

Appendix E: Public Meeting Comment and Evaluation Summaries

Black Earth

- Identify and implement high priority projects – All of the areas under Prevention are soft.
- Need a comprehensive policy of water management, Include all stakeholders, farmers, developers, municipalities, recreation, etc. The County should facilitate this type of multi-jurisdictional effort involving all aspects and uses of the watershed.
- Identify joint projects and coordinate funding.
- Don't require the removal of structures from the floodplain
- Plan has no focus on causation, only symptoms
- Regional stormwater management is desired
- Enforcement of objectives needs to be considered
- Emphasize citizen empowerment and responsibility for implementation
- Work on multi-jurisdictional / watershed level solutions involving watershed groups for the long-term

DeForest

- Solve the problems upstream and you won't have the problems with the dam.
- Changes over the years have changed the flood risk. Floodplains are changing because the landscape is changing.
- After you move into an area, then what do you do when the rules change and the flood risk changes. That's not right.
- Have to look at the big picture.
- There should be strong enforcement of stormwater management plans.
- Strengthen wetland protections and flood fringe.
- Development upstream is the problem, lack of enforcement of rules.
- Have to take an honest, open look at causes and increasing problems.
- Encourage State legislature to improve flood management and mitigation programs
- Questions about the County's current capacity to warn citizens about storms
- Plans are rules not enforced uniformly for developers
- Support more stringent controls on water volume
- Closed watersheds needs to be treated differently than open ones
- Rain gardens are an idea whose time has come
- Engineer regional infiltration areas taking advantage of natural topography

- There is little if any consistency between the goals and objectives of different drainage districts
- Monitoring and modeling of hydrologic systems is very important
- There may be an opportunity to use Sanitary Districts as an implementation and taxing tool
- Clearing of drainage ditches is important, flooding along Vinburn Rd.

Town of Madison

- Two separate problems – Lake level orders and management of lake levels, Lake level orders are ok, Dane County Public Works continues to operate outside the orders.
- Plan needs to contain the methodology, especially with mitigation. How will it be done and with who's money?
- Lakes should be drawn down during periods of high vulnerability.
- Establish a better system for reporting damages, both dollar losses and intangibles.
- Need a holistic solution to the whole problem – on the watershed level – has to include development.
- Need a larger view, holistic solution – long term – restore wetlands
- Need long-term and short-term solutions.
- Discuss also water quality issues and sedimentation and weed growth in lakes.
- Need to study where are the impediments to flow? Monitoring and modeling got red dots but it has to be done to allow for good management.
- The lakes should be viewed as a valuable asset, not a cesspool.
- Dane County should be a coordinator between units of government and stakeholders to seek long-term solutions.
- Climate change elicits conflicts, there are more important issues
- Erosion from construction sites is a problem
- Rain gardens should be included
- Timing of the projects is a worry—they need to be done quickly
- Low water causes problems in lakes too
- Managing the Yahara lakes is not enough, language should read “lower”
- Centralize flood reporting using a 800 number and staff
- Better enforcement of erosion controls needed
- Lower lake levels

Cottage Grove

- Flooding is the chance you take when buying or building in the floodplain.
- Re-establish and revitalize the drainage districts with the costs paid by everyone who benefits, not just the farmers.
- When drained land is annexed, the developers should help pay (long term) for maintenance of tiles and ditches.

- All four lakes should be managed as a system. The whole watershed should be managed and developers should be held more accountable.
- Need better management of lakes to keep within acceptable levels.
- Need to enforce stormwater management rules and evaluate and strengthen if not working.
- Infiltration should be much more strongly encouraged or required – hold back the water – starting at the home. Groundwater used for municipal water does not recharge the groundwater, neither does retention/detention. Need conservation measures to be hand-in-hand with stormwater management. Conservation at home – should use water gardens and cisterns.
- Build more high rises.
- Do two things, Get Sun Prairie to hold back more water, and lower Lake Kegonsa.
- Support an effort to clean and maintain streams and ditches, keep banks from eroding and trees out.
- Do not allow building in floodplain
- Work on the watershed scale and get it done
- Need to get going on dredging if lowering the lake levels to allow navigation
- Should implement flow/acre allowance for new development per watershed
- Water gardens, infiltration, and cisterns should be looked in to
- People should take responsibility for their own properties
- Lower lake Kegonsa
- Flood warning system may come too late, response does not help farmers
- Resources should be placed in Prevention goal
- Need more retention, stormwater controls even in ditches
- Koshkonong Creek needs to be cleared out, trees removed
- To manage lakes you have to manage rivers
- Get a volunteer system to clean out streams, “adopt a stream program”
- Drainage district improvements need to be paid for by the entire population
- Implement an on going stream dredging program

