

# Yahara CLEAN Compact

*Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment and Needs (Version 3.0)*

## **A Partnership Between:**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Dane County  
City of Madison  
Clean Lakes Alliance

## **In Collaboration With:**

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District  
UW-Madison Division of Extension  
UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies  
UW-Madison Center for Limnology  
Yahara Watershed Improvement Network  
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin  
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission  
REALTORS Association of South Central Wisconsin  
City of Middleton  
Yahara Lakes Association

## **I. Preface**

The parties to this Compact recognize that the Yahara River Watershed and its five majestic lakes—Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa—define our sense of place and contribute significantly to the region’s economic vitality, recreational standing, and local quality of life. Clean and healthy lakes are truly the benchmark of a healthy community. In recent years, big investments have laid the foundation for future water quality improvements, yet our lakes remain federally impaired, with intensifying climate impacts and other headwinds threatening our progress. It is for these reasons we come together to renew and strengthen the Yahara CLEAN partnership, and to unite around a common vision and action plan for cleaner, healthier lakes.

As signatory partners and collaborators, we commit to working cooperatively to adopt a shared roadmap to achieve water quality goals for the Yahara chain of lakes. We further commit to defining a scope of work for updating and building upon guidance set forth in the *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction (2012)*, and to recommend an implementation framework and timeline for which the community can hold itself accountable.

## **II. Background**

In 2008, a multi-level government partnership was formed to begin the process of charting a new path forward. Leaders from Dane County, City of Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural

Resources, and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection came together to determine what it would take to achieve clean beaches and improved water quality. Among the motivations at the time was concern that the lakes would soon be listed as federally impaired under the Clean Water Act. The partnership and resulting effort, referred to as Yahara CLEAN (Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment and Needs), culminated in the 2010 release of *A CLEAN Future for the Yahara Lakes: Solutions for Tomorrow, Starting Today*, setting forth 70 “action opportunities” to rehabilitate water quality, reduce phosphorus, and limit *E. coli* contamination at beaches. We refer to this initial phase as **Version 1.0**.

In 2011, Clean Lakes Alliance reconvened the Yahara CLEAN partners to turn the list of 70 recommendations into a streamlined action plan. The objective was to identify the most cost-effective actions to reach a 50% phosphorus-load reduction called for by UW-Madison scientists. If fully implemented, it was estimated that the number of days each summer when the lakes would be clear and free of algal blooms would double. The partners subsequently worked with Strand Associates to produce the *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction (2012)*, a 14-action urban and rural roadmap that continues to guide lake water quality improvement work to this day. We refer to this phase as **Version 2.0**.

A **Version 3.0** is now recommended to document accomplishments and progress to date, and because we know more about the multiple pathways phosphorus can take to reach the lakes than we did in 2012. We are also seeing mounting evidence in recent years that implementation-capacity constraints, increasing rainfall totals and intensities, and other factors can impede the pace of phosphorus reductions to the lakes and mask the effects of successful reductions. Furthermore, given that our cultural and landscape practices are inextricably linked to lake quality, we know it will take a broader and more aggressive community effort to not only expediently reach our goals but to also sustain them.

