Sub 1 to 2023 RES-011
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTION OF BADGER MILL CREEK

Badger Mill Creek, a key tributary of the Sugar River, is a vital fish and wildlife habitat in a rapidly growing area of Dane County worthy of the stewardship of the Dane County Board. Dane County has made significant investments to restore Badger Mill Creek and its fish and wildlife habitat, improve trail access, and acquire adjacent property for conservation and protection of the Creek.

The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is considering options for addressing phosphorous pollution in Badger Mill Creek that include 1) reducing the flow of highly treated wastewater effluent into Badger Mill Creek, 2) additional treatment and filtration of the effluent before it enters Badger Mill Creek, and 3) adaptive management that improves the health of the Creek by reducing phosphorous-polluted runoff.

MMSD began treating Verona's wastewater in 1993. Verona's water supply is from wells in the Sugar River watershed. After considerable study and discussion, MMSD decided to return the Verona portion of its wastewater to the Sugar River watershed in the form of highly treated and aerated effluent to Badger Mill Creek near the headwaters of the main stem of the creek. At any given time, this effluent is a considerable portion of the Creek's flow.

In the last three years, Dane County has spent at least $3.3 million in land acquisition and stream restoration. The City of Verona has also invested significant funds to restoration and public access. Over a span of 30 years, Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (SWTU) has donated funds to those projects and volunteered hundreds of hours of labor to stabilize Creek banks and improve access. The Dane County Conservation League has also assisted conservation efforts. The Friends of Badger Mill Creek and the Friends of the Upper Sugar River Watershed have recently begun volunteer-driven cleanup efforts, habitat restoration, and community outreach around Badger Mill Creek.

MMSD has been collecting stakeholder input and has received comments from the City of Verona, Town of Verona, Town of Montrose, Friends groups, other stakeholders, and citizens in the form of resolutions, letters, and testimony, and the County Board encourages MMSD to continue this stakeholder input process.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board encourages MMSD to continue to collect stakeholder input and any affected stakeholder and citizen is encouraged to participate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the County Board encourages MMSD to find a solution to phosphorous pollution in Badger Mill Creek that maintains the flow of Badger Mill Creek, protects the Creek's ecosystem, and respects the County, local government, private, nonprofit, and volunteer investments made in the Creek and surrounding area.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to MMSD commissioners.

The sub clarifies wording in an expository paragraph.