

Lakes and Watershed Commission 2018 Chloride Budget Proposal Background

1. Why are we concerned about chloride?

Once you put road salt down, it doesn't go away.

Chloride may impair drinking water making it unpalatable particularly when the level exceeds the US Environmental Protection Agency secondary maximum contaminant level of 250 mg/L; and chloride has been steadily increasing at several Madison municipal drinking water wells, most dramatically at Well 14 where chloride has more than doubled from 58 mg/L in 2000 to 137 mg/L in December 2016.

Some estimates show that deicers applied to sidewalks, parking lots and trails make up about one half of the total road salt applied in Dane County -- a substantial part of the total chloride reaching our waters.

2. What how would the \$35,000 in the proposed EANR-O-08 be used?

EANR-O-08 proposes all of the Lakes and Watershed Commission's 2018 budget recommendation IIA (below).

Develop a Dane County training program for winter maintenance of parking lots and sidewalks in 2017 and review and finalize guidelines, tools, and certification program developed in 2017. Total county funds requested: \$35,000.

1. Contract with a national expert to develop Dane County training program for winter maintenance of parking lots and sidewalks using the updated manual being developed by the City of Madison.
2. Train the trainers so that local people will be well-positioned to provide regular training for certification
3. Provide stipends for local winter maintenance experts to offer their expertise during training and consult with applicators
4. Contract with a national expert to hold two meetings March – May 2018 to review, with advisors and participants, the application rate guidelines pilot in winter 2017-18, the web-based decision tool to accompany the guidelines, and the voluntary certification program. Modify guidelines, tools, and certification program to reflect improvements identified during the piloting of these materials in winter 2017-18.

3. We've already spent a lot of time and money to offer training in Dane County. What value does this proposal add?

This would result in a training program tailored to Dane County, and trained local staff (from WI Salt Wise partners) who could offer this base level training program (using the new training materials, and with local contractors trained to assist by offering real world advice during the training) in the future without having to contract with consultants for the basic training necessary to qualify for the voluntary Winter Salt Certification Program (open to all Dane County residents and those who do business here).

4. What was the \$20,000 for chlorides in the 2017 budget used for?

Dane County contracted with Fortin Consulting to help us develop locally-tailored deicer application rate guidelines for parking lots, sidewalks, and trails. These guidelines, coupled with best practices such as first mechanically removing snow and ice, will help professionals safely and effectively confront winter storms, while having the least impact to our

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environment. Deicers applied to sidewalks, parking lots and trails make up such a large percentage of total deicers applied, and we wanted to provide clear guidance to winter maintenance professionals working at this scale.

5. Are any of these 2017 funds left?

No. All of the \$20,000 was expended in 2017 (contract with consultant ended on 9/30).

6. Does Dane County's proposed investment of \$35,000 leverage actions and funding by our partners?

Yes. For example:

- The City of Madison is committed to provide significant funding in revising the MN roadways and parking lot manuals beginning in 2018; likely with contract assistance from Connie Fortin. We want to co-invest in tailoring the training manuals and training program so that we can co-brand (City, Dane County) the training and certification with other WI Salt Wise partners.
- WI Salt Wise partner staff would be trained by Connie Fortin (train the trainer) and continue to offer base level training in the future. Partners include the City of Madison, Madison Water Utility, UW-Madison Environment Health and Safety Department, Madison-Dane County Public Health, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, and the Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership.
- This proposal is to use a consultant to help us ramp up to become self-sufficient with our own training program, so that Dane County and partner donation of staff time, and participant registration fees would mean that MAMSWaP, Dane County and MMSD would no longer have to contact with an outside consultant to hold basic level training.

7. How is the local voluntary certification program shaping up?

This year the City of Madison, with Dane County and other partners, developed a voluntary certification program that we believe will help applicators of chloride deicers (to parking lots, sidewalks and trails) dramatically reduce salt application rates while still maintaining safe surfaces throughout the winter. This certification program uses the new Dane County application rate guidelines developed in 2017, and is open to all Dane County residents, municipalities, and businesses.

Individuals and organizations can become certified in the program housed at City of Madison Engineering, but open to all Dane County. Individual certification is valid for five years, and requires attendance at a winter maintenance training session, passing a written exam, and agreeing to use practices that reduce impacts on the environment. Organizational certification (e.g. a municipal department or private winter maintenance company) will be available starting in fall 2018.

8. County staff have attended many past trainings and are becoming chloride experts. Why can't they do this work rather than hiring a contractor?

The proposed contractual assistance early in 2018 would give us a final push to put us in a good situation to offer basic training on our own into the future without using consulting fees for this base level of training to make individuals and organizations eligible for certification.