

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024

Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group

Agenda, notes, and meeting materials at www.madsewer.org/bmc-plus/

Desired outcomes:

- Continue gathering information on:
 - Desired uses for Badger Mill Creek
 - Physical attributes that support those desired uses
 - Current and potential projects that can impact those physical attributes
 - Information gaps and topics of interest
- Share information on Goose Lake project
- Decide upon format for stakeholder organizations to share information
- Explore a format for stakeholder organizations to document recommendations and context

Participants:

- Melissa Michaud, CARPC
- Nick Bower, CARPC
- Jeremy Balousek, Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept.
- Joleen Stinson, Dane County Parks Division
- Ben Schulte, City of Fitchburg
- Pat Bergen, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor
- Brian Christian, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor
- Greg Fries, City of Madison
- Kathy Lake, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Martye Griffin, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Topf Wells, Trout Unlimited Southern Wisconsin Chapter
- Robert Bohanan, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
- Luke Diaz, City of Verona
- Jamie Aulik, City of Verona
- Chris Barnes, Town of Verona
- David Rowe, WDNR
- Mike Sorge, WDNR
- Alison Lebwohl, Alison S. Lebwohl Consulting (facilitator)
- Mike Rupiper, EOR (facilitator)

Other Attendees:

- Amanda Wegner, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Amber Lefers, AE2S
- Ann-Marie Kirsch, AE2S
- Linda Severson, AE2S

Topic	Decisions, information gathered, actions
Welcome and check-in	<i>Large group check-in and review of Operating Agreements.</i>
Current and potential projects and opportunities	<p>Ben Schulte, City of Fitchburg, gave an overview of an engineering study done to reduce flooding on Fitchrona Road and in Goose Lake. He was joined by Chris Barnes, Town of Verona, and by AE2S staff, who conducted the study. (link to study) (link to presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben and Chris emphasized that they are open to considering different solutions to reduce flooding that might better support the health and resilience of Badger Mill Creek and the goals of this stakeholder group. <p>Written questions were taken. The speakers' responses were given at the meeting. See attached Presentation Q & A for the complete list of questions and responses.</p>
Stakeholder presentations	<p>All organizations were invited to give an 8-minute presentation at a future meeting to share strengths, contributions and requests in Feb, Mar, and Apr. See attached handout on Stakeholder Presentations for details. A sign-up sheet was posted and a link to sign up online will be shared with stakeholder organizations via email.</p>
Shared final report outline	<p>Mike and Alison presented the concept of group members working together to create a shared document that would identify (1) what the group is recommending and (2) why they are recommending it.</p> <p>All content would be generated and approved by the stakeholder group. This would allow the group to create a shared understanding about desired uses, physical attributes that support those desired uses, and projects that support those attributes. To begin creating this content, participants were asked to complete at least one worksheet focusing on a desired use of Badger Mill Creek.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision: The group agreed (100%) that creating a document like this together would be helpful.
Other noteworthy items	<p>The group was asked to provide offline feedback (via flipchart page) about preferred location. Mike & Alison noted that their priority is to ensure that all members of the group are comfortable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two group members commented that the library is working well. <p>Two data gaps were shared by a group member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These info/ data gap might be addressed through additional information/presentation at future meetings or could be part of a project idea that could be in the portfolio Info gap 1 – Would be great if we could have a consulting firm prepare alternatives to the goose lake stormwater pond project that would help BMC and the stormwater issue. For example alternatives that look at using the excess water in the high storm events in another way – e.g. slow stormwater release, groundwater supplementation, or other? The goal of the alternatives analysis would be to see

	<p>what options there would be to store and use the excess water when BMC needs it the most</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info gap 2 – Would be great if we could have more groundwater information to know the quantity and quality and where it is to ascertain if a groundwater pump system could be installed that could provide a controlled supplantation of flow to BMC when it is needed, and at the same time the system would also have some type of additional water that would recharge or replace the groundwater that was pumped. That excess water could be from the storage of the stormwater or infiltration of the stormwater that comes through the goose lake area? <p>One group member asked whether a research project (to fill an information gap) would be eligible for inclusion in this group’s final recommended portfolio of projects. Mike & Alison clarified that a research project <i>would</i> be eligible, as would education and outreach projects (as noted at our December meeting).</p>
Action items	<p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type up and share notes with the group. • Incorporate decisions and discussions into charter and project planning as needed. • Send out a link for additional groups to sign up to give presentations. <p>Stakeholder group participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete at least one Desired Use Worksheet and email to Alison & Mike by 1/31 • Review these notes and email Alison & Mike with corrections. • In order to maximize the value of our time together, all participants commit to doing advance work, including providing feedback through advance surveys.



