

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
August 15, 2012 – 7:00pm
Sun Prairie Town Hall
5556 Twin Lane Road, Marshall 53559

Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:05 pm.

Pledge of allegiance led by Sun Prairie Town Chair, Lyle Updike.

Introduction of Guests. Jerry Derr welcomed WTA Executive Director, Rick Stadelman and Representative Gary Hebl.

Lakes and Watershed Commission

Sue Jones, Coordinator, Lakes and Watershed Commission; Jeremy Balousek, Urban Conservation Engineer, Dane County Land Conservation; and Lyle Updike, member Lakes and Watershed Commission, presented information on a review of current county storm water ordinances for compliance with state rules. An issue paper dated 8/15/12 was distributed. It was emphasized that work on this was in the preliminary stages and that everything was in draft form. Next staff will be going to the Farm Bureau and Yahara Pride to share the same information. Staff would like to have changes made with an effective date of Jan 1, 2013.

Rural Broadband Discussion –Todd Violante, Director, Dane Co. Planning and Development

Todd Violante noted that rural broadband is not a conventional planning topic. In Dane County the discussion started in the context of a proposal from a wireless service provider based out of Green Bay (Bug Tussel Wireless). They approached Dane County and a dozen or so other counties about providing service with financing through Midwest Disaster Recovery Bonding which expires at the end of this year. Dane County has not responded to the proposal. Issues like financial risk (in the event the company defaults), no time for competitive bidding RFP process, and fairness have put the proposal on pause. The benefits of access to educational opportunities, rural economic development, and others have prompted interest in exploring broadband more thoroughly. Todd stated that he was at the meeting to share information and find out town feelings on the need for rural broadband. Questions for discussion: How significant an issue is broadband? What is the perception of the extent of coverage? Would towns be willing to take part in a collaborative effort with the county to improve coverage? What can towns/county do to improve service?

Suggestions:

- Survey to find out what we have and don't have.
- How does this compare with new DaneCom system? Can the two be paired?
- The town of Three Lakes in Vilas County – have a town owned system they use as an economic development tool.
- There will be a workshop at the WTA (Wisconsin Towns Association) convention on broadband. UW Extension broadband sustainability committee is trying to get more understanding of the benefit to rural areas.
- Regarding the question of "Who needs it?" The November election is the perfect time for towns to put a question on the ballot so information can be collected for the county.

-Highly recommend bidding system for the service.

-Q: Could towns use broadband as an income stream? A: It is conceptual at this point, Dane County hasn't even thought of how we would pay for a consultant to study this. We are not looking to have something in place to take advantage of the Midwest Disaster Recovery Bonds. We need to approach this in a thought out way rather than reacting to the timeline based on the bonds deadline.

-We should be careful about putting limited public money into something that could become technically obsolete.

ATC Badger Coulee Transmission Line

Todd Violante briefly discussed the proposed transmission line from west Middleton to LaCrosse. He suggested that the affected towns could get together with Dane County to send a response regarding the proposed routes to the PSC (Public Service Commission) and ATC. It was noted that Berry and Springfield have already sent in comments.

Farmland Preservation Plan Update

Renee Lauber noted that the subcommittee working on the Farmland Preservation Plan met on 7/23/12 and addressed the concerns sent in by towns. (an email with detailed information from that meeting was sent to towns). The ZLR (zoning and land regulation committee) will hold a public hearing on the plan on September 25, 2012.

A1-Ex Ag, A-4, and AB Ordinance Amendments (OAs)

Renee Lauber noted that changes made to the zoning districts were required as part of DATCP's Working Lands Initiative and have gone through the Chapter 10 task Force. The changes should provide more opportunities for rural economic development. The OAs were sent out to towns for comment with an information deadline of 8/13. The OAs should be introduced tomorrow and have a public hearing at the ZLR on 9/25/12. Town action on the OAs will be late October.

Pat Downing noted that the performance based approach to the OAs is going to allow the rural economy to be more responsible to this generations activities. This was the brainchild of Dane County staff and they should get credit for it.

