MINUTES: Yahara WINs Executive Committee meeting:

DATE: 6/13/17

TIME: 3:15 PM (approx)

LOCATION: MMSD Maintenance Training Facility

Executive Committee:
- Kathy Lake, President
- Greg Fries, Secretary
- Jeff Rau, Treasurer
- Tom Wilson
- Gary Huth
- Kevin Connors, Dane County Representative
- Bob Uphoff, Yahara Pride Farms Representative
- Mike Gerner, Clean Lakes Alliance Representative
- Paul Kent, attorney

Others in attendance: James Tye, Amy Callis, Dea Larson, Kyle Minks and Emily Jones.

1) Kathy Lake called the meeting to order at approximately 3:15 PM.

2) Tom Wilson made a motion to accept March 16 and April 20, 2017 meeting minutes, second Jeff Rau, vote unanimous.

3) Election of new Vice President: We now have a full board with Kathy Lake as the new President and Gary Huth as a new member at large, however the departure of Rick Eilertson leaves the position of Vice President vacant. Motion by Tom Wilson to nominate Gary Huth for Vice President, second by Rau, unanimous with Huth as abstaining.

4) Reallocation of Columbia County 2017 Funds: Lake stated at the general meeting that Columbia County has elected not to participate with Yahara Wins in 2017, preferring to prepare better and work with us in 2018. Given that the $40,000 in funding that was designated for Columbia County is “freed” for other purposes in 2017. Fries made a motion that the $40,000 be moved back to the general fund, second by Huth, unanimous.

5) Cost Sharing for Dane County LCD communications specialist. At the general meeting, Lake shared that one position that was funded by Yahara WINs at Dane Co LCD was not hired until April of 2017. As the position was funded on a calendar year, there is now $21,250 of funding freed up by the late start of this position. Dane Co has requested partial funding of an LTE position to act as a communication liaison between the public and the agricultural community to share the good work that Dane Co and Yahara Pride have been completing. Fries moved that this funding be provided with Wilson seconding. Discussion followed where it was clear that Yahara Pride, Dane Co, CLA and the board members felt this was a sound proposal, but that documentation of the success of this position would be required before funding was extended in 2018. Vote called - unanimous.
6) Cost Sharing for Yahara Pride – Low Disturbance Manure Injection System (LDMI). At the general meeting, a proposal was shared where Yahara Pride would purchase and own a LDMI system that could be rented out to members for them to try the technology with the hope that more farmers would embrace the technology and purchase their own system or contract with an independent contractor to use this in the future.

The funds for this would come from CLA donation to Yahara WINS and would be matched 50/50 by Dane County. Yahara Pride would be responsible for the business plan to operate the equipment. It was noted that CLA was in favor of this use of their donated funds.

Wilson made a motion that the proposal from Yahara Pride be accepted and that Yahara WINS provide a maximum of $60,000 in funding to Dane County for this project. The funding is contingent on 50% Dane County funding and that Yahara Pride agree at their board meeting to take on this project (meeting 6/13/2017). Fries seconded the motion. Vote called unanimous.

7) Rock County Service Agreement Amendment: Lake presented this at the general meeting. This amendment will amend the agreement with Rock County from a funding amount of $40,000 and $50,000 in 2017 and 2018 respectively to a total of $250,000. These funds are for projects that Rock Co. has solid commitments for and are in line with projects that Dane Co. has been doing for the last few years. These projects have 15 year contracts. The amended contract has been reviewed by Rock Co and by Attorney Kent. Fries moved approval of the contract amendment as presented. Wilson seconded. Vote called - unanimous.

8) 2017 Conventional and Innovation Grants: Rau moved approval of the grant award recommendations as provided by Lake at the general meeting including the revised amounts for Village of Deforest to reflect the maximum of $100/LB of TP removed. Wilson seconded. Vote called - unanimous.

9) Yahara WINS Independent Contractor - Wilson moved approval of the contract between Yahara WINs and Dave Taylor’s LLC as drafted by Paul Kent. Second by Rau. Attorney Kent provided discussion that this is a one (1) year contract that helps us retain the institutional knowledge and guidance that Dave Taylor has provided to Yahara WINs and that it is a relatively general contract that allows Taylor to advise and consult but not to represent the District. It also assumed a certain base amount of hours worked by Dave but the payments are by month based on this assumption not on actual hours worked. Vote called unanimous.

10) Yahara WINs - informational video: Rau moved that the RFP to create a video for Yahara WINs be issued as written and that the work group have the authority to select a proposal provided the cost is less than $15,000 (which was included in the 2017 WINS Budget for Communications). It was noted that questions on the RFP should be directed to Dave Taylor and that the RFPs should be sent to MMSD to Taylor’s attention. Vote called – unanimous.
11) Other Business: The Exec. Committee discussed they would be scheduling a future special meeting to discuss the items noted above as well as to consider an annual Yahara Pride Grant for 2017.

Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rau, vote unanimous.