

Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group Projects Administration & Implementation Change

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District is committed to continuing to support the health and resiliency of Badger Mill Creek, but recognizes it is not the best entity to administer and implement the projects proposed by the Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group. As such, the District and CARPC have agreed, in principle, that CARPC is better suited to administer and implement the stakeholder group projects. Dane County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are also supportive of this plan.

As a next step, the District and CARPC will seek authorization from their respective Commissions to develop and formalize an agreement pursuant to which the District would transfer to CARPC certain funds for Badger Mill Creek health and resiliency projects, and CARPC would administer the use of those funds for project implementation.

Why CARPC administration of project funding

The District recognizes it is not the best-suited entity to administrate the \$1 million allotted for health and resiliency projects in Badger Mill Creek and its surrounding watershed. The District is not an expert in watersheds, groundwater, stormwater or aquatic habitats; these areas represent the projects proposed by the Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group.

As a regional entity with broad expertise, CARPC is better positioned to administer stakeholder group projects. Not only can it better represent stakeholders' interests, but CARPC also has a greater ability to maximize the return on investment of projects by leveraging grant funding and matching funds.

Finally, enabling CARPC to administer project funding removes the District from making project and funding decisions. We understand the District's involvement in project selection has been a sticking point for some stakeholder group participants and having CARPC administer the funds and projects removes this perceived bias.

What remains the same

While our leadership changed in 2025, our commitment to support the health and resiliency of Badger Mill Creek following the discontinuance of effluent has not. Our \$1 million pledge remains in place. We will continue to rely on experts for vetting and implementing projects developed by the stakeholder group, which makes CARPC a much better fit to administer the projects and funds.

Additionally, we remain firm in our stance that no District funds will be transferred to CARPC or released for projects while the District's areawide water quality plan amendment remains in litigation.

Next steps

District leadership will seek authorization from the District Commission at its March 26, 2026 meeting to allow District and CARPC staff to develop an agreement establishing CARPC as the administration partner for the pledged funds. The CARPC Commission will discuss the arrangement at its April 9, 2026 meeting. District and CARPC staff will incorporate feedback from each commission and bring forward an agreement for action by each Commission later this year.

Once the agreement is executed, CARPC will determine the best way to involve stakeholders and administer the funds. If litigation is resolved in a timely manner, funds may be available for use in 2027.