and spoke in support of the action items identified in the petition from the Isthmus Flood Prevention Coalition.
- Jim Welsh - Groundswell Conservancy, spoke in opposition to pumping through the Waubesa Wetlands.
- Jon Becker - Madison, supports lowering Lake Mendota, supports managing Mendota at the summer minimum in 2019 and suggested that staff should resign if they are uncomfortable not following the existing management guide, and supports petitioning the DNR for new orders.
- Peter Taglia - Madison, would like to see additional work on infiltration and flash flooding. Identified several examples of rain gardens and other practices that address infiltration and other goals, such as pedestrian access and water pollutants like chlorides.
- James Tye - Clean Lakes Alliance, supports actions that help reduce the volume of water entering the system and improve water quality.
- Steven Schooler - Dunn, opposes any piping or other options that negatively impact the Waubesa Wetlands. Supports the following actions: 1. Focus on weed control and cutting, particularly below the Stoughton Dam, 2. Improve management of the Stoughton Dam, 3. Lake Mendota should be managed on the low-end of the range and based on forecasts, not what happened yesterday. Supports wetland preservation and infiltration practices.
- Don Sanford - Madison, supports actions to improve flow, such as dredging and weed control. Concerned that lowering of Lake Mendota will have negative impacts on infrastructure. Encouraged immediate action over additional studies.
- Joy Zedler - Dunn, opposes scenario #6. Concerned about negative water quality, wetland and habitat impacts of the pumping option, among other concerns. Supports watershed-based approaches that address volume control.
- Eric Katte - Waunakee, opposes petitioning the DNR to lower the Lake Mendota water level order, supports increased infiltration, supports dredging.

- Mitch and Rachel Johnson - Madison, oppose piping through Waubesa Wetlands, support increased infiltration, support wetland protection.
- Supervisor Erickson read testimony from 21 households in his district.
- Lance Green - Madison, supports holistic solutions that address water quality and quantity.
- Jeff Steuer - Yahara River south of McFarland, suggested modeling a new scenario to better illustrate why lowering of Mendota does not have a significant impact on Monona.
- Mike Gerner, opposed to lowering Mendota, supports dredging in lower lakes.

[2018
DISC-024](#)

ZEDLER COMMENT & NATURE CONSERV ARTICLE_3-5-19

Attachments: [2018 DISC-024 Zedler Comment & Nature Conserv Article 3-5-19.pdf](#)

[2018
DISC-025](#)

KATTE COMMENTS_3-5-19

Attachments: [2018 DISC_025_Katte Comments_3-5-19.pdf](#)

[2018
DISC-026](#)

ERICKSON FOR RESIDENTS OF LAKE MONONA BAY_3-5-19

Attachments: [2018 DISC-026_Erickson for Residents of Lake Monona Bay_3-5-19.pdf](#)

PHILLIPS left at 6:15 pm.

Present 13 - Chair MICHELE RITT, SHELIA STUBBS, TANYA BUCKINGHAM, DAVE RIPP, CHUCK ERICKSON, YOGESH CHAWLA, PATRICK MILES, Chair PAM PORTER, TOPF WELLS, ROB PHILLIPS, STEFANIE BROUWER, ERIC VIETH, and DAVID PFEIFFER

Excused 2 - ROB PHILLIPS, and DAVID PFEIFFER

D. Action Items - None

E. Presentations- None

F. Reports to Committee- None

G. Announcements

None

H. Future Meeting Items and Dates

March 18th at 5 pm, City-County Building, Room 354

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

J. Adjourn

A motion was made by WELLS, seconded by ERICKSON, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote: 11/0

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Hicklin. Minutes are subject to committee approval.