Presentation Q & A

1. Recently there has been significant development (apartments & condos) nearby. How does this & future development affect plans?

Ben: Current stormwater management ordinances require peak runoff rates post development be no more than pre-development rates through the 200-year storm. However total runoff volume is not required to be controlled to pre-development levels.

2. Since the goal is move excess water more efficiently, is there a way to store the excess water to release to Badger Mill Creek when there is low water conditions?

Ben: That could be looked at as part of the next phase of the project.

3. Any information on the quantity or quality of this water?

AE2S: No data on quality from this study. But there is a flow model for quantity.

4. Is it a fair conclusion that so far the preferred plan will be good for Fitchrona Road but bad for Badger Mill Creek – making it much flashier?

Ben: The City is looking to balance flood improvements with the potential impacts to Badger Mill Creek. City wants to work with this Stakeholder group to find a solution that benefits both if possible.

Chris: Scope of original study was limited to looking just at flood improvements due to limited budget.

5. Is the higher Goose Lake level tied to high groundwater levels?

AE2S: We think Goose Lake is perched and slow to drain based on available information, but this groundwater monitoring was not part of the study.

6. The diversion to the 2nd “bath tub” – who owns that land? And how much would this reduce storage in Goose Lake

Ben: This is private property. The associated storage reduction in Goose lake is not know at this time.

7. Any opportunities to increase infiltration in the watershed instead of more capacity to drain water.

AE2S: We think there are limited opportunities to increase infiltration in the watershed due to the extent of existing development.

8. What is the timeline? Will something happen to alleviate flooding at the same time as the road rebuild regardless of the outcome of this group?

Ben: The City would like to address this issue prior to the scheduled reconstruction of Fitchrona Rd in 2025. The road elevation cannot be raised due to height constraints of an overpass.

9. How does this relate to an idea that MMSD Commissioner Tom Hovel mentioned regarding flooded basements in the area?

Kathy: These are not related.

Stakeholder Organization Presentations

Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group

The Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group is meeting monthly over a year to co-create a portfolio of proposed projects that can be supported by all stakeholder group members. Stakeholder group members have emphasized the importance of recognizing and using the expertise within this group. Presentations from member organizations will support the group in doing this. The format below allows member organizations to make and request contributions that honor the strengths and unique perspectives of each organization while honoring the time constraints of the group's meeting format.

Each group will have the opportunity to provide an 8-minute presentation, accompanied if desired by handouts of any desired length and format. The 8-minute time limit will be strictly observed. The questions and structure below are recommended but not required. We believe having standard questions will help other group members absorb the content you are sharing.

Q1: Who is your organization?

Introduce your organization. Estimated time: (2) minutes. Information could include:

- Mission & vision
- Who you represent or membership
- Connection to and interest in BMC
- If relevant, which one or two uses of BMC are most important to your organization?

Q2: What contributions would you like to offer your colleagues in this group?

Share your organization's strengths, knowledge and experience. Estimated time: (5) minutes. Information could include:

- How would you define your organization's strengths? How would you like to see those strengths support the work we are doing here?
- As we work together to develop a portfolio of projects that you can all support, what knowledge or experience related to BMC would your organization like to share?

Q3: What is one request you would like to make of one or more organizations within the group?

Ask for something you believe would help ensure the group's success. This may rely on other groups' strengths, knowledge or experience. Estimated time: (1) minute.

As your facilitators, we invite and encourage each organization within the stakeholder group to make a presentation. We will circulate a paper sign-up sheet in January and post that online afterwards.