

Yahara WINS Update February, 2016

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**Madison Metropolitan
Sewerage District**

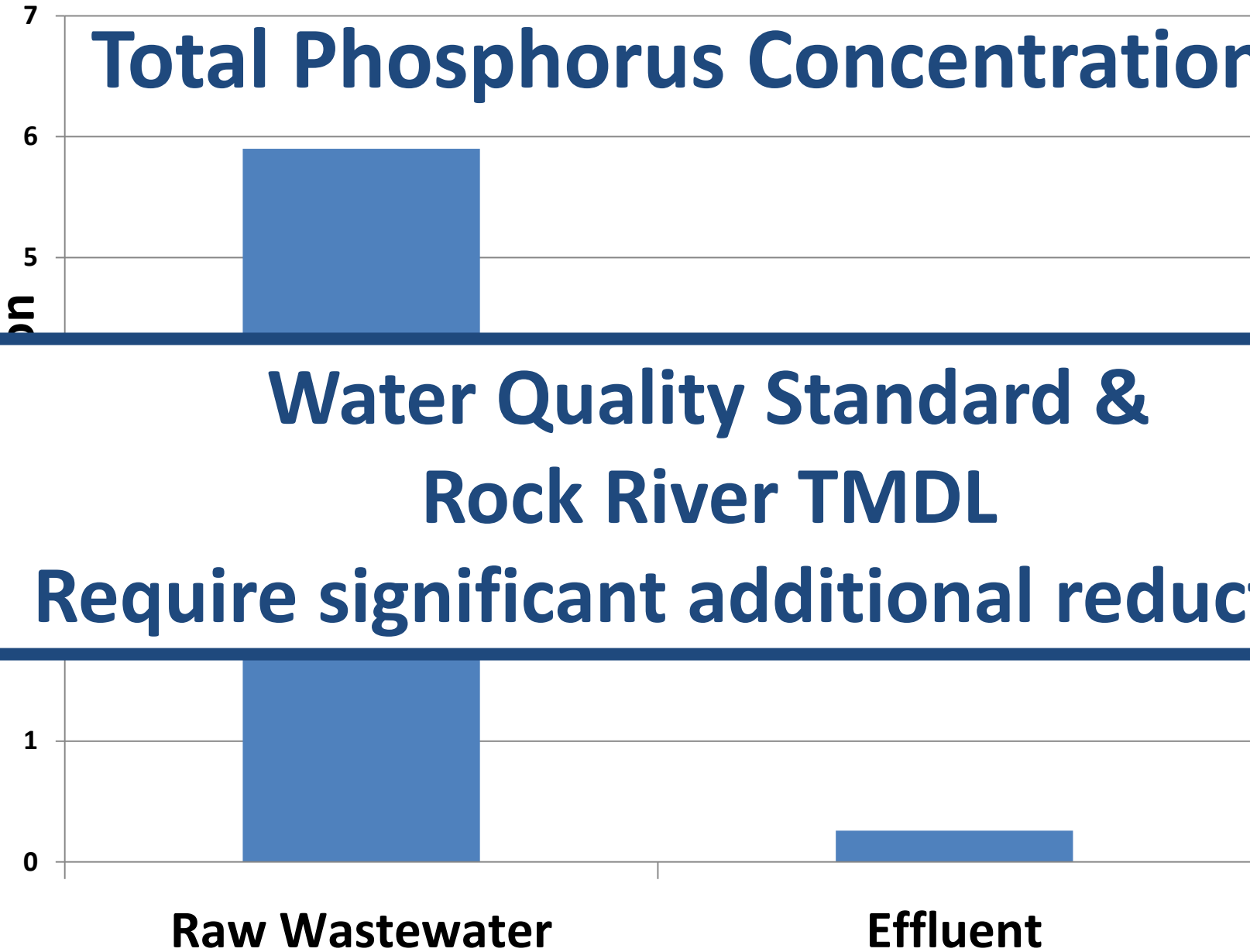
The logo for the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, featuring a stylized blue wave graphic below the text.

An aerial photograph of a city and its surrounding watershed. The city is visible in the distance, with a large body of water to the right. The foreground shows a mix of residential and commercial areas, including houses, parking lots, and industrial buildings. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background.

