Date: February 2, 2012
To: Dane County Board of Supervisors
From: The League of Women Voters of Dane County / Connie Threinen
RE: Resolution 196 – Sub 1, The Clear Lakes Initiative

We support and urge you to adopt RES. 196 - Sub. 1, the Clear Lakes Initiative.
The projects and programs included in The Clear Lakes Initiative move us closer to a healthier Yahara watershed. As you know, Dane County’s lakes, parks and natural areas are critical recreational and economic resources. Our natural heritage and past public-private investments require continued protection and enhancement projects.

The Dane County Board set the ball rolling for the Clear Lakes Initiative as part of adopting the 2012 Budget. The Budget sets the target sum of $5.42 million to be spent annually for the next five years, for a total of $27,370,000 through fiscal year 2016, to carry out these programs.

· A total of $6 million over 5 years for a program which cost-shares municipal improvements of storm drain outlets that dump untreated storm water and litter into county lakes, rivers and streams.
· A $3.4 million annual fund for land acquisitions that improve the water quality of Yahara River lakes and their tributaries
· Initial funding of $4 million over 5 years, focusing on capital projects to implement recommendations from the Yahara CLEAN initiative to reduce phosphorus and sediment loadings from rural runoff
· A clean beach effort to partner with municipalities to protect beach users from algae blooms and associated health risks with beach scum deflectors at two beaches per year, and
· An effort to remove carp and reduce sediment, focusing first on Cherokee Marsh and the Mud Lake located in Roxbury Township. Based on the successful project in Lake Wingra, carp removal in Cherokee Lake should increase water clarity fairly quickly and be continued with carp exclusion and various sediment controls, like floating bog interceptor and naturalizing shorelines.

Please support this resolution.

We thank you for your attention.