

# Final Meeting Notes: Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2024

## Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group

Agenda, notes, and meeting materials at [www.madsewer.org/bmc-plus/](http://www.madsewer.org/bmc-plus/)

### Desired outcomes:

- Information shared on February 29<sup>th</sup> District Commission Study Session
- Decision on Desired Uses that will focus of group's effort and attention
- Information gathered on:
  - Observations and recommendations from presentations
  - Project ideas and related information needs and sources by Project Category
  - Project template

### Participants:

- Melissa Michaud, CARPC
- Nick Bower, CARPC
- Joleen Stinson, Dane County Parks Division
- Jeremy Balousek, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
- Ben Schulte, City of Fitchburg
- 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
- Jamie Aulik, City of Verona
- David Rowe, WDNR
- Alison Leibold, Alison S. Leibold Consulting (facilitator)
- Mike Rupiper, EOR (facilitator)

### Other Attendees:

- Amanda Wegner, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Michael Mucha, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Laura Hicklin, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department

Topic	Decisions, information gathered, actions								
Opening	<p>Michael Mucha shared a summary on discussions at the February 29th District Commission Study Session on this project. Amanda Wegner noted that the meeting can be viewed on YouTube at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyIHvSjbDZM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyIHvSjbDZM</a></p>								
Pre-Meeting Survey	<p>The group agreed to continue to meet at the Verona Public Library (9:30 AM coffee &amp; conversation, 10:00 to 11:30 meeting time). Mike Rupiper presented a summary of the pre-meeting survey responses for Desired Uses:</p> <p>The group will focus its efforts on potential projects and information gaps related to these five Desired Uses identified by stakeholder group members (in alphabetical order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature-based recreation</li> <li>• Scenic beauty</li> <li>• Stormwater management</li> <li>• Trout stream (Class II)</li> <li>• Wildlife habitat.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="375 850 1479 1129" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">72%</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">9%</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">9%</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">I can live with it</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Love it</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">I'd prefer not</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Abstain</td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>Jamie Aulik clarified that the City of Verona abstained, but that it doesn't indicate a lack of support.</p> <p>Brian Christian clarified that Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor want their vote recorded as I can live with it rather than I'd prefer not, with the clarification in the Feb. meeting notes that was provided on stormwater management.</p> <p><b>Final tally: 9% Love it, 81% I can live with it, and 9% abstain.</b></p>	72%	9%	9%	9%	I can live with it	Love it	I'd prefer not	Abstain
72%	9%	9%	9%						
I can live with it	Love it	I'd prefer not	Abstain						
Presentations	<p>We heard presentations from the City of Madison and from Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Presentations are intended to help all stakeholders understand the work, expertise and needs of all stakeholder organizations. Afterwards, attendees were asked two questions. The questions and all responses are captured fully below. <a href="#">Scans are available here.</a></p> <p><b>Themes and observations that emerged from this include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trout Unlimited (TU) has a goal of protecting BMC as a Class 2 trout stream. This requires steady base flow, which is believed to require flow augmentation</li> <li>• There is significant uncertainty around climate change and flooding impacts</li> </ul>								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stakeholder group would like more info about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flow augmentation</li> <li>○ Flooding impacts</li> <li>○ Groundwater</li> <li>○ Invasives</li> <li>○ Sedimentation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Possible information gaps, project ideas and opportunities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Researching items above -- particularly flow augmentation</li> <li>○ Supporting coordination across municipalities</li> <li>○ Reimagining Nesbitt Pond</li> <li>○ Identifying expert involvement needed for project success</li> <li>○ A groundwater recharge program under long-term municipal management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Project Idea Generation Worksheets</p>	<p>The group sat by the project categories they wanted to work on as follows:</p> <p><b>Baseflow Augmentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Schulte, City of Fitchburg</li> <li>• Brian Christian, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor</li> <li>• Greg Fries, City of Madison</li> <li>• Kathy Lake, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District</li> <li>• Topf Wells, Trout Unlimited Southern Wisconsin Chapter</li> <li>• David Rowe, WDNR</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater Recharge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick Bower, CARPC</li> <li>• Jeremy Balousek, Dane County Land &amp; Water Resources Department</li> <li>• Martye Griffin, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District</li> </ul> <p><b>Watershed Management Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Michaud, CARPC</li> <li>• Joleen Stinson, Dane County Parks Division</li> <li>• Robert Bohanan, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoreland Buffers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie Aulik, City of Verona</li> </ul> <p><b>The group was asked to complete their Project Idea Generation Worksheet and provide feedback on the draft Project Description Template by April 5<sup>th</sup></b></p>
<p>Action items</p>	<p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type up and share notes with the group.</li> <li>• Incorporate decisions and discussions into project planning as needed.</li> <li>• Send out a link for additional groups to sign up to give presentations.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder group participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review these notes and email Alison &amp; Mike with corrections.</li> <li>• <b>Complete a Project Idea Generation Worksheet for their group and provide feedback on the draft Project Description Template by April 5<sup>th</sup> (as noted above)</b></li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In order to maximize the value of our time together, all participants commit to doing advance work, including providing feedback through advance surveys.</li></ul> |
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## Presentation Questions and Responses

