

To: Dane County Environment, Ag. & Natural Resources Committee  
Subject: Land owned by Dane Cty. Parks storm water/flooding.

History: The majority of these approx. 90/ acres were purchased by Dane Cty. Parks from James Hinrichs in 1993. It has been farmed by Jim or his son Bill Hinrichs ever since it was purchased. In approx. 1976 Jim Hinrichs installed a pump in what is now called the "Black Earth Creek" to keep this land dry for farming. THE WATER IN THIS CREEK DOES NOT FLOW NATURALLY. The pump forces water through a culvert under highway 14, due to the fact that this culvert is 3 ft. under the silt at the discharge point south of the current railroad tracks. The pump builds up a "head pressure" to force the water through the culvert and silt.

When Dane Cty. Parks bought this land from James Hinrichs there was never any agreement on who would operate or pay the expenses for this pump which is located in the "Black Earth creek". Technically, the State water resources and DNR control activities in and around this creek since it is considered a navigable waterway and the state owns all waters.

THE PROBLEM: The Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 flood in this region destroyed the pump and electric system. The electric meter for running the pump was in James Hinrichs name and he, his son Bill and the city of Middleton paid the annual pumping cost that kept this land dry and available for farming it. The current situation is as follows:

1. James Hinrichs had the meter removed. He is retired and owns no land.
2. Bill Hinrichs has no desire to take responsibility for operating the pump.
3. When the pump doesn't run, hundreds of acres of farm land, surrounding businesses and Hidden Oaks subdivision are flooded with storm water that spreads out due to the flat nature of this area.
4. Hydraulic pressure from ground water has created springs that are located beyond this flooded area causing more damage to land, buildings and roads.
5. Dane Cty. Parks personnel have no access to the farmable land and woods on the north side of this property due to standing water. The only access is through the neighbors [Judy Hellenbrand] farm field of which half of her farm is under water also.
6. DRS blacktop facility and Olson Toon Landscape Co. haul in thousands of loads of snow from city parking lots to their property which all melts and accumulates on this park land.
7. Storm water from future development off of Schwartz Rd will all come to this park land.
8. The Town of Middleton approved several sub divisions in the hills surrounding this park land and all their storm water comes to this park land.
9. Storm water from the west half of the Middleton Industrial Park and portions of the city of Middleton golf course all comes to this park land.
10. Storm water from Northwestern Stones gravel pit comes to this park land.
11. The State DOT is concerned that water is so close and deep next to Hwy 14 now that in case of an off-road accident, someone could drown.

THE SOLUTION: Dane County Parks, The DNR, and or The Town of Middleton needs to take responsibility for fixing and operating the pump. A gov't agency needs to take responsibility

because this is a situation that will continue for 100's of years. THIS IS NOT A TEMPORARY FLOODING PROBLEM. Here are some suggestions for fixing this problem:

1. For approx. \$15000, this pump can become operable again and solve most of the problems listed above by forcing water through the current culvert.
2. Pump the water through a pipe along Hwy 14 down to "Millers curve" and avoid the plugged, silted in creek south of the highway.
3. Pump the water back into the Mendota water shed east of Evergreen Rd.
4. Fix the pump temporarily and apply for Federal Funds [since this is a premier trout stream] and dredge out the creek all the way to Millers Curve where the culvert under Hwy 14 would have to be lowered so this whole area would drain "NATURALLY" without a pump. Hwy 14 is due to be resurfaced next year.

CONCLUSION: Surrounding land owners, subdivisions, and businesses pay lots of property taxes and are now victims of permanent flooding that is not only immoral and illegal, but could have a simple solution. If Dane Cty. can spend millions of dollars buying land to stop development and provide walking trails, then common sense would require a simple solution to this problem located in the Town of Middleton and owned by Dane County Parks.

We have contacted MSA Professional Services Inc. Senior Water Resources Engineer and they have agreed with our analysis as outlined in this memo. Time is of the essence. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Looking forward to June 13<sup>th</sup> discussion on this topic.

Respectfully submitted:  
Richard Hinrichs – Land owner and business owner affected.

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019



The electric meter for pumping the pump was found in the water. The city of Middletown gave the pump and the meter to the city of Middletown. The city of Middletown gave the pump and the meter to the city of Middletown. The city of Middletown gave the pump and the meter to the city of Middletown.

