

# MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

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## Memorandum

**To:** Trading Issues Workgroup  
**From:** David Taylor  
**Date:** December 13, 2010  
**Subject:** Information Update

The kickoff meeting for the MMSD/Dane County Local Trading Issues workgroup was held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. My focus since that meeting has been on pulling together and reviewing information that will assist the workgroup in carrying out its charge. We are now at the point where it makes sense to schedule another workgroup meeting. In a separate email you will receive a link to a scheduling tool (Doodle)-please complete the meeting availability survey as soon as possible so that I can select a specific date/time for our next meeting.

Following is a brief summary of relevant activities that have taken place since the kickoff meeting-additional information will be presented at our next meeting:

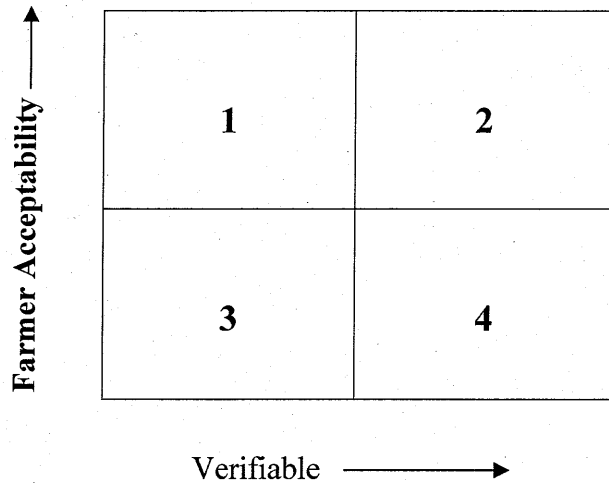
1. Pam Porter and Robin Schmidt have been added to the workgroup. Pam is an agronomist who has worked in the area of nutrient management and water quality. Robin is a current DATCP employee and is a member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors.
2. The effective date for revisions to NR 102 (phosphorus water quality criteria) and NR 217 (implementation framework for point sources) was December 1<sup>st</sup>. Revisions to NR 151 (runoff management rule, which includes new agricultural performance standards) did not take effect on December 1<sup>st</sup> for reasons that are not clear. This is a concern since the District and other stakeholders testified at the June 2010 Natural Resources Board meeting that all three rule revisions needed to advance as a package to ensure that an integrated and comprehensive approach was in place to address phosphorus.



3. The draft Rock River TMDL report has been released ([http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/Draft\\_TMDLs.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/Draft_TMDLs.html)). The report contains phosphorus allocations for the District as well as other point and nonpoint sources. A public hearing on the report will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> and the public comment period runs through January 21, 2011.
4. The DNR Trading Workgroup has met twice with the third meeting scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>. The workgroup is currently focusing on three issues-geographic scope, baselines for trading, and the development of trade ratios. Decisions made regarding each of these issues will have a significant impact on the District's ability to trade.
5. At the District's request, Kevin Connors and Pat Sutter have developed a draft conservation practice matrix for trading. The matrix is a function of farmer acceptability and ease of verification. As part of this effort, estimates of the "shelf life" of various conservation practices have also been developed. A copy of the draft matrix is attached.
6. The District met with Kevin Connors to identify information needs (e.g. cropping practices in the Yahara Watershed) that will be helpful in evaluating opportunities for trading at the local level. Information being pulled together by Kevin's staff should be available at the January workgroup meeting.
7. The District has had on-going discussions with the consulting firm that worked on the Yahara Clean Project and with individuals who worked on the SWAT (Soil Water Assessment Tool) modeling that was conducted over 10 years ago under the umbrella of the Rock River Watershed Partnership. A clear understanding of the underlying assumptions used in each effort is essential in determining whether sufficient pounds of phosphorus are available for trading within the Yahara Watershed.
8. District staff has reviewed information from a number of trading programs throughout the United States, including a comprehensive survey of trading programs published by Dartmouth College in 2004.  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/docs/ptpac/DartmouthCompTradingSurvey.pdf>.

Additional information on the above items will be presented at our next workgroup meeting. As always, feel free to contact me by email ([davet@madsewer.org](mailto:davet@madsewer.org)) or phone (222-1201, ext. 276) if you have questions regarding the workgroup charge, phosphorus regulations, the Rock River TMDL, water quality trading, or other relevant topics.

## Conservation Practice Matrix For Pollutant Trading (Draft)



**Shelf Life**

H = 10 years  
M = 5 years  
L = 0-1 years

	<b><u>Practice</u></b>	<b><u>Shelf Life</u></b>
<b>Group 1</b>	Minimum tillage	L
	Cover crops	L
	Crop rotation	L
	Nutrient management	L
<b>Group 2</b>	Introduced cool season grasses/legumes	M
	No till	M
<b>Group 3</b>	Prescribed grazing	L
<b>Group 4</b>	Native vegetation-both harvested and non-harvested	H
	Conservation cover crop	M/H
	Vegetative filter strip	M/H
	Field border	M/H
	Feedlot waste management system	H
	Tree planting	H