



## Background

The *Yahara WINS Pilot Project* is testing a new, innovative and collaborative compliance approach called Watershed Adaptive Management in order to meet regulatory requirements for phosphorus reduction in the Yahara Watershed in a cost-effective manner. Over thirty entities are participating in the pilot project, including wastewater treatment plants, industry, cities, villages, towns and numerous other partners.

2013 was the first, complete year for the pilot project. During 2013, *Yahara WINS* funded research, water quality monitoring, installation of phosphorus reducing practices, baseline inventories of agricultural land and other initiatives. By its completion in 2015, the pilot project will provide the data needed to help *Yahara WINS* participants make informed decisions relating to the use of adaptive management to meet the Rock River TMDL reduction requirements related to phosphorus and total suspended sediment.

## Key Accomplishments in 2013

- Phosphorus reductions were quantified for the period from 2008 thru 2012. These reductions can be credited against reductions required under the Rock River TMDL. In the pilot watershed, this amounts to a reduction of 4653 pounds per year, or about 42% of the reduction goal for the pilot project.
- The Dane County Land Conservation Department completed background inventory work on 7,625 acres or 70% of the agricultural land base in the pilot watershed project area.
- Phosphorus loads were calculated for all four major tributaries to Lake Mendota. This load data shows that 75,000 pounds of phosphorus was delivered to Lake Mendota during water-year 2013.
- *Yahara WINS* provided funding to Yahara Pride Farms that helped producers test phosphorus reducing practices on almost 3,000 acres of land. Preliminary estimates are that these practices provide 3,000 pounds per year of phosphorus reduction.
- Dane County awarded \$1.5 million in Urban Water Quality Grants throughout the watershed which are expected to reduce phosphorus losses by over 1,100 pounds per year.
- The Rock River Coalition's Citizen Water Quality Monitoring program placed 21 volunteer monitors at sites throughout the watershed.
- With funding from *Yahara WINS*, the UW Water Resources Management Practicum identified pilot project area sites where phosphorus containing sediment accumulates and developed potential mitigation approaches which could cost-effectively control phosphorus.
- The *Yahara CLEAN SWAT* model was expanded to include the entire Yahara Watershed, which will help improve phosphorus reduction estimates associated with a full-scale adaptive management project.
- The *Yahara WINS* website was updated: <http://www.madsewer.org/Programs-Initiatives/Yahara-WINS>

## Yahara WINs 2013 Budget

During 2013, *Yahara WINs* funds were collected from each of the partners. These funds supported a variety of activities aimed at helping the pilot project succeed and are detailed below:

### Adaptive Management Revenue & Expenses through 12/31/2013

#### Revenue

Carryover from 2012	\$55,341.48	
Sand County Foundation - Additional Contributions	\$79,000.00	
Annual Assessment to Other MOU Participants	\$431,000.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$565,341.48</b>

#### Expenses

<b>MMSD Lab Services for Water Quality Analysis</b>	\$33,375.10	
<b>USGS Gaging Stations-Installation &amp; O&amp;M</b>	\$108,300.00	
<b>Phosphorous Reduction Practices &amp; Mgmt.</b>	\$79,500.00	
Yahara Pride Farms Inc.	\$70,000.00	
Inventory Payments	\$9,500.00	
<b>Dane County Land &amp; Water Resources Dept.</b>	\$174,729.72	
<b>UW Water Resources Management</b>	\$6,546.06	
<b>City of Madison Leaf Study</b>	\$20,000.00	
<b>Citizen Monitoring Program</b>	\$20,006.00	
<b>Montgomery Associates - SWAT Model</b>	\$16,122.50	
<b>Misc.</b>	\$1,753.73	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$460,333.11</b>
<b>Committed in 2013 but not paid until 2014</b>		
UW WRM Practicum	\$2,453.94	
Montgomery Associates Resource Solutions	\$18,877.50	
City of Madison Reverse Auction	\$10,000.00	
City of Monona Reverse Auction	\$9,000.00	
		<b>\$40,331.44</b>
<b>Unencumbered 2013 carryover to 2014</b>		<b>\$64,676.93</b>

## Yahara WINs Partners

*Yahara WINs* has maintained all partners and continues to add interested parties. The current list of participants includes:

- **Towns:** Blooming Grove, Bristol, Burke, Cottage Grove, Dunn, Middleton, Westport, Windsor
- **Villages:** Arlington, Cottage Grove DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Waunakee
- **Cities:** Fitchburg, Madison, Middleton, Monona, Stoughton
- **Others:** Clean Lakes Alliance, Clean Wisconsin, Dane County, Madison Gas & Electric, MMSD, Sand County Foundation, Stoughton Utilities, U.S. Geological Survey, Yahara Pride Farms, Wisconsin DNR
- **Interested Parties:** Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC), Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), The River Alliance of Wisconsin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Yahara Lakes Association, Rock River Coalition, Friends of Badfish Creek

## 2014 Outlook

A new Memorandum of Understanding is being developed with Wisconsin DNR to document areas of agreement which will help guide a full-scale adaptive management project. *Yahara WINS* will continue to fund phosphorus reducing practices and will test funding delivery mechanisms, with the goal of targeting low-cost practices. Water quality monitoring efforts will be expanded, working both with United States Geological Services (USGS) and the Rock River Coalition's Citizen Monitoring program. Dane County Land Conservation Department will complete inventories on remaining farmland in the pilot project area and will be working with landowners on a new initiative to install harvestable buffers along stream corridors. *Yahara Pride Farms* will work with farmers interested in testing phosphorus reducing practices, with the goal of increasing the number of acres in the test program by 50% relative to 2013. Cost projections associated with a full-scale adaptive management project will be improved using information generated through the pilot project, which will help *Yahara WINS* partners make informed decisions regarding participation in a full-scale adaptive management.

## 2014 Budget

The 2014 Budget which was recommended for approval by the Strategic Planning Workgroup and approved by the Executive Committee follows:

### 2014 Yahara WINS Proposed Budget

#### Income

Unencumbered carryover from 2013	\$64,677
Sand County Foundation additional contribution	\$50,000
Annual Assessment to MOU Participants	\$431,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$545,877</b>

#### Proposed Expenditures

USGS gaging stations-annual cost for 4 pilot project gages	\$77,500
USGS monitoring-additional monitoring services	\$20,000
Rock River Coalition-citizen volunteer monitoring program	\$14,348
MMSD-laboratory services for water quality analysis	\$35,000
Dane County-providing conservation practice support and technical services	\$150,000
Farm producer inventory payments	\$20,000
Phosphorus reduction practices and demonstrations-urban and rural	\$211,029
Miscellaneous	\$3,000
Contingency and potential unencumbered carryover to 2015	\$15,000
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$545,877</b>

## More Information is available

Visit our project website: <http://www.madsewer.org/Programs-Initiatives/Yahara-WINS>

Contact Yahara WINS: [kathyl@madsewer.org](mailto:kathyl@madsewer.org) or 608-222-1201 ext. 278