

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE  
INITIATED BY



ANDREW BAKER  
DRAFTED BY

LAND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE  
SUBMITTED BY

JULY 30, 2020  
DATE DRAFTED

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

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, which allowed the LCD to commence with the implementation phase  
20 of the Adaptive Management Project in Rock County’s portion of the Yahara River Watershed; and,  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, since early 2017, LCD staff has engaged landowners who expressed interest in program  
23 participation, which has resulted in best management practice installation agreements to be initiated by  
24 the land owners and the LCC; and,  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, in some instances the BMP costs will exceed the Rock County’s set financial thresholds  
27 which require additional approvals by the Finance Committee and County Board of Supervisors; and,  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Best Management Practice Installation Agreements WINS-04.18, WINS-  
30 5.18, WINS-1.19 and WINS-7.19 will exceed the aforesaid thresholds to provide funding for the  
31 establishment of a water quality harvestable buffer system in the Yahara River Watershed. The  
32 mentioned agreement is based on an incentive payment which requires the landowner to operate and  
33 maintain the BMP system for a period of fifteen years.  
34

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly  
36 assembled this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020, approves the incentive payments for Rock  
37 County Best Management Practice Installation Agreement WINS-04.18 in the sum of \$14,850, WINS-  
38 5.18 in the sum of \$16,500, WINS-1.19 in the sum of \$28,515 and WINS-7.19 in the sum of \$13,320

20-8A-062

Yahara River Basin Adaptive Management Project Approval of Incentive Payments  
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Respectfully submitted:

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

/s/ Richard Bostwick  
Richard Bostwick, Chair

/s/ Alan Sweeney  
Alan Sweeney, Vice Chair

/s/ Stephanie Aegerter  
Stephanie Aegerter

/s/ Wes Davis  
Wes Davis

/s/ Kaelyb Lokrantz  
Kaelyb Lokrantz

/s/ Mike Mulligan  
Mike Mulligan

Absent  
James Quade, USDA-FSA Rep.

Absent  
Jeremy Zajac

FISCAL NOTE:

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

*/s/ Sherry Oja*

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

*/s/ Josh Smith*

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

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

## 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 Agreement WINS-04.18 in the sum of \$14,850, WINS-5.18 in the sum of \$16,500, WINS-1.19 in the sum of \$28,515 and WINS-7.19 in the sum of \$13,320 will exceed the established threshold.

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