

**DCTA Membership Meeting**  
September 17, 2014 – 7:00pm  
Town of Berry Hall  
9046 State Road 19, Mazomanie, WI

**Present:** Tony Varda, Berry; Don Witmer Kean, Berry; Joe Kruchten, Berry; Brenda Kahl, Berry; Vern Wendt, Black Earth; Dale Beske, Rutland; Milt Sperle, Rutland; Ted Olson, Dunkirk; Jim Pulvermacher, Springfield; Jerry Derr, Bristol; Tim Roehl, Middleton; Lyle Updike, Sun Prairie; Erv Breunig, Roxbury; Nick Ganser, Roxbury; Tom Wilson, Westport; Don Madelung, Windsor; Doug Meier, Vermont.

**Also Present:** John Dejung, Dane County; Gary Pelletier, General Communication; Renée Lauber, DCTA Policy Advisor.

Meeting Called to order by President Derr at 7:02 pm.

Pledge of allegiance led by Tony Varda, Berry Town Chair.

**Update on DaneCom, Dane County Director of Public Safety Communications, John Dejung**  
John introduced Gary Pelletier. He is a manager at General Communication, the vendor responsible for taking care of DaneCom once it is up and operational and will help answer technical questions.

Mr. Dejung explained the context and history of DaneCom. A few years ago the Federal government mandated that the radio system be narrow banded to allow for more users. Locally this was seen as an opportunity to build a new system to take care of some communication issues. DaneCom 1, a 30 million project with significant O&M costs was proposed. The proposal was costly and was scaled back by the county board with urging from other elected officials. Changes to the system to reduce costs came up with a proposal referred to as DaneCom 2. The new design excluded the city of Madison. The county board set a cost cap of 18 million on the new system. With less capital investment there were also less operations and maintenance costs. With the smaller project came reductions in what the system would provide. It reduced how many channels are on the system (capacity). It also reduced coverage. 95% or more coverage in the county is now the goal.

The system is behind schedule. The deadline to comply with the Federal narrow banding requirements has been extended to end of year and can be extended beyond that. Municipalities are currently paying for O&M for leases and staffing (Chad Fleck). The County Executive is working with Harris (the company building DaneCom) to get a significant O&M refund.

Several maps showing radio coverage in Dane County were passed out. The point was made that predicted coverage under DaneCom is far better than the current system. Maps showed portable coverage at the hip in a wood frame house.

Mr. Dejung stated that he thought DaneCom was going to be up and operational this fall. Harris has just asked for another 6 month extension. The silver lining is that the delay should benefit the system. It will allow time for reprogramming the portable Motorola radios that are having issues with logging into the WiscCom system instead of DaneCom. It will also allow time to work with Harris

and the fire chiefs to look at how we operate the fire ground analogue channel. Another benefit is that Harris will add a new and different software system to run DaneCom, an upgrade. The change offers better coverage and backup hardware and software.

Is DaneCom causing problems for our current system? Is DaneCom interfering with the current system? What happened yesterday in Blue Mounds was initially reported as a DaneCom interference problem. We have looked into the event and found that the Madison Radio Shop was doing maintenance on the current system and changed the transmitting towers. DaneCom interference was blamed. We are still investigating but it doesn't look like it was a DaneCom issue. We also have Harris Corp. working on it.

How is this going to interface with public works? We would like them to use it. Some public works are now using DaneCom (t. of Roxbury and v. of Deforest). One of the beauties of a trunked radio system is that lots of people can use it. One of the goals is to improve interoperability. You have the capability to have a talk group without having to use a cell phone or switch to a different radio.

President Derr recognized Representative Diane Hesselbein and thanked Mr. Dejung and Mr. Pelletier for presenting at the meeting.

### **Workgroup for model ordinance on Implements of Husbandry**

Mr. Derr stated that good information could be found on the Wisconsin Towns Association, DOT and Farm Bureau websites. DCTA would like to put a workgroup together and work with the highway department on a local ordinance and have uniformity across the county. He noted that the town of Berry has a fairly comprehensive weight limit ordinance already. He is expecting "trailer" legislation in the next state legislative session. Mr. Derr asked for a few people to work on this. Tony Varda, Tom Wilson and Jim Pulvermacher volunteered. It was noted that the State raised weight limits but didn't give more money for maintenance. The constitutional amendment to lock up transportation funds was also discussed.

Jim Pulvermacher noted that as we keep looking at more and more budget constrictions, we may have to revert back to gravel roads that can handle the additional weight. The town roads were never built for the kind of weight they are now subject to.

Having something in the model ordinance for putting pipes in to carry manure in the road r-o-w was suggested.

### **Updates:**

- State legislation allowing towns out of county zoning is being drafted. Has the county done anything? Legislation was delayed because the county was going to do something. Jim Pulvermacher noted that Springfield is updating their Comp Plan and is going to put in rules of what would happen if they get out of county zoning. It was also noted that this is a town choice bill, towns don't have to opt out.
- Renée reported that the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee hasn't met in sometime. There is no update.
- Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). The DCTA has filed an amicus brief in the case. The question of what authority the BPP has will likely not be settled

with this case. Comments were also made about the September CARPC meeting. Having four USA amendment public hearings in one night shows the lack of professional management. People were frustrated at attending and not having an opportunity to comment because they ran out of meeting time. It was suggested that this action was done on purpose by CARPC (passive aggressive management) to highlight their budget issues. It was also noted that only 9 commissioners (out of 13) showed up for the meeting. Since amendments need 8 votes to pass it is challenging to get approvals with only 9 members present.

- EMS Insurance. The DOR ruled in our favor on this case. As far as we know the County has not appealed the ruling.

- Lakes and Watershed Commission. Lyle Updike, DCTA representative on the Commission, gave an update on the Commission's budget recommendations. Most of the Commission's budget deals with other agencies like a boat for the sheriff. They are working on building things back into their budget to maximize the use of existing equipment. For example, the county has 1 million invested in weed harvester equipment but has to shut them down because of their limited LTE budget. Community engagement is also a priority and being proactive on issues. For example, they reached out regarding new storm water legislation and ironed out issues first. They also have a new website. Anyone that has a water related project in Dane County can add their project and get volunteers etc. for their project. They will also be dealing with salt as MMSD is at its limit for chlorides. Old water softeners is one source. Working with private landscape operators and homeowners is a priority. Public info gathering and community engagement is scheduled.

- Resource Protection Corridors. Jim Pulvermacher gave an update on the town of Springfield. The town invited Curt Codal to give a presentation to joint Plan Commission and Town Board and he brought a map. They have asked for a large printed map and have not received one. Dane County needs to notify everybody about this issue and send all towns a printed map. Lyle Updike noted that his town also had a meeting. They came out and brought the map.

- Wisconsin Towns Association. Jerry Derr noted that the WTA budget and finance workshops are going on. The convention is the end of October in Stevens Point. Legislative Council is doing a paper on town fence law. He asked for a poll of how many people have done fence viewing. Four towns have done fence viewing. The consensus was that it is an old law but don't tamper with it – it is a way to get people together to resolve issues and avoid legal action. It works.

Next DCTA meeting October 15, 2014. Next membership meeting November 19, 2014.

Motion: Varda/Pulvermacher. Adjourn at 8:33 pm. Carried.