

Memo

To: Executive Harris, Chairman Ramos and the County Board of Supervisors

From: Tom Davies, Director of Land and Water Conservation (LWCD)

Date: 9/5/2019

Re: City of Fond du Lac Multi-Discharger Variance Funds

Hello All,

The LWCD is participating in the Multi-Discharger Variance Program that allows eligible municipal wastewater treatment facilities to help reduce phosphorus loading into surface water without experiencing the high costs of facilities expansion that would be channeled on to their constituents. Basically the treatment facilities are allowed to pay roughly \$53.00 per pound for every pound of phosphorus they discharge in excess of their annual WDNR permit limit to the LWCDs in the counties that have land in the watershed of the waterbody that the treatment facility discharges into. Now that sounds really complicated, but actually it is quite simple.

For example: Based on the phosphorus discharge into Lake Winnebago in excess of their permit limits the City of Fond du Lac had to pay out approximately \$216,000. Because 25% of the Lake Winnebago Watershed (land that drains to Lake Winnebago) is located in Winnebago County, the Winnebago County LWCD was awarded 25% of the \$216,000 or roughly \$54,000. We are allowed to use these funds over a three year time frame for cost-sharing BMPs (a minimum of 65% of the funds must be used for cost-sharing) that will help bring ag-producers into compliance with the State Agricultural Performance Standards and for program support (a maximum of 35% can be used for staff/labor expenses related to the installation of conservation practices).

We are requesting your approval to accept the MDV funds from Fond du Lac (\$53,857). We are also requesting your approval to transfer \$35,257 of cost-share funds into the 2019 LWCD budget. The staff funds cannot be transferred into the LWCD budget until the hours have been put in and documented for reporting/reimbursement.

These MDV funds will continue to come from Fond du Lac and many other eligible sanitary districts throughout the region depending on the watersheds involved, the amount of phosphorus loading, and as long as the LCC approves our annual participation in the program.

We are excited to have additional funds to help bring our farmers into compliance and generate additional phosphorus and sediment load reductions for our water resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Davies, Director of Land and Water Conservation

Cc: Chad Casper, LWCD