



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?

Monday, February 18, 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** 10 - Chair MICHELE RITT, DAVE RIPP, CHUCK ERICKSON, YOGESH CHAWLA, Chair
PAM PORTER, TOPF WELLS, ROB PHILLIPS, STEFANIE BROUWER, ERIC
VIETH, and DAVID PFEIFFER
- Excused** 3 - SHELIA STUBBS, TANYA BUCKINGHAM, and PATRICK MILES

BUCKINGHAM and MILES were not present at the beginning of the meeting but were present as noted below.

Staff Present: Jeremy Balousek, Laura Hicklin, John Reimer

Others Present: Shaun Abshere, Brad Manning, Susan Manning, Forbes McIntosh, Allan Levin, Caroline Fibarce, Genevieve Murtangh, Donald Sanford, Anita Weier, Janet Battista, Roy Carter, Sue Marcquensia, Patty Prime, Nick Miller (The Nature Conservancy), Linda Larson, Christine Jeske, Steven Schooler, Charles Dykman, Sal Troia, Jim Krause, Tim Gill, Laus Barger, Mary Zillman, Jean Whitcomb, Ben Nelson, Paul Hooper, Christian Burnson, Christine Puto, Eric Katte, Ed Minihan and Ben Kollenbroich (both Town of Dunn), Paul Zedler, Joy Zedler, David Petit, Pete Karnes, Mike Rupiper, Shelly Allness, Travis Schroeder, Rob Davis, Chin Wu

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

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2018](#) LAKE LEVELS TASK FORCE MINUTES_2-11-19
[MIN-462](#)

Attachments: [2018 MIN-462 LLTask Force Minutes 2-11-19.pdf](#)
[2018 MIN-462 Registration before Co Committee 2-11-19.pdf](#)

A motion was made by WELLS, seconded by ERICKSON, that the minutes of February 11, 2019 be amended by adding this sentence to the comments associated with Joe Chapiewsky: "Proposed that Lake Mendota be drawn down one foot." The motion carried by a voice vote: 10/0

A motion was made by BROUWER, seconded by CHAWLA, that the minutes of February 11, 2019 be approved as amended. The motion carried by a voice vote: 10/0

C. Action Items - None

BUCKINGHAM arrived at 5:05 pm. MILES arrived at 5:15 pm.

- Present** 12 - Chair MICHELE RITT, 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** 1 - SHELIA STUBBS

D. Presentations

Recap of Adaptation Scenarios in the Yahara Chain of Lakes Flooding Technical Work Group Report - John Reimer

John Reimer gave a recap of adaptation scenarios.

Review of Mitigation Scenarios in the Yahara Chain of Lakes Flooding Technical Work Group Report - John Reimer

John Reimer gave an overview of mitigation scenarios.

[2018](#) LAKE LEVEL TASK FORCE PRESENTATION_2-18-19
[PRES-108](#)

Attachments: [2018 PRES-108 LL Task Force Presentation 2-18-19.pdf](#)

E. Public Comment

- Joy Zedler – Spoke in opposition and asked that scenario six, pumping, be rejected and that upstream approaches be utilized.
- Donald Sanford – Spoke in support and noted that our community has struggled with options for addressing high water in the Lower Yahara for decades. We have better data and science than ever before, and this is the time to do something.
- Eric Katte – Noted that he disagrees with comments that the adaptation scenarios are outliers, that water can't leave the system fast enough, and that we need to be able to get water out of the system faster. He wondered if a bank analogy would be helpful in understanding the system.
- Charles Dykman – Spoke in support and noted his appreciation of a science-driven solution. He's become a fan of the pumping scenario and he doesn't understand the concern that pumping may negatively impact wetlands.
- Steven Schooler – Spoke in opposition and noted the following: 1. Pumping is not a good solution for 2019, 2. Lake Mendota should be managed at a lower level, 3. Everyone should review the 1979 WDNR orders, 4. Lowering Mendota is not outside of historic norms and 5. The pumping volume is seven times greater than the existing MMSD pumping.
- Pete Karnes – Wondered if other universities in the state have been consulted and noted that Madison and Dane County will look like fools if a Lake Delton event strikes. He proposed the solution of laying pipe and pumps to the Wisconsin River that are only activated if certain levels are reached.
- Ed Minihan – Representing the Town of Dunn, noted that the Town of Dunn has built six detention basins, has more riparian area than any other municipality, and that the area identified for pumping is the cleanest in the system. He believes pumping through the Waubesa wetlands should be off the table. He proposed using existing MMSD pipes for pumping. He noted that closed basins in the northern part of the watershed must be addressed.
- Nick Miller – Representing The Nature Conservancy, suggested that nature, specifically wetlands, may be part of the solution for flood abatement along with other ecosystem services. Over half of wetlands have been lost in the watershed, along with their services. Remaining wetlands must be protected and lost wetlands should be restored. He noted the "wetlands by design" tool, which may be helpful.
- Ben Kollenbroich – Representing the Town of Dunn, noted that several of the properties that may be impacted by the pumping are encumbered by local, state and federal easements or other protected lands and that there is a potential for contamination in dredge materials. He proposed that US 51 corridor may be an option, particularly during reconstruction.

F. Reports to Committee - None

G. Announcements

none

H. Future Meeting Items and Dates

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 5th.

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

none

J. Adjourn

A motion was made by ERICKSON, seconded by MILES, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote: 12/0

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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