



**Dane County Office  
Extension**

**Cooperative**

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## **Yahara Lake Level Advisory Group 2 (YLAG2) Minutes**

**June 23, 2011**

**3 - 5 pm with Public Comment beginning at 5:00 pm**

**Location: Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture and Conservation Center  
1 Fen Oak Court, Madison**

### **Participants in attendance:**

|                  |                  |                 |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Scott Reirson    | Kevin Connors    | Sue Jones       |
| Melissa Sargent  | Mike Kakuska     | Rob Phillips    |
| Anita Weier      | Daniel Stepahny  | Rick Gullickson |
| John Van Dinter  | Ben Kollenbroich | Tom McGinnis    |
| Ken Potter       | Chin Wu          | Richard Lathrop |
| Bill Fitzpatrick | Mike Amstadt     | Dean Hein       |
| Susan Tesarik    | Lloyd Eagan      | Sue Josheff     |
| Mindy Habecker   |                  |                 |

### **Participants absent:**

|               |                    |                  |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Bill Mazanet  | Jack Von Rutenberg | Chuck Rolfsmeyer |
| Kyle Richmond | Melissa Mallot     | Don Peterson     |
| Rick Kurz     | Kurt Welke         |                  |

### **1. Introductions - All**

**2. Approval of Minutes** – May 26, 2011 meeting minutes were not finished.

### **3. Check-in -**

### **4. Hydraulics, River constrictions, and Dams:**

**Sue Josheff, Lower Rock River Basin Leader, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 608-275-3305, [susan.Josheff@wisconsin.gov](mailto:susan.Josheff@wisconsin.gov)**

The PowerPoint “Hydraulics 101” is located on our website at:

[http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/Hydraulics\\_Intro\\_Sue\\_Josheff\\_presentation.pdf](http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/Hydraulics_Intro_Sue_Josheff_presentation.pdf)

#### **Discussion:**

Sue Josheff briefly reviewed hydrology from the May meeting and introduced basic river hydraulic principles.

**Jeremy Balousek, Urban Conservation Engineer, Dane County Land Conservation Division, 608-224-3747, [Balousek@countyofdane.com](mailto:Balousek@countyofdane.com)**

The PowerPoint “Managing Water Levels in the Yahara Lakes” is located on our website at: <http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/Yahara%20River%20Hydraulics%20for%20YLAG2%20Balousek%20presentation%20June%2023%202011.pdf>

#### **Discussion**

Jeremy Balousek discussed how the different seasonal land covers can affect the runoff to the lakes. He pointed out that we don’t know a lot about the distribution of rainfall over the watershed. He highlighted the operation of dams and the known river constrictions.

Sue Josheff showed a long profile diagram of the Yahara River from the Rock/Dane limits to Cherokee Marsh showing the river bed. The profile may be useful to identify constrictions. Sue also passed out a list of constrictions. She had forgotten the fish weir/corduroy bridge on the list but corrected the list before it went onto the internet site.

**Mike Amstadt, Vice President of Lake Affairs, Friends of Lake Kegonsa, [mikea@kegonasa.org](mailto:mikea@kegonasa.org)**

The PowerPoint “Lower Yahara River Elevation Study, Sept-Nov 2009” is located on our website at: [http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/FOLK\\_presentation\\_June\\_2011.pdf](http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/FOLK_presentation_June_2011.pdf)

#### **Discussion**

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) did the most detailed water level data gathering and analysis for two weeks in 2009. It was done to provide data to convince DNR to eliminate the temporary draw down of Lake Kegonsa. Though this was the most detailed study to date of the area between Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa, the study was still not able to determine the specific flow constrictions and needed activities to increase flow.

**John Reimer, Engineer IV, City of Madison (608)266-4094 [jreimer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jreimer@cityofmadison.com)**

**Chin Wu, Professor, UW Civil and Environmental Engineering, 608-263-3078, [chinwu@engr.wisc.edu](mailto:chinwu@engr.wisc.edu)**

The PowerPoint “INFOS for Yahara Waters” is located on our website at: [http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/INFOS\\_presentation\\_June\\_2011.pdf](http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/pdf/lwrld/landconservation/INFOS_presentation_June_2011.pdf)

#### **Discussion**

The participants showed great interest in the INFOS model. The model is not complete enough to analyze the entire Yahara system yet. John Reimer and Professor Chin Wu provided examples of the types of analyses INFOS can provide in the future. INFOS should help us better understand the vegetation cutting in Lower Mud Lake, the flow and sediment impacts of widening the railroad trestle at Upper Mud Lake, implications of dredging in different areas and simulate different dam operating regimes.

They also presented water level reactions in Cherokee Marsh during floods. The Hwy 113/RR and Westport bridges near the lower portion of the marsh constricts flow causing the flood flow to increase water level quickly before Lake Mendota rises. The marsh water levels quickly lower as the lake level is increasing causing a second water level rise in marsh.

#### **5. Future meeting date and agenda items**

The next meeting is July 28, 2011. We will continue the discussion on river hydraulics and also cover navigation and recreation.

#### **6. Public Comment –**

None