### What one or two things most stood out to you from today's presentations?

- City of Madison has a large role to play [with regards to] stormwater management in an urban area
- Trout Unlimited goal:
  - Protect Class 2 trout stream = flow augmentation
  - Need more technical expertise to do study of flooding [to understand] (1) chance of success (2) options that would work
- Trout Unlimited's sole goal is protecting the status of the upper reaches as a Class 2 trout stream through flow augmentation
- City of Madison draws a large area to BMC. Greg has personal and professional interest in developing a project.
- Use of current conditions as baseline
- Protect the stream
- Need for municipalities to connect and work together
- Appreciated the need to keep a steady stream for recreational purposes
- Also appreciated the unsteady nature of rainfall and the augmentation supplies a steady source of water
- Madison: Hope Madison can help
- Dredging for Nesbitt Pond is upcoming and [?] of wetland area wasn't successful – can this be re-imagined?
- Section from pond to effluent return location is overgrown with invasives
- City is open to working with Fitchburg, Verona, etc.
- Trout Unlimited is passionate and DNR is their trusted resource
- More coordination between municipalities could be useful
- Need experts to help fill in information/data gaps
- The goals of Trout Unlimited will be difficult to reach in the face of climate change, a developing watershed and the MMSD discharge shut off.
- City of Madison has history and experience
- Trout Unlimited is calling for additional expertise
- Communities are not talking as much as they could be – I do understand that turnover makes it hard to make those connections
- Climate change will affect BMC and all water and natural resources in the State/ County with impacts far bigger than MMSD discharges
- Potential to mitigate Phosphorus by alum [?] re: stormwater credit
- Considerable body of research that answers the question of health of BMC and priority of protecting current health
- Need more coordination between muni's
- Trout Unlimited believes BMC will be damaged
- Climate change will affect base flow
- Trout Unlimited wants flow augmentation and wants MMSD to fund study

### What one or two recommendations (if any) do you have for this group as we work to identify a portfolio of projects that all members can support?

- Baseflow augmentation of cleaner water than effluent to make resilient to climate change will keep @ Class 2
- Area is key to managing stormwater for many areas. Stormwater plans should now incorporate flow and groundwater recharge
- Research: Dane County groundwater model to understand climate change and impact to government > baseflow streams

- Opportunity to improve stormwater management north of Nesbitt
- Consider ways to supplement the waterway
- No dredging!
- Nesbitt reconfiguration when maintained?
- Who/how to assess the invasives and sedimentation of upper BMC
- Can stored water be used as a resource?
- Are temperature-type modifications possible?
- As we go forward with project ideas, identify experts that will be critical to include for projects to succeed
- The goals of Trout Unlimited will be difficult to reach in the face of climate change, a developing watershed and the MMSD discharge shut off. A recharge program/ project will be required and who will manage it? Need to find a municipality to manage (long-term) the project.
- Need more data on groundwater
- What threats and opportunities are there re: Cities of Madison, Fitchburg, Verona?
- Clear needs for considering climate variation
- Protecting “current” state of BMC is likely not sufficient to protect for future scenarios
- Design for climate change
- Need study on flow augmentation
- Presentation of flow augmentation
- Better coordination between muni’s