

**Town Chairs Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 23, 2013
Cross Plains Town Hall
3734 County Road P, Cross Plains 53528-9180**

Exec Board Present: Derr, Olson, Downing, Pulvermacher, Lee, Roehl.

Pledge of Allegiance at 7:07 pm.

Recommendations for members of the County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

County Board Chair, John Hendrick, asked the DCTA for recommendations for the Steering Committee charged with the five year review of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan. Bruce Stravenski, Windsor; Larry Zeimer, Vermont; Joe Ball and John Brixy, Blue Mounds; and Renée Lauber were recommended. Dennis Jelle will let Renée know tomorrow if Joe and John are interested.

Review ZLR (Zoning and Land Regulation) Committee composition

The lack of rural representation on the County's ZLR Committee was discussed. Mark Hazelbaker noted that under ZLR meeting protocols the only time the applicant can comment is during the public hearing. We need someone with a sympathetic perspective that understands the circumstances and facts of rural areas.

Motion: Dennis Jelle / Mike DuPlayee. Ask the County Board to consider revising the County Board rules to allow citizen appointment to the ZLR.

A town board member or plan commissioner from a rural area would add needed perspective

Carried unanimously.

Update on reform of the Capital Area Regional Plan Commission

Reform efforts since the last Town Chairs meeting (June 2012) were reviewed.

Pat Downing read a letter from Bob Wipperwirth, Chair, town of Windsor. (Attached to minutes) Bob is a member of the "Blue Ribbon Task Force" that was appointed by the DCTA Executive Board to look at ways to improve CARPC. Pat noted that the recommendation included in the letter (to ask Dane County Executive Parisi to form a Task Force, similar in representation to the BPP to publically discuss CARPC reforms with a 6 month timeframe) was the recommendation of the Task Force.

If after six months of meeting, it was determined there was a lack of progress, then the member Towns of DCTA could vote for dissolution of CARPC, if that was the determination at that time.

Motion: Pat Downing/ Milo Bruenig. Move that the DCTA accept the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force that a Task Force be put together to solve the problems of CARPC. Ask Dane County Executive Parisi to create the Task Force. The DCTA will review progress in 6 months.

Lyle Updike noted that he supports the motion but would expect to see something addressing CARPC in the 2014 County Executive Budget.

Carried unanimously.

Direction on CARPC program audit scope statement.

The DCTA request for a program audit (made at the 11/7/2012 Membership Meeting) was discussed.

The Dane County Board Executive Committee will meet in early February and consider 7 audit requests. Funding the CARPC program audit will be one of them. Pat Downing stated that he made the motion to ask for a performance audit of CAPRC. The more he thinks of it he questions how the results would be used. There is no Exec. Director or BPP direction (because of an inability to set meeting dates). Who would have the authority to ensure that changes are made? Would this be money well spent? Does the DCTA still want to proceed with the audit request?

Consensus was to go forward with the request. Renée will work with Jerry on developing and submitting scope questions.

Sheriff Mahoney

The Sheriff reviewed Intelligence Based Policing – shows dates, times, trends in crimes to get people in the right place at the right time.

Q: How wide spread is the mail box issue with people taking mail out mail boxes?

A: It is occurring in areas around the county. The town of Middleton has been hit. We are also seeing metal thefts. People braking into vacant homes and taking copper piping and wiring etc.

Q: Are you aware of the issues the fire departments are having with the 911 center? When the 911 calls go in they also go to the Middleton Police Department it takes an additional minute before they get a response from the 911 center. The delay is serious. They ask too many questions before they dispatch the people. The fire chiefs are meeting with some resistance on working with the 911 center.

A: That is being handled by the Dane Com Governance Board.

Q: How do you feel about Dane Com?

A: I am comfortable with the direction it is going.

Dane County Water Quality Plan, Appendix I (private waste water treatment systems) and Appendix B Surface Water Quality

CARPC is in the process of updating the Dane County Water Quality Plan – public hearing on 2/14/13.

Jerry noted that he, Renée Lauber and Tim Roehl will be meeting with Larry Palm and Karmran Mesba tomorrow on this issue.

Mark noted that state law has changed since 2004 when the document was last updated. State legal changes now preclude local government regulation of both well location and onsite treatment systems. Page 1-6 refers to large systems in clusters stating that they should only be approved where wells can be protected from excessive nitrate levels. Setbacks and locations are all regulated by code.

This issue is important. Having the statement (page 1-6, #3) in this document it will add to red flags that are used by the ZLR and to deny splits that property owners are entitled to. It will be used to regulate land use in rural Dane County and that is a problem.

Mark praised the work in Appendix B - a lengthy analysis of existing surface water quality conditions, challenges and possible actions.

Motion: Milo Bruenig/ Greg Hyer. Ask CARPC to remove regulatory language in Appendix I (page 1-6) that could be used to regulate land use. Carried unanimously.

Discussion of Dane County action on Blue Mounds re-zone petition.

The handling of this petition by the county Zoning committee has raised concerns about the implementation of comprehensive plans.

Dennis Jelle – noted that the proposal is consistent with the town's plan. The ZLR first had issues with the length of the driveway – which they do not regulate. Then chapter 79 issues. Then questions about Health and Human Services access. Is there anything anyone can do to get a handle on the ZLR? Dennis asked for suggestions. Suggestions included: Ask your supervisor to help. Hire a lawyer. Dedicate a town road where the driveway is. Talk to Mt. Horeb about taking over zoning. WTA legislative agenda this year includes making changes to state law to allow towns to withdraw from county zoning.

By-Laws Committee

Because of lack of volunteers, the Executive Board will draft changes to the by-laws.

Other Business

Jim Pulvermacher reported on the Dane Com Governance Board. Three towns (York, Pleasant Springs and Montrose have not signed the agreement. Invoices for the operations and maintenance will be send out soon. The County has asked the feds for an extension of deadline for system (the towers and generators are done). It might be fall before the system is up and running. They are asking for no extensions past 2013 from the vendor.

WTA District meeting in Deforest on Saturday.
Annual legal update next Wednesday – free at the Sheraton.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.