OA 11, 2011-2012 to amend Chapter 75 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances to specify that required street frontage (66 feet) may be met through fee ownership or by easement.

This OA would change the "66 foot rule" that requires 66 feet of public road frontage for a lot. It would add the use of easements to meet the requirement. Pat Downing noted that the current road frontage requirement can include a cliff, wetland or other land that would prohibit actual road access. The intent of the law is to make sure lots have proper access. The law does not do this and instead creates situations that take up extra land.

Pat Downing formed a group to address this issue - Dane County Planning Staff, Majid Allan; Town of Dunn Staff, Erica Schmitz; Town of Vermont Supervisor, Larry Zeimer; Zoning and Land Regulation Committee (ZLR) Member, John Hendrick; and Dane County Towns Association Advisor, Renée Lauber

At ZLR last night Pat asked to have the word “exception” removed from the OA in referring to allowing the use of an easement. The intent of the OA is to allow an easement option and not require ownership of road frontage. Easements should not have to meet an “exception” standard. Pat noted that there is a long checklist of items that will be required if an easement is used (maintenance agreement, conformity with town plans, conformity with town driveway standards, etc).

Since this is not a chapter 10 amendment (it will not be sent directly to towns for a vote), Pat ask supporters to send comments to the County Board.

Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC)

Mark Hazelbaker noted that at the last Budget and Personnel Panel (BPP) meeting the CARPC budget request was reduced to meet the level requested by the County Executive, that a motion to name an Executive Director that did not pass, and that the legality of the BPP was questioned.

The DCTA has appointed a Negotiating Team to pursue resolution to the problems the towns have. The team includes Bob Wipperfurth, Pat Downing, Tim Roehl and Renee Lauber.

The next BPP meeting is scheduled for October 2nd. The DCTA asked for a meeting in September – but we cannot get a confirmed date from the DCCVA.

Clarify direction given DCTA regarding CARPC Dissolution Resolutions at June Town Chairs meeting.

Jeff Baylis, CARPC Commissioner, stated that he was at the June Town Chairs meeting. It was his impression that the DCTA was going to pursue fixing what was wrong. If you push for dissolution – why would anyone work to fix it?

Bob Wipperfurth expressed dismay that we are here tonight talking about this. The motion (made by Mr. Wipperfurth at the June Town Chairs meeting) was that we are going to work to fix CARPC for a period of time. The question was brought up afterward about dissolution. Bob stated that his intent was if towns wanted to pursue dissolution on their own - so be it. But DCTA Executive Committee members should not be soliciting dissolution resolutions.

Mark Shervan stated he remembered things differently. Stopping dissolution was not stated in the motion. After that motion passed it was discussed and clearly stated that the motion did not stop the other course from happening.

Motion: John Van Dinter/Greg Hyer. Confirm Bob Wipperfurth’s motion from the town chairs meeting (June 13, 2012) and add do not actively pursue or lobby for dissolution until directed to by a vote of the membership.

Discussion centered on adding a timeframe to the resolution.

-Without having a date it is a deep dark tunnel.

-We need to let them know we are serious about this.

- The DCTA has these meetings every few months. Next meeting is 11/7 . It can be put on the table at any future meeting of this group.

-How are we going to measure success? We will be able to determine progress?

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Steven Anders/Tim Roehl. Consider asking CARPC to show how to alter their current budget to find funding for a part or full time Executive Director.

Discussion: Sue Studz, CARPC Commissioner, noted that the budget that was approved by the BPP is less than proposed by CARPC. This will reduce output of CARPC. There will be furlough days and pay freezes. What do you not want to not get done?

Jeff Baylis, CARPC Commissioner, noted that what is broken with CARPC is the BPP. Only one person is elected to a county wide office. The BPP should be elected to that office and should be held accountable.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: John Van Dinter/ Steven Anders. Consider asking CARPC to address the issue of BPP responsibility. Carried unanimously.

Other

Rick Stadelman gave a WTA update. He noted on line video training – the WTA would like feedback and has not had any feedback yet.

The next Membership Meeting agenda should address the Dane County ZLR membership.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.