

Hi, My name is Andy Morton and I am representing the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Hillside Ordinance. Along with other organizations and people, the Village of Cross Plains has shown over the years that it highly values Black Earth Creek as the focal point for the Black Earth Creek Watershed. Village of Cross Plains leaders have taken many important steps to enhance and protect our outstanding creek and watershed.

The Black Earth Creek is classified by the DNR as an Outstanding Resource Water and a Class 1 Trout Fishery. Moreover, the village has a major influence on the health of the stream as likely the greatest density of trout spawning activity occurs in the Village of Cross Plains (Zander Park Area). The decisions that Village of Cross Plains leaders make to protect the Black Earth Creek thus impact all of our downstream watershed neighbors including the Villages of Black Earth and Mazomanie, including the significant economic contributions that anglers, paddlers, and other visitors have on all watershed communities.

BECWA urges the Village of Cross Plains to maintain its current ordinance because it includes protections from stormwater runoff and erosion on the hillside that would negatively impact Black Earth Creek. Although there have been advancements in stormwater regulations and management over the decades; steep slopes like those included in the ordinance's protection zone may pose greater challenges for controlling runoff and sedimentation that could make its way to the stream, and potentially impact downstream watershed neighbors.

The village has an almost 30 year legacy of protecting the scenic beauty of the hillsides on the “edge of the Driftless” for both residents and visitors and note the importance of this village asset to all who live and recreate here.

Finally, we applaud this strong commitment of the village to the watershed over the years and hope that it continues into the future.