

## Meeting Notes: Wednesday, Apr. 17, 2024

### Badger Mill Creek Stakeholder Group

Agenda, notes, and meeting materials at [www.madsewer.org/bmc-plus/](http://www.madsewer.org/bmc-plus/)

#### Desired outcomes:

- Information gathered about the work, expertise and needs of Friends of BMC
- Information gathered about groundwater
- Continued development of project recommendations, topics and resources
- Discussion about Spring community meeting

#### Participants:

- Melissa Michaud, CARPC
- Nick Bower, CARPC
- Joleen Stinson, Dane County Parks Division
- Jeremy Balousek, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
- Ben Schulte, City of Fitchburg
- Pat Bergen, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor
- Brian Christian, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor
- Greg Fries, City of Madison
- Kathy Lake, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Martye Griffin, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Topf Wells, Trout Unlimited Southern Wisconsin Chapter
- Robert Bohanan, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
- Jamie Aulik, City of Verona
- David Rowe, WDNR
- Alison Lebwohl, Alison S. Lebwohl Consulting (facilitator)
- Mike Rupiper, EOR (facilitator)

#### Other Attendees:

- Amanda Wegner, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Steve Gaffield, EOR

Topic	Decisions, information gathered, actions
Presentations	<p>We heard a presentation from Pat Bergen and Brian Christian, Friends of Badger Mill Creek. Presentations are intended to help all stakeholders understand the work, expertise and needs of all stakeholder organizations. <a href="#">Link to the presentation</a>. See attached Presentation Worksheet Results for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Badger Mill Creek provide stewardship focused on Upper Badger Mill Creek between Old PB and CTH M. This section is valued as a bird / habitat corridor in the urban area of Verona.</li> <li>• Stakeholder group members noted that Friends of BMC has already accomplished a lot in its three years. This includes building partnerships with other agencies/ municipalities. This capacity and these relationships can be incorporated into project proposals.</li> </ul> <p>We heard a presentation from Steve Gaffield, EOR, on Groundwater Modeling of Municipal Wells and Streamflow. <a href="#">Link to the presentation</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key takeaways from the model / presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pre-development flows in upper Badger Mill Creek were likely lower than the current effluent return and increased going downstream.</li> <li>○ Modification to existing high cap wells is not likely to provide baseflow augmentation (i.e. increase baseflow rates) in Badger Mill Creek.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>We heard a presentation from Steve Gaffield, EOR, on the Odana Golf Course Groundwater Recharge Project. <a href="#">Link to presentation</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This 50 MGY (~ 0.23 cfs) infiltration / groundwater recharge project has been in operation for about 20 years and is a good example of the type of groundwater recharge project that could be implemented in the Badger Mill Creek Watershed.</li> <li>• It was noted that baseflow augmentation in Badger Mill Creek would not be necessary 365 days a year to increase its health &amp; resiliency.</li> </ul> <p>Jeremy Balousek, Dane County, presented a demonstration of Dane County's interactive recharge map. <a href="#">Link to map</a>.</p>
Spring Community Event	<p>The group discussed 3 alternatives for a Spring Community Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conjunction with USRWA Sugar River Ramble June 2<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>• In conjunction with the Verona Farmers Market</li> <li>• No event</li> </ul> <p>There was no consensus among the group. Some preferred the USRWA event and others preferred waiting until project recommendations were further along.</p>
Project Idea Generation Worksheets	<p>The group sat by the project categories they wanted to work to continue developing the project idea worksheets as follows:</p>

	<p><b>Baseflow Augmentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Schulte, City of Fitchburg</li> <li>• Brian Christian, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor</li> <li>• Pat Bergen, Friends of Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor</li> <li>• Greg Fries, City of Madison</li> <li>• Kathy Lake, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District</li> <li>• Topf Wells, Trout Unlimited Southern Wisconsin Chapter</li> <li>• David Rowe, WDNR</li> <li>• Jamie Aulik, City of Verona</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater Recharge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick Bower, CARPC</li> <li>• Jeremy Balousek, Dane County Land &amp; Water Resources Department</li> <li>• Martye Griffin, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District</li> </ul> <p><b>Watershed Management Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Michaud, CARPC</li> <li>• Joleen Stinson, Dane County Parks Division</li> <li>• Robert Bohanan, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association</li> </ul>
Action items	<p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type up and share notes with the group.</li> <li>• Incorporate decisions and discussions into project planning as needed.</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholder group participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review these notes and email Alison &amp; Mike with corrections.</li> <li>• <b>In order to maximize the value of our time together, all participants commit to doing advance work, including providing feedback through advance surveys.</b></li> </ul>



## April Notes

### Presentation Worksheet Results

We heard presentations from the Friends of Badger Mill Creek. Presentations are intended to help all stakeholders understand the work, expertise and needs of all stakeholder organizations. Afterwards, attendees were asked two questions. The questions and all responses are captured fully below. [Scans are available here.](#)

Themes and observations that emerged from this include:

- BMC is an important urban resource. Friends of BMC focuses on the health of the corridor, and the opportunity for people to connect to a natural area within the city.
- Friends of BMC has already accomplished a lot in its three years. This includes building partnerships with other agencies/municipalities. This capacity and these relationships can be incorporated into project proposals.
- Climate change introduces a high level of uncertainty into this process

What one or two things most stood out to you from today's presentations?

- The Friends group works with other agencies/municipalities on a wide variety of habitat management projects
- The northern portion of the stream corridor sees the most use by the public and may/will be the most affected by the [decreased] flow.
- Friends of BMC main desire is to prioritize people with access to natural areas and promote environmentalism
- MMSD's effluent was ceased earlier this year for construction purposes. The flow shown in the graphic should indicate "no effluent" vs 8cfs less effluent for those dates.
- Base flow and precipitation graph
- Importance of creek and riparian corridor to growing urban area
- MMSD's assumption that increased precipitation will sustain baseflow is wrong in face of the variable effects of climate change
- The need for recreational opportunities (for area residents)
- The benefits of nature in a growing urban environment
- This new volunteer group has accomplished a lot in last few years – both in establishing themselves and boots-on-the-ground restoration.
- Thorough diversity of habitat types in upper reaches
- Attention to connections of climate and resiliency
- The background on how this group was established
- The amount of hard work they were able to accomplish in just 3 years
- The effect of climate change on base flow

- A lot of the work FBMC is doing is not focused on the volume of flow within the creek, but on the overall health of the corridor
- Climate change is going to throw a wrench in any and all plans
- Environmental corridor to preserve access to nature in urban setting is key
- It is great (!) that we have a friends group as a partner that takes care of the “land” side of the corridor. This will be needed to complement any “water” projects that the group implements.

What one or two recommendations (if any) do you have for this group as we work to identify a portfolio of projects that all members can support?

- Continue existing collaboration/ incorporate existing relationships into projects
- Need, if possible, for flow augmentation
- Projects that involve land restoration could lean on this group for long-term maintenance after establishment
- Is it possible to collect feedback on concerns and hopes in neighborhoods and stakeholders?
- I think their goal is similar to Trout Unlimited in that they want an urban resource
- Consider the comprehensive nature of the stream and entire corridor