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RESOLUTION #2020-01

Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board
In Support of
Proposed Revisions to Chapter 37 (Stormwater Management)
of the Madison General Ordinances

WHEREAS, the Clean Lake Alliance’s Community Board made up of 46 area community leaders, representing businesses, nonprofits, state and local governments, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

WHEREAS, Clean Lakes Alliance has received support from more than 6,600 donors since 2011 representing a broad range of individuals and businesses in the Greater Madison and Dane County areas; and

WHEREAS, Clean Lakes Alliance is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the water quality of the lakes, streams, and wetlands of the Yahara River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, effective stormwater management is an essential part of an overall strategy for improving and protecting water quality in area lakes; and

WHEREAS, this is an even more critical priority given the recent experiences in Madison and Dane County with historic flooding, including in Madison and the west side of the metropolitan area in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to Chapter 37 (Stormwater Management) of the Madison General Ordinances embody necessary updates and revisions that reflect changes in environmental circumstances, including the impact of climate change, since the ordinance was last updated, set forth enhanced standards for both new developments and for redevelopments, and bring the Madison stormwater management policies to current standards; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board believes it is important to address stormwater management on a Yahara River Watershed-wide basis, not only in the City of Madison, and therefore it is desirable and best practice for surrounding municipalities and Dane County to adopt or update their stormwater management standards on a consistent basis with those of Madison; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board advised and approved Clean Lakes Alliance’s strategic plan which calls for an updated comprehensive effort by organizations concerned about water quality to address the need for a Dane County-wide approach to stormwater management, Yahara CLEAN Compact, which was formed by 19 partners and collaborators from government, education, nonprofits, and other interested organizations with a common goal of sharing resources and working together to curb pollution and chart the best path forward to cleaner, healthier lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board supports the development of a formal process for reviewing and updating stormwater management guidelines on a regular schedule by Madison and other surrounding municipalities in the Yahara River Watershed and by Dane County; and

WHEREAS, the Yahara CLEAN Compact offers a framework for reviewing and making future recommendations as to a systematic approach for periodic reassessment and updates to stormwater management standards in the Yahara River Watershed region, and the Community Board urges that this be considered as an approach; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Impact and Policy Committee of the Community Board recommended to the Community Board of Clean Lakes Alliance that it support the proposed revisions to Chapter 37 (Stormwater Management), that it encourage the adoption of updated stormwater management guidelines by other municipalities in the Yahara River Watershed and by Dane County, and that it support the establishment of a formal process for periodically reviewing and updating applicable stormwater management standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Clean Lakes Alliance's Community Board supports the proposed revisions to Chapter 37 (Stormwater Management) of the Madison General Ordinances, encourages the adoption of updated stormwater management guidelines by other municipalities in the Yahara River Watershed and by Dane County, and supports the establishment of a formal process for periodically reviewing and updating applicable stormwater management standards.

Adopted on May 15, 2020

I hereby certify that this Resolution was duly adopted by the Clean Lakes Alliance Community Board on May 15, 2020.



James Tye
Founder & Executive Director
Clean Lakes Alliance



Matthew Frank
Executive and Community Board Chair
Clean Lakes Alliance