

February 9, 2022

To: City Council Members

From: Chuck Lee, President
Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh

Re: La Crosse River Marsh Lead Study

The *Friends of the La Crosse River Marsh* support resolution # 22-0095 appropriating funds to complete the lead/PAH Remedial Action Options Report (RAOR). There are many important questions regarding lead remediation options, waste disposal, and cost that still need to be addressed. We see this as a necessary expense.

This is not a “second” lead study, as some have thought and as it has been reported in the press. Dusty reams of paper are not piling up on the shelf. An initial investigation by the city’s consultant, which yielded important data regarding levels of lead in water and in the sediment, served as the basis for a RAOR, which was sent to the WDNR. The WDNR responded with issues, questions, and suggestions for further analysis. The funds necessary to complete the RAOR are those in the resolution before you now.

The *Friends of the Marsh* have followed this process for several years. We have offered input at several stages along the way, to the WDNR, the city’s consultant, and to the city. In our opinion, there are remedial options that should be closely examined, but that have not been to date. Further, neither waste disposal nor cost have been fully explored. Without complete account of options, of waste disposal, and of cost the city cannot expect to come to an acceptable resolution of the many issues involved here.

We want to enhance the marsh, so that the services it provides – storm water storage, wildlife habitat, recreation, scenic beauty – will continue to be a foundation for public health and well-being. We urge the council to make this investment in our future.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at 608-785-2205 or at friendsofthemarsh@gmail.com.