Yahara WINS – August 30, 2016 Meeting

Agenda Item:
USGS Join Funding Agreement and MMSD Recovery of Costs

Background:
Four USGS monitoring stations were installed in the Yahara WINS adaptive management pilot project area in 2012. Flow information and water quality samples are collected at each of these four locations. These monitoring stations provided important information during the pilot project and will continue to provide important information during the full scale adaptive management project.

Cost share funding to support the installation and on-going water quality monitoring at these stations has been obtained from USGS through Joint Funding Agreements (JFAs). Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) entered into these JFAs on behalf of Yahara WINS during the pilot project because Yahara WINS could not execute a JFA directly with USGS. Yahara WINS has paid the MMSD portion of the JFA.

The current JFA expires December 31, 2016. A new JFA will need to be entered into with USGS to continue cost sharing beyond 2016. The ideal situation would be to have the new JFA be between USGS and Yahara WINS now that the Yahara WINS municipal members have executed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA). However, discussions with USGS have indicated that the JFA would need to be executed by a specific municipal entity.

Discussion
MMSD is willing to execute a new JFA with USGS on behalf of Yahara WINS, provided that Yahara WINS would continue to pay the MMSD portion of the JFA. The JFAs in during the pilot project have ranged in duration from 1-2 years. MMSD has asked that the new JFA cover a five year period, which would correspond to the first five year period of the IGA. USGS appears to be willing to consider a five year JFA. The cost share in a new agreement is likely to be similar to the current JFA, in which USGS pays 25% of the cost. The total annual cost to support ongoing activity at the USGS monitoring stations is currently estimated at $100,000 per year. The estimated annual cost for Yahara WINS in a new JFA would be $75,000.

Options:
1. Authorize MMSD to negotiate and execute a new JFA agreement with USGS on behalf of Yahara WINS, with a duration of up to five years, and authorize that Yahara WINS pay the MMSD portion of the JFA.

2. Authorize an IGA member other than MMSD to negotiate and execute a new JFA agreement with USGS on behalf of Yahara WINS, with a duration of up to five years, and authorize that Yahara WINS pay the IGA members portion of the JFA.

Recommendation:
Authorize MMSD to negotiate and execute a new JFA agreement with USGS on behalf of Yahara WINS, with a duration of up to five years, and authorize that Yahara WINS pay the MMSD portion of the JFA.