

SUMMARY NOTES

Yahara CLEAN Compact Steering team

Friday, January 10, 2020

8:30-10:00 A.M.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Maintenance Facility Building

Present: Renee Lauber, Martye Griffin, Greg Fries, Chad Lawler, Shaun Scullion, Missy Nergard, Janet Schmidt, Jake Vander Zanden, Eric Olson, Tricia Gorby, Kathy Lake, Dick Lathrop, Coreen Fallot, Anna Baranski, Dave Merritt, Katie Hepler, Kelly Hilyard, Mark Riedel, Matt Diebel, Tom Wilson, Mike Rupiper, Paul Dearlove, James Tye, Luke Wynn (note-taker), Dea Larsen Converse (note-taker), Alison Lebwohl (facilitator)

Anticipated Outcomes

- a) Shared understanding of process around record-keeping, budget, and expense authorization
- b) List of possible outcomes and outputs of a successful plan
- c) List of possible criteria for plan recommendations
- d) Input/action on subgroup proposals (as needed)

Welcome / Budget / Record-keeping

- Meeting started with a round of introductions, agenda review, and summary of handouts/procedures.
- **ACTION REQUEST:** To reduce waste and given the difficulty of predicting attendance, members were asked to print and bring their own copies of agendas and supporting documentation to future meetings.
- Meeting summaries are documented as “notes” and not formal minutes.
ACTION REQUEST: Members should review the notes and promptly inform Dearlove of any errors, omissions or inaccuracies. Those will then be mentioned at the next meeting, and a corrected version will be made available for public viewing.
- A designated Clean Lakes Alliance web page was set up for the group. The site offers general background information pertaining to the Compact, and offers an archive of past meeting notes and other key documents.
- **ACTION REQUEST:** Reminder to all subgroups to provide summary notes of their meetings that follow the template provided.
- An example financial reporting statement was shared. The intention is to use this format to provide periodic reports of income and expenses related to the Compact. Actual budgeting and spending decisions will be made at the Executive Committee level.
- Logic model & decision-making structure. This document should serve as a “touchstone” for the group. It provides a snapshot of our planned activities and expected outcomes (arranged in general project phases), and how and where decisions are made.
- Reminder of upcoming meeting schedule: 2/14 (at MMSD), 3/13 (at Verex Plaza), and rescheduling of April meeting to **4/17** (at Verex Plaza) to avoid Good Friday and second day of Passover.
- Reviewed facilitator’s working agreement.

Group Exercise

What does success look like? What's a priority? Exercise: It's the future. Looking back after a successful Yahara CLEAN experience, what made this plan so successful?

(1) How are the lakes different today?

- a. Fewer algae blooms
- b. We know what it takes to keep our lakes clean
- c. Pre-settlement conditions restored
- d. Better aquatic health, better public health, source of pride
- e. We can safely eat the fish
- f. Clean and open beach closures
- g. Lakes are recognized as the most loved local asset
- h. Desire to be around water all year long
- i. Managing/reducing stormwater is at the top of plans and rules
- j. Increased public usage
- k. Can see your toes when standing waist deep in the lakes
- l. Greater Madison is recognized as a premier destination for its lakes and beaches
- m. 50% reduction in P is achieved
- n. Bad smells are reduced
- o. Satisfaction with the state of our lakes
- p. Reduced salt use
- q. Known around the world for lake cleanup success

(2) What were two or three of the project's most important priorities?

- a. Working together, assistance from public, cultural change
- b. Thoughtful outreach with stakeholders
- c. Bringing in experts
- d. Sharing resources
- e. Both rural and urban solutions
- f. Partnerships
- g. Comprehensive collaboration; workable solutions that don't overly burden one group
- h. Building support and making the lakes a priority
- i. Sustaining funding and action into the future
- j. All the towns are connected to the lakes
- k. Breaking down barriers to achieve new goals and projects
- l. Reducing cyanobacteria blooms
- m. Creating a P budget
- n. All manure is processed in digesters
- o. Lakes are accessible to all
- p. Self-sustaining solutions
- q. Developing political will to make change
- r. Needed funds are raised to do the work

What do we want working together to look like? What makes a good strategy?

(3) How would you describe the experience of working with this group? What made it so positive?

- a. Better understanding of goals
- b. Diversity and inclusion
- c. Passionate and intelligent people working together
- d. Shared responsibility
- e. Challenge to understand different viewpoints
- f. Can express opinions in non-binary ways
- g. Collaborative process
- h. Regenerative process
- i. Not working in silos
- j. Positive outcomes not just plans and talk
- k. Respect for different viewpoints
- l. Many different perspectives
- m. Listening to achieve consent
- n. Creative and builds on tasked efforts
- o. Everyone saw a common mission

(4) What were two or three of the project's most important criteria?

