Yahara WINS Executive Committee
June 12, 2018 Meeting

Agenda Item:
Approval of a 2018 phosphorus service agreement with Yahara Pride Farms

Background and Analysis:
Beginning in 2013, Yahara WINS had provided funding to the Yahara Pride Farm Group on an annual basis to support implementation of phosphorus reducing practices and related activities. The approved 2018 Yahara WINS budget includes $130,000 in funding for the Yahara Pride Farm Group for this purpose. In a letter dated June 6th 2018, Yahara WINS received a formal 2018 funding request from Yahara Pride Farms in the amount of $130,000. The request specified that a minimum of $104,000 would be used for phosphorus reduction practices, and a maximum of $26,000 would be used for the Resource Managers and the Yahara Pride Certification Program. The Resource Managers, are responsible for preparing the Phosphorous Report that has been a condition of all previous Yahara WINS/Yahara Pride contracts and will be a condition of this 2018 agreement.

The 2018 agreement mirrors closely to the 2017 agreement that was previously reviewed by Yahara WINS Counsel. The 2018 keeps the same acreage requirement in which phosphorus reduction practices are required to be placed with a provision to increase the number of landowners receiving cost share dollars. The agreement also keeps the same date by which the final Phosphorus Report is due (June 1st) and increases the amount of funds held by WINS until receipt of the final report from Pride proportional to the increase in total funds from 2017 to 2018. The total contract amount is consistent with the amount in the approved 2018 WINS budget.

Options:
1. Approve the 2018 draft agreement as written
2. Approve the 2018 draft agreement subject to modifications that are made by the Executive Committee
3. Delay approval and request that additional information be brought back to the Executive Committee at a future meeting

Recommendation:
Approve the 2018 agreement as written.
This grant agreement (the “Agreement”) is made and entered into this day of XX XX 2018 by and between the Yahara watershed improvement network (Yahara WINS) and Yahara Pride Farms (Yahara Pride)

1. Recitals
   a. Yahara WINS is pursuing an approach to address reductions of phosphorus in the Yahara Watershed through an Adaptive Management Project
   b. Yahara Pride is a farmer-led, not for profit organization working to improve soil and water quality.
   c. Yahara Pride is working with farmers in the Yahara Watershed to put phosphorus lowering practices on the farms, is engaged in associated outreach and education efforts, is implementing a farmer certification program, and is advancing pilot projects aimed at practices that reduce nutrient losses from spreading of manure.
   d. Yahara WINS desires to support these efforts with the ultimate goal of reducing phosphorus loses in the Yahara Watershed

2. Scope of Work
   a. Yahara Pride Farms shall perform the following services:
      i. Provide outreach to our farmers with the latest technologies and practices in conservation through our field days, conferences and in our newsletter.
      ii. Provide cost-share assistance to improve the adoption of cost-effective conservation practices such as cover crops, low disturbance manure injection and reduced tillage with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system.
      iii. Expand the windrow composting pilot program to showcase the economic opportunities of composting, selling and/or buying composted manure, to reduce nutrient losses from winter spreading of solid manure while providing organic sources of nutrients.
      iv. Expand the use of headland stacking within the composting pilot project to determine the viability of this management practice in a variety of farming systems.
      v. Continue to promote “stacking of practices” as a means to reach a greater overall impact on Phosphorus reduction. Focus data collection on this method.

3. Use of Funds
   a. A minimum of $104,000 of the funds provided under this agreement will be used for implementing conservation practices such as cover crops, low disturbance manure injection, and reduced tillage that have the potential for reducing phosphorus losses, with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system. A minimum of 2,250 acres of farmland using these conservation practices will be funded by Yahara Pride, and a minimum of XX new additional landowners from the 2017 funding year will be funded by Yahara Pride. Yahara Pride agrees that payments to producers using funds from this grant will not be made until after Yahara Pride confirms that SNAP-Plus information used to calculate phosphorus reductions has been received.
from the producer. Yahara Pride also agrees that producers receiving funds under this agreement will not receive additional funds provided by Yahara WINS through any other agreement for the same practices on the same acres in 2018.

b. A maximum of $26,000 of the funds provided under this agreement will be used for supporting activities, including field data collection and analysis, SNAP-Plus modeling to determine phosphorus loss, report development, farm evaluations conducted by Yahara Pride Resource Managers as part of the Farm Certification Program, producer outreach, and related activities.

c. Yahara Pride agrees to return any unused funds to Yahara WINS at the end of the agreement period or in the event that the Yahara Pride Farms is dissolved or no longer has legal standing.

