

Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association

3200 Monroe Street

Madison WI 53711

April 18, 2006

Statement of President Daryl K. Sherman

Re: Clean Lakes and Beaches

To the Madison City Council

We, as a neighborhood and as citizens of Madison have been greatly encouraged in recent years by various measures to protect and enhance our lakes: enhanced storm water detention basins (Dunn's Pond, Monroe Street at Nakoma); support for public and private rain gardens (Edgewood Campus, many private residences, 1000 rain gardens plan, the work on Adams Street as a rain garden street), enhanced street sweeping in the Isthmus, recharging the aquifer to offset the cooling demands of the new MG&E/University Cogeneration Plant, regulation of lawn phosphates, and County and City Storm Water Ordinances are examples.

Despite all this more needs to be done. Beaches are closed frequently for health reasons, there are advisories about eating fish from our lakes; despite regular lake weed harvesting rafts of rotting vegetation are an unmistakable reminder that not all is well. Sediment has flowed into Lake Wingra until the water is only an inch deep 200-300 feet from the shore; at the boat house too little depth is left to paddle a canoe to or from some of the docks.

The average home on our small lots contributes 18,000 gallons of runoff annually, carrying with it debris and pollutants. This calculation is based on 50% infiltration on site and the runoff from our driveways, sidewalks and one half of our narrow 28 foot streets. Other neighborhoods, with larger houses, longer driveways and wider streets, contribute more runoff. No water from our house runs off; it is all handled by two rain gardens that do not overflow even in the hardest rains. But the other hard surfaces are still a problem and I have seen the street several inches deep at the crest in the center, and nearly a foot in the gutters. . . and I live on a good slope!

For all of these, and similar, reasons the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association Council voted to support the Clean Lakes and Beaches initiative, and authorized me to present this letter and statement in support.

Thank you for your attention. Daryl K. Sherman, President