### **III. Purpose**

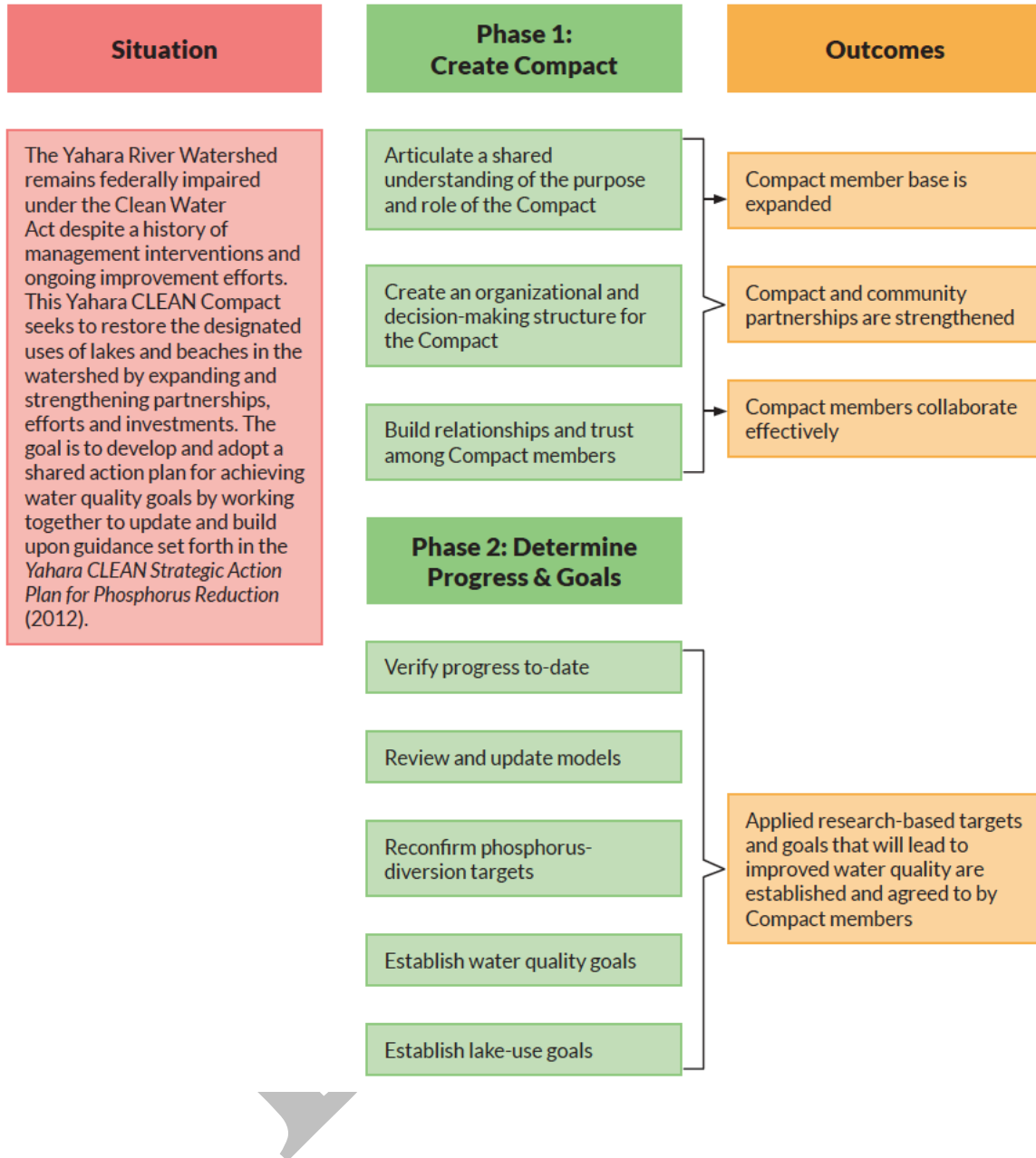
The goal of the Yahara CLEAN Compact is to adopt a shared implementation plan for achieving our water quality goals, with participants working together to build upon previous planning efforts.

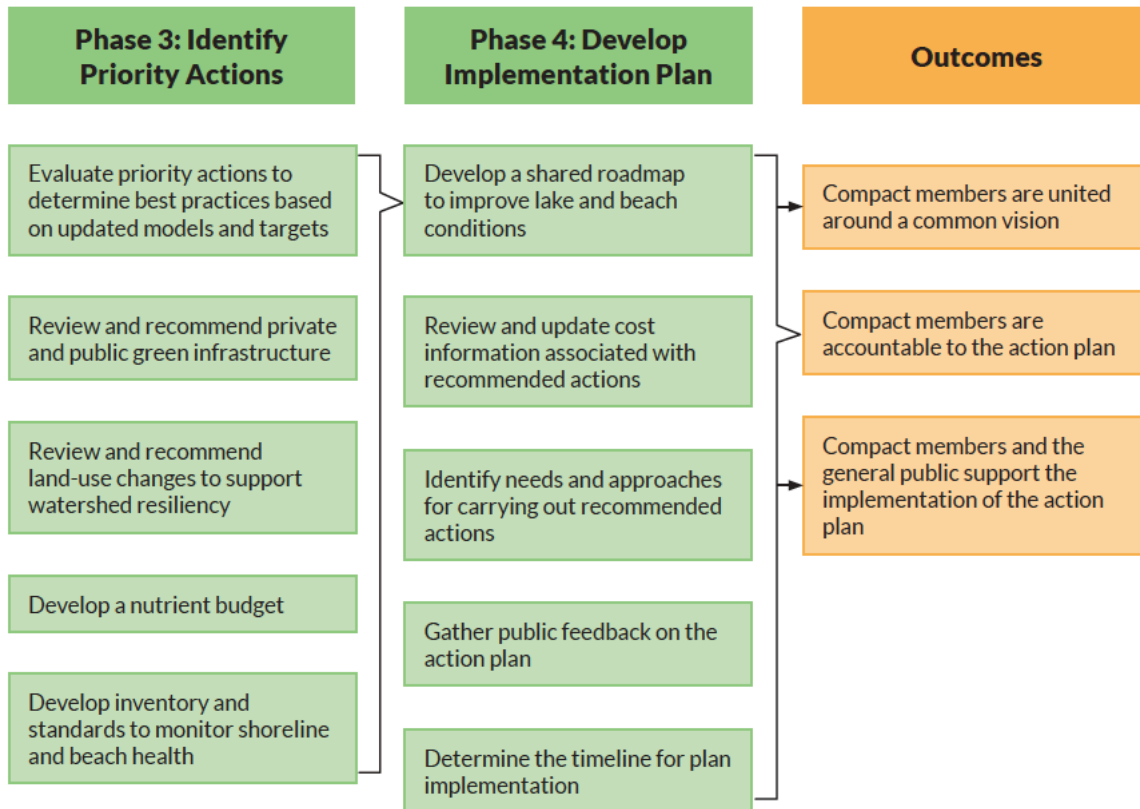
### **IV. Scope of Work**

Parties to the Compact commit to working together by following an agreed upon logic model developed in consultation with UW-Madison Division of Extension (see below). The logic model illustrates the relationships between planned activities and their expected outcomes. The end result of the Yahara CLEAN 3.0 development phase will be a report. Compact participants will generally work through the following phases:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase: Create Compact
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Determine Progress and Goals
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase: Identify Priority Actions
- 4<sup>th</sup> Phase: Develop Implementation Plan