Verona

- Yahara lakes is not the only issue – should consider all Dane County watersheds.
- Need engineering assistance for individuals like farmed4rs can get from Land Conservation Dept. and NRCS.
- Need to look at stormwater management on a systematic level – It should not simply be to help cities and villages get the water out as fast as possible.
- Less reliance on retention/detention, more on recharge and infiltration.
- All the water that used to infiltrate now runs off – what is recharging the water table?
- Not all flooding in Dane County is floodplain related. Perhaps use different measures in different areas, floodplain vs. headwaters.

- Need to include on-going maintenance in stream clean-out, ditch clean-out.
- Good floodplain maps could be used as a tool to regulate upstream development.
- Education is helpful
- Timing of when different objectives are implemented is important, does not make sense to design an response system before exhausting prevention first
- Support on-site non-traditional stormwater planning
- Poor timing of retention pond releases exacerbates problem
- Need coordinated approach
- Education is the basis for all of this. People have to be educated in order to make good decisions – Need to know the real costs of the decisions.
- The County’s role should be to represent the unincorporated areas to work with cities and villages to minimize the impacts on their neighbors.
- Predevelopment conditions for stormwater management plans should be based on actual soils studies at the site rather than standards or averages.
- Stormwater management rules should be uniformly policed and enforced – should have more teeth.
- No adverse impact is right, but who’s water is it? This has to be answered honestly and then acted on.

Regional Meeting Feedback Form Results

1. The Flood Mitigation Plan draft goals and objectives address my concerns about flooding.

strongly disagree	disagree	uncertain	agree	strongly agree
1*	2	10	20	6

*respondent did not strongly disagree, but wanted to encourage swift action.

2. What part of the meeting did you find most valuable?

open house	introductory presentation	prioritization of objectives	review of objectives	other: please specify
0	5	13	20	1(overview) 1(all parts)

3. What part of the meeting did you find least valuable?

open house	introductory presentation	prioritization of objectives	review of objectives	other: please specify
17	2	11	3	0

4. How can the County improve the public participation process you have participated in?

Offer more information, provide follow up / Have someone appointed as chair (from the County with knowledge) to control direction of ideas (avoid side teaching) / Education of public / The letter caught our attention, be the governing body / If letters were sent to all residents, I feel all was done that could've been / Post date, time, location in local papers. Article in our local paper, but no location given (probably editors mistake) / Getting the word out to more people before the meeting—I was sent an agenda beforehand but not sure how others found out / I don't know—the pros have tried and planned, people not cooperating / Longer meetings or several workshops, not just ones in the other towns, I need many hours more with this / Get the word out / Visit Monona, even if they seem disinterested! / More advance notification may have helped. / All parts of the meeting were valuable, but focus on the lake levels and Monona Bay flooding almost derailed the focus. Better meeting advertisement? / Listen to those who have been flooded with backups of sewage. / Educational meetings of the lake residents for lowering the lake levels / All parts of each interest have to work toward the same goal. / Reach out to riparian owners, as well as users. The Yahara Lakes Advisory Group has a mailing list of riparian owners. Mail them to invite comment. / Use of Internet / More meetings open to the public / There needs to be earlier contact re: lake level management part of a larger plan for use and protection of the lake resource /

5. Would you like to review the draft Flood Mitigation Plan? YES/NO

Yes = 27

No = 1

Additional Comments:

Well done / It all flowed together very well! Great job / All was valuable and provided caution—unity / what is the next step? / Promote water gardens in developments / Look into the flooding of Waterloo Creek located in the Town of Bristol, which drains north and east Bristol and beyond / Thank you for offering this meeting. I am glad this project has been undertaken. / Keep up the great work. / We need more detention basins / There are several objectives that are too vague to know, need to specify what and how and how it is funded. Need to clarify and edit objectives, need plan for both short (<5) and long term (20-30 years) focus.