

Name: Michael Gerner

Organization: Lake Property Owner

Phone:

Email:

Water Related Budget Suggestion: Fund a second shift for 8 weeks on a limited group of cutters. (5 cutters, 1 transport barge, 1 haul truck.) This is far more cost effective than purchasing more cutters with added support and maintenance costs. I am suggesting a second shift on less than 1/2 of the cutter fleet so the required maintenance can still occur. This is a low risk and low-cost approach to test for long term implementation. I am sure the Dane County Land and Water resources department spent a great deal of time dealing with weed complaint issues. Give them the direction to try this. 2 shifts per day of the cutting

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

Describe Why It Is Recommended: It appears that the growth of lake weeds has increased over the last 10 years. Enhanced water clarity may be the reason. Efforts to improve water quality seem to be working allowing more light to fuel weed growth. Weed growth seems to accelerate in the 3rd week of June. Lakes Mendota and Monona had excessive weed issues starting the 4th week of June. Personally, I experienced excessive weed growth on the Mendota shoreline over the past 5 years. Starting the last week of June, I was unable to paddle board or sail at all until about July 16th. That was a 3-week period during the heart of summer. My shoreline was packed full of rotting weeds making swimming dangerous and unhealthy. The smell of the rotting weeds made it difficult to spend time near the water. Power boat operation was very difficult requiring a minimum of 4 weed clearing events just to get to navigable water.

What Is The Anticipated Outcome: It has been my observation that the cutters are operating about 6 hours a day, transportation, fueling, maintenance and breaks make up the rest of the normal shift. I am not being critical, but I am sharing my observations. An extra shift for an 8-week period would almost double the coverage and cutting volume from about June 21- August 21. It is my understanding that most of the cutting crew is made up of seasonal employees with few benefits. Labor costs would be very modest when compared to capital costs of more cutters and more labor. My cost calculation included 7 people (5 cutters+ 1 Transport Barge+ 1 weed truck driver) This would amount to 2,240 hours (7 People* 40 hours *8 weeks). Estimated labor cost of \$44,800 @ \$20/hour. Fuel and additional maintenance brings the total to \$50,000.

Name: Tamara Knickmeier

Organization: Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

Phone:

Email:

Water Related Budget Suggestion: Purchase of Weed Harvesting Equipment

Estimated cost:

- 1) Weed Harvester: Estimated Cost \$130,000 - \$150,000
- 2) Weed Transport Barge: Estimated Cost \$120,000 - \$140,000
- 3) Shore Conveyor: Estimated Cost \$31,000 - \$40,000
- 4) Operational costs to run harvester/barge/conveyer: May – October \$50,000 - \$100,000

Describe why it is recommended: Past and current projects to address nutrients and water levels in the Yahara River watershed have contributed to improvements in water quality in Lake Waubesa. These improvements along with water column filtration by zebra mussels have increased the clarity in the lake, resulting in more aquatic plant growth. Excessive plant growth on Lake Waubesa impedes boat traffic, restricts fishing activities and limits on water recreational sporting activities such as water skiing, sailing, powerboating and kayaking. The plant growth limits recreational use of the lake and shoreline, creates nuisance conditions for lake homeowners and results in public complaints throughout the summer season. The existing weed harvesting efforts by the County has not been sufficient to control the spread of aquatic vegetation in Lake Waubesa. During the summer months these beds of vegetation can become foul smelling and unsightly. The excessive plant growth also contributes to the accumulation of organic sediment (and phosphorus) on the lake bottom.

Due to the excessive growth aquatic plants, and the lack of weekly weed harvesting, has resulted in a diminished capacity for the general public to enjoy recreational activities on Lake Waubesa. The lake needs a fulltime weed harvester (and associated support equipment) and crew dedicated to keep the weeds from becoming a nuisance problem. A new weed harvester should be dedicated to Lake Waubesa to reduce the build-up of aquatic plants in the lake.

What is the anticipated outcome: Mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants has proven to be a practical and efficient means of controlling plant growth as it removes the plant biomass and nutrients from the lake. Harvesting shoreline areas helps make it possible for people to engage in nearshore activities such as swimming and fishing from their piers and shorelines. Harvesting channels not only provides access to the main body of the lake for boaters, but also cruising lanes for predator fish to forage. Removing aquatic plants physically from a lake reduces the amount of potential nutrients available for future plant growth. The overall outcome will be cleaner and environmentally friendly lake and will protect and enhance the existing uses occurring in the lake.

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Organization: Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

Phone:

Email:

Water Related Budget Suggestion: Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan

Estimated cost: Aquatic Management Plan Update: \$50,000 - \$75,000

Describe why it is recommended: The aquatic management plan for Lake Waubesa (dated 2017) needs to be updated to reflect the excessive growth that is occurring in the lake. The plan should focus on a group of management and restoration measures (such as weed harvesting) aimed at both the removal of nuisance vegetation and manipulation of species composition in order to enhance and provide for recreational water usage and encourage the development of a natural plant community that will result in a healthy lake ecosystem. Additionally, the plan should address disposal options for harvested weeds, and how this material can beneficially re-used.

What is the anticipated outcome: The health of a lake is usually a direct reflection of the land use and management within its watershed. The updated aquatic management plan will provide a framework to protect and improve water resources of Lake Waubesa and its watershed with a focus on protecting the existing high-quality resources in the lake from future degradation. The plan will provide management strategies that can be implemented to protect water quality and projects that will need to be implemented to protect the existing recreational activities and aquatic habitats in the lake.

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Organization: Lake Waubesa Conservation Association

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Water Related Budget Suggestion: Light Marine Buoys

Estimated cost: 22 Marine Solar Lighted Navigation Buoys \$14,000 and 16 Bridge Red/Green Navigation Solar Lights \$2,000

Describe why it is recommended: Boat traffic between Lake Waubesa and Lake Monona is heavy throughout the recreational season, and navigation between these two lakes is extremely difficult during nighttime conditions due to most of the marine navigation buoys not being lighted. These lighted navigation buoys are necessary to insure safe navigation between these two water bodies. The bridge markings of green and red as basically signs that are not lighted during low light conditions.

What is the anticipated outcome: A safer environment for recreational boaters who travel through the connection between Lake Waubesa and Lake Monona during low light conditions.

Name: Scott Seymour

Organization:

Phone:

Email:

Water Related Budget Suggestion: I would like to suggest that the budget be increased for more shifts to be added to increase the amount of weed cutting. I live on Lake Monona and have seen an increase in the presence of weeds near my pier and along the lakeshore in this area and feel that not enough is being done to cut and remove the weeds in the lake system.

Estimated cost: Additional staff to operate additional shifts for operating the weed cutters.

Describe why it is recommended: The weeds in the area where I live along Tonyawatha seem to have increased this year and does not appear that the current amount of weed cutting is having much impact.

What is the anticipated outcome: Less weeds allowing for greater use and enjoyment of the lakes.

Name: Dan Deneen

Organization: Friends of Lower Black Earth Creek

Phone:

Email:

Water Related Budget Suggestion: Divide county into 5 regions. NW,NE,SW,SE, Madison

Estimated cost: \$0

Describe why it is recommended: The public needs to be more engaged in helping to manage our natural resources. Expanded centralized bureacracies are not the solution.

What is the anticipated outcome: Regional approaches that citizens can relate too and take ownership of.