- a. Regulatory requirements; enjoy the lakes more in the future
- b. Every sector of our community was involved
- c. Based on water quality
- d. Can it be done? Can it be sustained?
- e. Identifying concrete action
- f. Shared effort between urban and rural residents
- g. Equitable
- h. Strategies are adaptable as new information becomes available
- i. Solutions work for all and there is personal responsibility
- j. Everyone enforces the rules established
- k. Cost-effectiveness; community support
- l. Doable; not overly burdensome
- m. Recommendations are based on science
- n. Protect our agricultural heritage
- o. P loading targets were well established
- p. Necessary funding was achieved
- q. Clear connection to other work being done
- r. Did not negatively impact affordability in the area
- s. Farmer assistance by private entities
- t. Individual action and shared responsibility

Agriculture Participation Subgroup

Mark Riedel presented on behalf of the subgroup. Focus of recent meeting was on what organizations to invite and how to approach farmers in general. Agreed on the importance of developing a deliberate and positive outreach strategy that meets farmers on their terms. Recommendation to seek out staffed ag groups that have the capacity to participate. Could be helpful to identify a PR person and an approach that highlights all the good conservation work being done in the agricultural community.

(No Steering Team requests or recommendations were made with respect to the above.)

It was also noted that there could be initial reluctance on the part of agricultural groups to join the Compact. However, we should continue moving forward while any invited groups warm up to the idea of coming onboard. This means setting a Compact-signing date while we continue to build bridges with different groups. Question to address: what happens if an invited group waits to decide it wants to join after the Compact gets signed? Is it too late, or is there a process for onboarding?

Proposal: *Continue moving forward on the Compact and set a date for signing in the spring. Meanwhile, subgroup members will continue outreaching with agricultural sector and let them sign when and if they are ready.*

Sense of the Group: *Proposal approved (all in favor, and one neutral).*

SUMMARY NOTES
Yahara CLEAN Executive Committee
Friday, January 10, 2020
10:05-10:30 A.M.
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Maintenance Facility Building

Present: Greg Fries, Jake Vander Zanden, Mark Riedel, Matt Diebel, Coreen Fallat, Brenda Gonzalez, Paul Dearlove, James Tye, Luke Wynn (note-taker), Dea Larsen Converse (note-taker), Alison Lebwohl (facilitator). All partners represented.

Format/process for record keeping, budget, and expense authorization

- Record-keeping procedures: Summary notes not minutes; will be shared with the committee for corrections and then posted to the website to remain transparent.
- Income and expense reporting: An example presentation format was reviewed. On the income side, partner/collaborator contributions will be shared as payment arrangements are finalized with each participating organization. Expenses will also be tracked and shared through periodic (or upon request) reports.
 - **Decision: Approved (all in favor)**
- Expense authorization: Proposal was made that any expense over \$500 OR any contract (regardless of amount) should be brought to the Executive Committee for approval.
 - **Decision: Approved (all in favor)**

Agriculture Subgroup Proposal

- Need to clarify in writing any onboarding procedures that would be allowed after the signing of the Compact. Matter tabled so a detailed, written proposal can be drafted and then voted on by the Executive Committee at the next meeting.
 - **Decision: Approved (all in favor)**
 - **ACTION ITEM**: James Tye will write out a proposed process and timeline for signing the Compact, onboarding new participants, and handling any requests for moving from collaborator to partner status. A decision will then be made at the next meeting.

Other Items

- Recommended that the Executive Committee drive the work of the Steering Team by communicating needs and timelines when appropriate. The Executive committee can consider eventually setting the agendas for the Steering team. General agreement noted but no action taken.
- Recognized that more time may be needed for some Executive Committee meetings depending on the agenda. This will avoid the problem of rushing discussion and subsequent decisions.
- Currently, Dearlove works with the facilitator (Lebwohl) to develop meeting agendas, and Lebwohl manages the discussion to ensure agenda items are efficiently addressed. The Steering Team and Executive Committee are not formally “chaired.”

- ***Decision: Steering Team format approved (all in favor)***
- ***Decision: Executive Committee format approved (all in favor)***

- Future agenda item: Tye requested that Luke Wynn provide a 5-minute update on the Resilient Landscapes initiative and how it relates to the Compact. A short written summary will be provided to the group prior to the next meeting.

- Voting: For purposes of clarity, it was suggested that all formal votes of the Committee be based on a written proposal rather than verbal discussion.