

**MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING #3
PUMP STATION 17 FORCE MAIN RELIEF PHASE 2
February 16, 2023
Minutes and Meeting Summary**

A public informational meeting was held online via Zoom at 5:30 pm on February 16, 2023. There were about 34 members of the public in attendance. Project team members and District Staff included Rachel Feil (District), Kevin Lord (MSA Professional Services), Theresa Nelson (Dane County), Chris Barnes (Town of Verona), and Chad DuChateau (Ice Age Trail Alliance).

The meeting began with an overview and project background by Rachel Feil. Presentation of the site impacts and anticipated mitigation strategies were presented for wetlands, waterways, wildlife, and trees. A public tree inventory was presented showing trees anticipated to remain or be removed within the construction corridor. Dane County then shared their long-term restoration goals for their property to return the area to its historical landscape which was wetland and oak savanna. Both of those landscapes contain very few, if any, trees and thus no trees are planned to be replanted as a part of this project. In-progress vegetation restoration and proposed seeding mixes for the construction corridor were shared for public comment. Next, anticipated trail detours and closures were shared for the Military Ridge State Trail, Badger Mill Creek Paved Path, Ice Age Trail, local trails which will also be available for a public comment period. Anticipated access to the Badger Prairie Community Garden was presented as well. The public comment form was then shared and will close on February 24, 2023 at 6pm.

The team then gave an update on the selected potential corridor improvements. Improvements are still being selected. The team shared that the following improvements: #1 Badger Mill Creek Paved Path Extension, #2 Ice Age Trail Realignment, #10 Native Prairie Restoration, and #11 Pheasant Lane Trail Widening have been selected and are being developed. Remainder of improvements to be selected will be shared to the public via the project's email distribution list.

Project next steps were then shared as well as an overall schedule and anticipated sequencing. The schedule and sequencing are subject to change as design is finalized and throughout construction. After the presentation, the meeting was open to questions from the public. The following is a summary of the questions and comments received.

1. **Question:** Why direct funds to a wetland bank instead of to Dane County for wetland restoration in this area?

Response: That's still something that's in-progress, based upon what the project team has heard for permitting, mitigation would be required via a wetland bank. The project team can provide an update on this in the next progress meeting.

2. **Question:** For those of us on DeMarco trail, the trees on the east side of the construction area are the only barriers between us and the highway. I'm curious if anything can be done to preserve them.

Response: For the DeMarco Trail properties that back up to the Goose Lake Conservancy, we are looking to preserve, as much as, for a strip a trees to remain. The tree inventory viewer shows preserving some of those trees, shown in green. We can't make promises, if we can preserve more, we will. That's the intent. We are aware this concern and we are trying to leave what we can. If you'd like we can talk offline further about the adjacent trees to your property, we are open to do so. The tree inventory viewer can be a resource for you first to see what's planned.

3. **Question:** Is there a reason the yellow line goes along the tree line as opposed to through the open meadow?

Response: That's a great question we did look at that to try and stay on that existing paths as much as possible. When you are designing a route, there is tradeoffs. The open meadow was first looked at for the route, but there are existing wetlands there we need to avoid. Additionally, the open meadow in that location doesn't provide enough cover for the pipe. That's why the sewer route ultimately got placed up the hill in the brush was the best location. If you are familiar with this area, there is a lot of honeysuckle on the hill presently to remove.

4. **Question:** For 20 years I have volunteered to mow trails in the Goose Lake area. I respectfully request those damaged trails be restored to their present state.

Response: Yes, our plans are to restore the existing grass trails post-construction. We know the community really enjoys those trails and the District wants to support that. In terms of one small change, you may see in the trail network is that the path (shown south of the Dane County wetlands) will be relocated slightly uphill as it goes thru wetlands. This will allow those wetlands to expand long-term. There is also a small trail segment planned to be added.

5. **Question:** How does the future Storm Drainage work at Goose Lake affect the corridor improvements and the Force Main work being done now?

Response: It should not be affected; the District and the Town have been coordinating throughout this project. We have planned for space above our proposed sewer pipe to allow for an future increase in culvert size at the Goose Lake outlet.

6. **Comment:** Thank you for a really good detailed presentation. I appreciate the careful attention to trees and landscape, and look forward to seeing this area recognized as the valuable public resource that it is.