

1 **Sub ____ to 2023 RES-011 (PROPOSED – CHAWLA)**
2 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTION OF BADGER MILL CREEK**
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4 Badger Mill Creek, a key tributary of the Sugar River, is a vital fish and wildlife habitat in a rapidly growing
5 area of Dane County worthy of the stewardship of the Dane County Board. Dane County has made
6 significant investments to restore Badger Mill Creek and its fish and wildlife habitat, improve trail access,
7 and acquire adjacent property for conservation and protection of the Creek.
8

9 The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is considering options for addressing
10 phosphorous pollution in Badger Mill Creek that include 1) reducing the flow of highly treated wastewater
11 effluent into Badger Mill Creek, 2) additional treatment and filtration of the effluent before it enters Badger
12 Mill Creek, and 3) adaptive management that improves the ~~base-flow~~ health of the Creek by reducing
13 phosphorous-polluted runoff.
14

15 MMSD began treating Verona's wastewater in 1993. Verona's water supply is from wells in the Sugar
16 River watershed. After considerable study and discussion, MMSD decided to return the Verona portion
17 of its wastewater to the Sugar River watershed in the form of highly treated and aerated effluent to
18 Badger Mill Creek near the headwaters of the main stem of the creek. At any given time, this effluent is
19 a considerable portion of the Creek's flow.
20

21 In the last three years, Dane County has spent at least \$3.3 million in land acquisition and stream
22 restoration. The City of Verona has also invested significant funds to restoration and public access. Over
23 a span of 30 years, Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (SWTU) has donated funds to those projects
24 and volunteered hundreds of hours of labor to stabilize Creek banks and improve access. The Dane
25 County Conservation League has also assisted conservation efforts. The Friends of Badger Mill Creek
26 and the Friends of the Upper Sugar River Watershed have recently begun volunteer-driven cleanup
27 efforts, habitat restoration, and community outreach around Badger Mill Creek.
28

29 MMSD has been collecting stakeholder input and has received comments from the City of Verona, Town
30 of Verona, Town of Montrose, Friends groups, other stakeholders, and citizens in the form of resolutions,
31 letters, and testimony, and the County Board encourages MMSD to continue this stakeholder input
32 process.
33

34 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Board encourages MMSD to continue to collect
35 stakeholder input and any affected stakeholder and citizen is encouraged to participate.
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37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the County Board encourages MMSD to find a solution to phosphorous
38 pollution in Badger Mill Creek that maintains the flow of Badger Mill Creek, protects the Creek's
39 ecosystem, and respects the County, local government, private, nonprofit, and volunteer investments
40 made in the Creek and surrounding area.
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42 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that, a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to MMSD
43 commissioners.
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45 *The sub clarifies wording in an expository paragraph.*