Yahara WINS Executive Committee
June 13, 2017 Meeting

Agenda Item:
Yahara WINS Cost Sharing of Low Disturbance Manure Injection Equipment with Dane County

Background:
In January, 2017 Yahara WINS executed a Memorandum of Understanding with Clean Lakes Alliance. Per the MOU, Clean Lakes Alliance is providing Yahara WINS with $100,000 in 2017 to invest in phosphorus reduction activities in the upper part of the Yahara Watershed (TMDL stream reaches 62, 63, and 64). The suggested (but not required) distribution of the funds is that 70% will be used for longer term capital projects, and 30% will be used for shorter term projects. Approximately $12,000 has already been committed to extend a harvestable buffer agreement from an initial duration of 10 years to a duration of 15 years.

It is anticipated that Yahara Pride will submit a grant application jointly to Dane County and Yahara WINS seeking approximately $104,000 to support purchase of a low disturbance manure injection unit. The grant application would request that Dane County and Yahara WINS share equally in the cost. Yahara Pride would then loan out the equipment to participating farmers in the watershed so they can gain experience in using this equipment.

Options:
1. Agree to co-fund the grant request by matching funds provided by Dane County in an amount not to exceed $60,000. This includes a 15% contingency on the initial amount requested.
2. Agree to co-fund the grant request by providing funds at some other amount specified by the Executive Committee.
3. Do not co-fund the grant request.

Recommendation:
Agree to co-fund the grant request by matching funds provided by Dane County in an amount not to exceed $60,000. Require as a condition of the funding that Yahara Pride provide Dane County and Yahara WINS with an annual report that includes information on fields within each TMDL stream reach where the low disturbance manure injection equipment was used, with field specific information including the acres and the resulting change in the annual and rotational Phosphorus Index.

This grant would allow multiple farmers to gain experience in using low disturbance manure injection equipment without having to make a rather large upfront individual investment. It could potentially result in more widespread adoption of this liquid manure application practice, which is expected to result in less runoff of manure applied phosphorus when compared to more traditional liquid manure management practices.