4. Deliverables
   a. Yahara Pride will provide Yahara WINS with a preliminary report on or before January 31, 2019 on summarizing practices and activities undertaken and funded under this agreement.
   b. Yahara Pride will provide Yahara WINS with a final report by June 1, 2019 that includes:
      i. Acres covered.
      ii. The estimated change in the phosphorus index (Pl) and changes in soil loss on a field by field basis using SNAP-Plus, organized by TMDL stream reach. Both annual and rotational changes in Pl shall be reported.
      iii. Unit cost information for phosphorus reduction, expressed as $/pound of P reduction and total pounds of P reduced organized by stream reach.
      iv. Information on the number of farms worked with under the certification program and other relevant summary information.
      v. A detailed accounting of disbursements made under this agreement, including hours associated with supporting activities.

5. Payment
   a. Yahara WINS agrees to provide a total of $130,000 to the Yahara Pride Farm Conservation Board in consideration of and subject to the above. Payments will be made as follows:
      i. $25,000 by July 31, 2018.
      ii. $90,000 upon receipt of the preliminary report (Due January 31, 2019) with confirmation that **minimum acreage requirement has been met**.
      iii. $15,000 upon receipt of the final report (June 1, 2019)

6. Modification of the Agreement
   a. The terms of this Agreement may be if agreed to in writing by Yahara WINS and Yahara Pride.

7. Complete Agreement
   a. This agreement constitutes the complete and entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any previous communications, representations, or agreement, whether oral or written, with respect to the subject matter hereof.

8. Miscellaneous
   a. The terms of this Agreement may modified if agreed to in writing by Yahara WINS and Yahara Pride.
For the Yahara Pride Farms:

_________________________  
Jeff Endres, Yahara Pride Farm Board Chair  Date

For the Yahara WINS:

_________________________  
Martin Griffin, Yahara WINS executive Committee President  Date

_________________________  
Jeffery Rau, Yahara WINS Executive Committee Treasurer  Date
June 6, 2018

Martye Griffin
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Yahara WINs
1610 Moorland Rd
Madison, WI 53713

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Yahara Pride Farms (YPF) is a farmer-led, not-for-profit organization working to improve soil and water quality. We help advance new ideas and technology that balance water quality improvement with farm sustainability and profitability.

YPF is requesting support in the amount of $130,000 to continue our cost share programs for 2018 in which a minimum of $104,000 will be used for P reduction practices and a maximum of $26,000 will be used for Resource Managers and Certification. This request will allow us to continue to work with the farmers in the Yahara watershed to put phosphorus lowering practices on the land.

Objectives:

1. Provide outreach to our farmers with the latest technologies and practices in conservation through our field days, conferences and in our newsletter.
2. Provide cost-share assistance to improve the adoption of cost-effective conservation practices such as cover crops, low disturbance manure injection and reduced tillage with the goal of helping farmers adopt these practices into their farming system.
3. Expand the windrow composting pilot program to showcase the economic opportunities of composting, selling and/or buying composted manure, to reduce nutrient losses from winter spreading of solid manure while providing organic sources of nutrients.
4. Expand the use of headland stacking within the composting pilot project to determine the viability of this management practice in a variety of farming systems.
5. Continue to promote “stacking of practices” as a means to reach a greater overall impact on Phosphorus reduction. Focus data collection on this method.

Cost-share program
The use of practices such as cover cropping, low disturbance manure injection, strip tillage, and vertical tillage has additional benefits beyond their capacity for improving runoff control. For example, growing cover crops can increase soils’ nutrient retention capacity, reduce soil erosion, and improve soil structure. This program works with farmers by offering financial assistance to cost-share these effective practices. There has been a substantial increase in the use of these practices by farmers in the target watershed.
In 2016, farmers in the program reduced phosphorus delivery by 11,000 lbs. A reduction of 7,130 lbs from cover crops was reported as part of this number. The 2017 report is nearly finished and consistent results are expected.

Outreach Efforts

Ag Innovation Days – A multi-day event that provides education and hands-on demonstrations from farmers and field experts regarding innovative technologies and innovative manure management methods. Ag Innovation Days provide education on the environmental and economic benefits from utilizing the various practices and methods.

Twilight farmer meetings - educational workshop and brainstorming session led by innovative farmers to discuss best management methods and program enrollment. Directed to farmers only with an emphasis on new farmer-participants.

Watershed-wide conservation conference– provides new information about various conservation efforts being done by field experts throughout the state and region. The conferences bring in around 100 farmers, agribusiness employers, implement dealers and government officials.

Farm tours – connects urban and non-farming rural community with the day-to-day farm operations and management practices.

Dane County Breakfast on the Farm – Yahara Pride Farms has developed the “Farmers Protecting Water Quality” tent at the popular county breakfast on the farm in June. This tent features an educational activity for kids to learn about compost and table top displays for parents to learn specific things that farmers are doing to protect water in Dane County.

Forward Farmer- newsletter that mails to 300+ farmers and other interested stakeholders - provides information regarding Yahara Pride Farms efforts, events and innovative technologies.

Forward Farmer eNews – email newsletter sends to 400+ valid email addresses to farmers, ag business, agency and community partners.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sincerely,

Jeff Endres, YPF Chairman