## Yahara CLEAN Compact Logic Model





## V. Estimated Timeline

**Spring-Fall 2019:** Clean Lakes Alliance approaches prospective signatory partners and strategic collaborators to obtain commitments of participation and support. Partners and collaborators sign a Letter of Intent agreeing to share resources and work cooperatively on the development of a Yahara CLEAN Compact.

**Fall 2019-Spring 2021:** Scope-of-work items are completed and an updated Yahara CLEAN 3.0 action plan is produced. Parties to the Compact formally adopt the plan and work toward its shared implementation.

## VI. Compact Administration

### A. Participation Tiers

Parties to the Compact are the entities (and their successors and assigns) that sign on to this agreement as partners and strategic collaborators as described below.

#### Partners

Partners (also referred to herein as “Parties”) are official signatories and executive voting members under the Compact, providing agreed upon staff and financial resources to facilitate

the Yahara CLEAN updating process. A two-year annual contribution of \$25,000 is requested to help pay for anticipated costs. Represented by an appointed lead designee and co-designee, partners are expected to:

- 1) participate on a steering team to finalize the scope of work and oversee its implementation;
- 2) assist in the development of as-needed Requests for Proposals, and vote on the selection of any needed consultants with contracts executed by Clean Lakes Alliance;
- 3) furnish agreed upon information, staff support, and financial resources helpful to the effort;
- 4) provide input and guidance to any contracted consultants;
- 5) agree to a public communication strategy and process; and
- 6) sign off on any final recommendations and project deliverables produced under this Compact.

### **Strategic Collaborators**

Collaborators (also referred to herein as “Parties”) are supporting agencies or organizations that often play a significant cooperating role in watershed phosphorus reduction and/or achieving water quality improvements. A two-year annual contribution of \$1,000 is requested to demonstrate full investment in the effort. Collaborators are provided opportunities for input and information sharing, but are not executive voting members under the Compact. They are expected to support and work to implement the Yahara CLEAN 3.0 plan upon its completion. Represented by an appointed lead designee and co-designee, collaborators are expected to:

- 1) serve as non-executive voting members of a partner-led steering team to finalize the scope of work; and
- 2) participate in information sharing and steering team discussions related to the fulfillment of project deliverables.

## **B. Decision Making and Voting**

A Yahara CLEAN Compact executive committee consisting of appointed signatory partner designees will:

- 1) adopt agenda-setting and decision-making procedures to guide collaborative deliberations;
- 2) help develop any Requests for Proposals and vote on the selection of consultants, if any;
- 3) vote on any major conclusions and recommendations proposed as final project deliverables.

## **C. Financial and Project Oversight**

Parties to the Compact will share in the costs of this project by contributing agreed upon staff and financial resources. Related income in the form of financial contributions, grants, and project-restricted donations will be held in a restricted account managed by Clean Lakes Alliance as the acting fiscal agent. Clean Lakes Alliance will also be responsible for contracting with and overseeing hired consultants, convening steering team meetings comprised of appointed partner and collaborator designees, and providing financial reports as requested. Any unspent funds at the conclusion of this planning effort (if applicable) shall be applied toward programs and initiatives that support Compact-related messaging, education and public outreach.

## **D. Public Involvement**

The Compact will seek to engage the public by raising awareness of water quality challenges and solutions. This effort is vital to broadening the community's role in supporting and participating in recommended lake improvement actions. The parties to the Compact recognize the importance of understanding public wants and needs, and will work to provide information-sharing and feedback-gathering opportunities that are inclusive of our diverse watershed communities.

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# Partners

**For Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Preston D. Cole, Secretary

**For Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Bradley M. Pfaff, Secretary

**For University of Wisconsin-Madison**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca M. Blank, Chancellor

**For Dane County**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph T. Parisi, County Executive

**For City of Madison**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor

**For Clean Lakes Alliance**

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
James Tye, Executive Director



# Strategic Collaborators

For Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Michael Mucha, Director & Chief Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Griffin, Executive Committee President

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For UW-Madison Division of Extension

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karl J. Martin, Dean & Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Robbins, Dean

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For UW-Madison Center for Limnology

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jake Vander Zanden, Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Palm, Executive Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chad T. Vincent, CEO

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For REALTORS Association of South Central Wisconsin

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth A. Hackney, CEO

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For City of Middleton

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gurdip Brar, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

For Yahara Lakes Association, LTD.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sal A. Troia, President

\_\_\_\_\_ Date



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