Yahara WINS

Watershed Adaptive Management Project in the Yahara River Watershed

Total Phosphorus Concentrations



4-year Pilot Project: Testing Adaptive Management as a Compliance Alternative

Answering: how can we work together, pool resources, implement practices, model and monitor for results?

Yahara WINS Pilot Project Participants

Cities

Fitchburg
Madison
Middleton
Monona
Stoughton
Sun Prairie

Villages

Arlington
Cottage Grove
DeForest
Maple Bluff
McFarland
Oregon
Shorewood Hills
Waunakee
Windsor

Towns

Blooming Grove
Bristol
Burke
Cottage Grove
Dunn
Middleton
Westport

Others

Clean Lakes Alliance
Clean Wisconsin
Dane County
MG&E
MMSD
Sand County Foundation
Stoughton Utilities
USGS
WDNR
Yahara Pride Farm Group

Other Interested Parties*

DATCP
CARPC

River Alliance

Yahara Lakes Association

Friends of Badfish Creek

Friends of Pheasant Branch

Rock River Coalition

* Periodically updated

USEPA Region 5



Building on Success:

Transition to a Full Scale AM Project

- **Reduce Phosphorus**: 106,000 pounds/year of phosphorus entering the Yahara Watershed
- **Achieve Compliance**: TMDL required phosphorus reductions from all sources in the Yahara watershed
- **Meet**: water quality standard in impaired reaches of Yahara
- **Invest**: ~ \$123 Million over the next 20-years
 - Costs to participants proportional to TMDL required reductions

Yahara WINS – Lessons to Build on



An aerial photograph of a city and its surrounding water bodies, including a large lake and a river. The city is visible in the distance, with a dense cluster of buildings. The foreground shows a mix of green spaces, roads, and industrial or commercial buildings.

Communication

Champion/Facilitate

Translate

Buffer Personnel Changes

Build Trust

An aerial photograph of a city and its surrounding landscape, including a large body of water and various industrial and residential areas. The image is used as a background for the text.

Innovation

New for All: WWTP, regulators, LCD's...
Non-traditional investment / funding
Long implementation horizon
Bumps along the road (resiliency/flexibility)

Framework

Partners

- Permits
- Business case

IGA

- Formal cooperation
- Structures Partnership

AM Plan

- Guides Implementation
- Unique: watershed/project

Partners

- WPDES Permits & TMDL Compliance
 - Point Sources, MS4's
 - Separate agreements with non-permitted
- Business Case
 - Compliance at lowest cost (for us/partners)
 - Two cost-centers

Intergovernmental Agreement

- Facilitate Working Together
- Binding with flexibility
 - 20-year commitment
 - Off ramp every 5-years
 - True-ups every 5-years
 - Ability to purchase less than full credit

Adaptive Management Plan

- One plan for entire watershed
- Project Specific
 - How we determined costs/reduction potential
 - Identified partners
 - Types of practices & verification
 - Water quality monitoring plan
- Process Based
- Timelines/Milestones

Yahara WINS

(Anticipated Next Steps and Timing)

2016

- Transition Year
- Adaptive management plan approval
- Organizational structure in place (IGA)

2017

- Start of full scale project-entire Yahara Watershed

Yahara WINs on madsewer.org

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Yahara WINs

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MMSD, in collaboration with over 30 partners, is pioneering a new regulatory approach to address phosphorus called Watershed Adaptive Management. Excessive levels of phosphorus can impact the quality of rivers, streams and lakes. In watershed adaptive management, all sources of phosphorus work together to implement cost effective phosphorus reduction practices.

This collaborative effort is called Yahara WINs (Watershed Improvement Network). It is the first project in the State of Wisconsin, and nationally, to test the adaptive management concept. [Yahara WINs participants](#) have agreed to conduct an adaptive management pilot project before moving to full implementation in the Yahara River Watershed. The pilot project is being conducted in the Sixmile Creek Subwatershed, which is located northwest of Lake Mendota.

What's New

- [Yahara WINs Strategic Plan Workgroup/Exec. Com Meetings March 10, 2016 \(1pm/2:30pm\) at Lussier Center](#)
- [Yahara WINs Annual Report Exec. Summary](#)
- [Yahara WINs Annual Report](#)
- [Yahara WINs Grant 2015 - Applications due Apr. 30, 2016](#)
- [2015 Yahara WINs Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Yahara Pride Video](#)
- [Historical Water Quality Data](#)

Questions?

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