

Healthy Farms Healthy Lakes Task Force

Charge to the group

The Task Force will create a report with findings and recommendations for phosphorus reduction in surface waters to be presented to Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, Land Conservation Committee, and Lakes and Watershed Commission. The Task Force will meet for 12 months. During this time it will:

1. Understand results from recent research/information (including USGS, UW) about phosphorus, manure, and water quality in the Yahara Watershed;
2. Understand the status of Wisconsin's farm conservation standards, practices and policies for farmland management in Dane County;
3. Share information and generate guidance and input to county policy makers on the most effective means of removing phosphorus from our waters to achieve phosphorus water quality standards; and
4. Provide greater community understanding of Dane County's phosphorus budget and current practices and policies for farmland management.
5. Work with staff to prepare draft and final reports.

Proposed Timeline

- **Introduction** to group's charge, each other, the process, and overview of Dane County agriculture and agricultural phosphorus and its links to surface water quality – (1 meeting)
- **Educational sessions** to learn about agricultural phosphorus and surface water quality – about 6 meetings (meeting 2-7) detailed below
- **Development of criteria** for recommendations (done during one of the latter educational meetings)
- **Field tour** of issues: (possibly 1-2 trips) outside of meeting time
- **Draft recommendations** (done outside of a meeting as homework assignment)
 - Straw poll of draft recommendations. Done to gain a sense of group's assessment of developed first draft (done outside a meeting)
- **Group review of draft recommendations** via criteria (3 meetings) meetings 8-10
- **Provide public and agricultural community input/review** session(s) Addresses part of #4 of charge
- **Recommendation editing and revisions & final consensus vote** (2 meetings) meetings 11-12
 - Identify agency or programmatic barriers
 - Identify top water and agricultural economic opportunities
 - Include funding opportunities and future research needs
- **Distribution and implementation** planning of final recommendations when process complete