

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
INITIATED BY



ANDREW BAKER
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021
DATE DRAFTED


**YAHARA RIVER BASIN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
APPROVAL OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS**

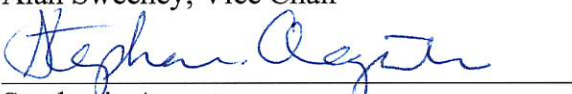
- 1 **WHEREAS**, Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINs) approached the Land
- 2 Conservation Department (LCD) in 2016 to discuss the merits of developing a partnership for the
- 3 Adaptive Management Program, for Rock County’s portion of the Yahara River Watershed; and,
- 4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, Adaptive Management Projects allows municipalities to implement phosphorus reducing
- 6 projects within the watershed in lieu of making very expensive upgrades to their wastewater treatment
- 7 facilities while meeting water quality goals for phosphorus. The most cost effective projects for
- 8 phosphorus reduction can be found in the implementation of best management practices within the
- 9 agricultural sector; and,
- 10
- 11 **WHEREAS**, through many discussions with Yahara WINs management and Land Conservation
- 12 Department (LCD) staff a service agreement was developed, outlining all requirements for the
- 13 programs goals and expectations for both parties, more specifically the agreement requires Yahara
- 14 WINS to reimburse Rock County for all costs associated with the implementation of phosphorus runoff
- 15 abatement best management practices and associated costs for staff and support for said project on a
- 16 dollar for dollar basis; and,
- 17
- 18 **WHEREAS**, the Service Agreement was entered into by the Land Conservation Committee (LCC)
- 19 and Yahara WINs in early 2017 (and renewed in 2020), which allowed the LCD to commence with the
- 20 implementation phase of the Adaptive Management Project in Rock County’s portion of the Yahara
- 21 River Watershed; and,
- 22
- 23 **WHEREAS**, since early 2017, LCD staff has engaged landowners who expressed interest in program
- 24 participation, which has resulted in best management practice installation agreements to be initiated by
- 25 the land owners and the LCC; and,
- 26
- 27 **WHEREAS**, in some instances the BMP costs will exceed the Rock County’s set financial thresholds
- 28 which require additional approvals by the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors; and,
- 29
- 30 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Best Management Practice Installation Agreements WINS-1.19, WINS-
- 31 7.19, WINS-01.20 and WINS-4.20 will exceed the aforesaid thresholds to provide funding for the
- 32 establishment of a water quality best management practices in the Yahara River Watershed. The
- 33 mentioned agreements are based on an incentive payment which requires the landowner to operate and
- 34 maintain the BMP system for a period of fifteen years.
- 35
- 36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
- 37 assembled this 14th day of October, 2021, approves the incentive payments for Rock County Best
- 38 Management Practice Installation Agreements WINS-1.19 in the sum of \$28,515, WINS-7.19 in the sum
- 39 of \$13,320, WINS-01.20 in the sum of \$16,327.50 and WINS-4.20 in the sum of \$15,600.

Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE


Richard Bostwick, Chair


Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair


Stephanie Aegerter

/s/ Janelle Crary
Janelle Crary


Wes Davis

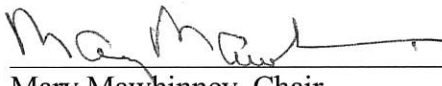
Absent
Mike Mulligan


James Quade, USDA-FSA Rep.

/s/ Genia Stevens
Genia Stevens

FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

Reviewed and approved on a vote of 5-0

 10-14-2021
Mary Mawhinney, Chair Date

FISCAL NOTE:

Yahara WINS will reimburse 100% of these costs. No County funds are required.

/s/ Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01, 59.51 and 92.07(3), Wis. Stats.

/s/ Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

/s/ Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Yahara River Watershed is threatened by excessive phosphorus from sources identified as agricultural runoff, urban storm water and wastewater treatment plant discharges. The elevated phosphorus levels are a threat to water quality and aquatic life throughout the Yahara Watershed. The Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS), began in 2012 to reduce all phosphorus loads and meet water quality standards established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This program employs watershed adaptive management, a strategy in which all producers of phosphorus pollution, point and non-point sources, in the Yahara watershed basin work together to meet water quality goals. This strategy is more effective and less expensive than the sources working separately on individual solutions. Partners in Yahara WINS include cities, villages, towns, wastewater treatment plants, agricultural producers, environmental groups and others.

Yahara WINS approached the Land Conservation Department in 2016 to discuss the merits of developing a partnership to apply best management practices in Rock County's portion of the Yahara River watershed. A Service Agreement was entered into by both parties and the Land Conservation Department's Budget was amended to facilitate the cost share and/or incentive agreements.

Since then, staff has been engaged with various landowners whom expressed interest in the overall programs goals. Numerous agreements have been signed by landowners who have implemented best management practices. A number of agreements exceed the financial threshold established by County Board rules, requiring actions by both the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors. The payments for Rock County Best Management Practice Installation Agreements WINS-1.19 in the sum of \$28,515, WINS-7.19 in the sum of \$13,320, WINS-01.20 in the sum of \$16,327.50 and WINS-4.20 in the sum of \$15,600 will exceed the established threshold.

Yahara WINS reimburses the County for costs associated with the aforementioned work, on a dollar for dollar basis.