

## ***Watershed Adaptive Management Pilot Project Quick Facts***

### **What is adaptive management?**

In most watersheds there are three major sources of phosphorus reaching streams, rivers and lakes. These major sources are municipal/industrial wastewater plants, municipal stormwater, and agricultural runoff. Traditional regulatory approaches address each source independently. Watershed adaptive management is a new regulatory approach that puts a premium on all sources working together to improve water quality.

### **Why is Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District taking the lead for adaptive management in the Yahara watershed?**

The District is taking the lead because according to current regulations, an adaptive management plan can only be submitted by an entity regulated under NR 217. The District is one of the few phosphorus sources in the Yahara watershed regulated under NR 217.

### **Why is an adaptive management pilot project being conducted?**

This is the first time anyone has tried to implement an adaptive management option in Wisconsin. Before implementing it on a large scale over the entire Yahara watershed, it makes sense to try it on a smaller scale as a pilot project. Information gained during the pilot project will help a full scale project in the Yahara watershed be even more successful.

### **Who are the partners in the pilot project?**

Dane County, the Clean Lakes Alliance, and the Yahara Pride group are among the 30 partners in the pilot project. Other partners include towns, villages, cities, environmental groups, DNR, USGS and the University of Wisconsin.

### **What types of phosphorus control practices will be evaluated in the pilot?**

A wide range of practices will be evaluated. It is anticipated that many of the practices will be agricultural practices, but the mix will also include some urban practices.

### **What are funds to support the pilot project effort coming from?**

Funds are coming from three main sources. Dane County has secured a \$1.3 million dollar grant under the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). Another approximately \$1.3 million dollars is coming from local municipal entities participating in the pilot project. These funds will be collected in three equal increments over a three year period starting in 2013. Remaining funds are coming from a combination of sources including contributions from Dane County, CLA, the Sand County Foundation and USGS cost sharing.

### **How will the funds be disbursed?**

The MRBI funds will be administered and disbursed directly by USDA/NRCS. The local funds coming from municipal entities will be collected by the District and held in a segregated account. Decisions regarding how these funds will be disbursed will be made by an executive committee formed as part of the adaptive management pilot, but will be distributed to producers through the county. A system will be established to make the most efficient use of the funds coming from each source. That system will include some type of contractual arrangement for transparency and auditing purposes. Every effort will be made to keep things as simple and straightforward as possible and make best use of all funds. This will likely mean using MRBI funds to target certain phosphorus control practices/strategies and using dollars from other sources to fund other phosphorus control practices/strategies.

### **Who will have the primary interactions with farm producers and municipal entities?**

The county will serve as the primary broker in the pilot project, interacting with agricultural producers and municipal entities to identify and implement phosphorus control practices. The new liaison position being considered by the CLA may also be helpful in this regard.