

Fw: Public Comments for Badger Mill Creek July 11 Meeting

Tanya Sime <tanyas@capitalarearpc.org>

Wed 7/10/2024 11:53 AM

To: Nick Bower <nickb@capitalarearpc.org>

📎 1 attachments (227 KB)

Public Comments CARPC 2024 july 10 for BMC.pdf;

Tanya Sime
608-474-6017

From: Kathy Johnson <kljohnson63@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 11:38 AM
To: Tanya Sime <tanyas@capitalarearpc.org>
Subject: Public Comments for Badger Mill Creek July 11 Meeting

See attachment. It also below in case the attachment doesn't go through your firewall:

It is our understanding that Madison Metropolitan Sewer District (MMSD) submitted to Capital Area Regional Planning Committee (CARPC) an amendment request to stop the flow of effluent into Badger Mill Creek (BMC) to meet its phosphorus requirements. We are writing to voice our concerns on the determinantal impact of discontinuing the return effluent into BMC because it will destroy this natural treasure. BMC flows south of Verona into the Sugar River and is one of the few designated Level II trout streams in the county and a Verona's treasured natural wildlife area. For the past 25 years, MMSD has been pumping 3.6 million gallons of effluent water into the creek per compact between the City of Verona and MMSD. As a result of this effluent water into the BMC, we have a Level II trout stream and a beautiful spot for people to walk along the north side of the Ice Age Trail. In addition, BMC has abundant wildlife and was also a place where folks once kayaked.

We are concerned that if the flow is shut off the public funds already spent on this area will have been wasted because in many sections BMC water level will be greatly reduced. Examples of public funds already spent are as follows. After the MMSD construction of the East Sewer Interceptor project in 2021, many dollars and volunteer hours have been spent to restore the BMC area. This included repopulating trees and planting prairies. Dane County spent at least \$3 million in BMC land acquisition and \$300,000 in restoration efforts in 2021-2022. In addition, the City of Verona contributed \$100,000 in restoration costs. The Southern Chapter of Trout Unlimited has donated thousands of dollars and volunteered hundreds of hours to stabilize stream banks and improve access. Most recently, another bridge over Badger Mill Creek was built to connect walking and biking paths throughout the city. We view this area as our little woods in the middle of a city.

Residents, experts and officials are concerned that if the flow is shut off, the creek waterflow will be reduced by 50%, which will destroy the Level II trout stream and wildlife that benefits from the stream. We saw evidence of this when they turned the water off from January 2023 to April 2023. This resulted in low water levels as many of the ducks left as well as some other wildlife. After the water was restored, we saw some wildlife come back. For example, we have seen more ducks, Blue Heron, and even Great Egrets.

Again, from February to March 2023, the effluent was reduced to accommodate the MMSD sewer construction in the Badger Mill Creek area, and we saw much of the wildlife leave again.

MMSD should keep the effluent flow into BMC and adaptive management should be considered as a method to meet phosphorus requirements. MMSD dumping the return effluent into Bad Fish Creek is a bad idea because the folks in Rock County don't want it and it doesn't solve the long-term phosphorous problem. Please save our treasured creek by not turning off the return effluent and encourage the experts to look into adaptive management instead. We need to preserve this treasure for future generations. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeff and Kathy Johnson
102 Oak Court, Verona WI