

Minutes
DCTA Town Chairs Meeting
June 13, 2012
Dunn Town Hall, 4156 County Road B, McFarland, WI

Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:08 pm.

DCTA Executive Board present: Bob Lee, Jim Pulvermacher, Tim Roehl, Pat Downing, Steve Schultz, Ted Olson, Jerry Derr.

Town Chairs present: Albion, Berry, Blue Mounds, Bristol, Christiana, Cottage Grove, Cross Plains, Dane, Dunkirk, Dunn, Medina, Middleton, Oregon, Perry, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Vermont, Vienna, Westport, Windsor.

Chair Derr gave a background/history of the DCTA and the old RPC. The DCTA worked to dissolve the old RPC in the late 1990's and the process took a long time. In 2007 CARPC was established to replace the old RPC. There is a requirement under state law – when Dane County was designated as an area of special water quality needs – to have a regional planning commission.

Issues that have arisen with CARPC are how much oversight the Budget and Personnel Panel (BPP) has. CARPC was established with a BPP oversight panel. The intent was to have elected officials – responsible to tax payers of Dane County – in charge of the budget. There are concerns by a number of people, including the County Executive, that the commission is overstepping its bounds regarding the budget.

Chair Derr noted this meeting is for Town Chairs, the DCTA Executive Committee, and CARPC Commissioners. He would like to limit discussion to those people.

Discussion/Questions:

One option is to explore replacing CARPC with a private entity.

Q: Where do cities and villages (DCCVA) stand on dissolving CARPC?

A: They sent an email to their membership about this. It does not appear that they have taken any official action on it. The DCTA has not discussed this with the DCCVA - we wanted to talk to towns before we sat down with cities and villages.

Q: Can the DCTA do this by ourselves?

A: Yes, a majority of the municipalities in Dane County need to sign a resolution to dissolve CARPC. There are 62 municipalities in Dane County – 34 of those are towns. The Governor does need to sign final documents. The law says the Governor “shall” sign – but last time that did not happen right away.

Q: Have we learned whether the HUD grant can be reassigned?

A: The DCTA has been talking to the County Executive about this. He has been talking with the regional director of HUD. We do not have an answer yet but all indications are the grant can be reassigned. We need to make sure that it is covered.

It could take several years to actually complete dissolution. If we have the resolutions from towns we would be in a position of some strength to talk about replacement at the same time.

An alternative is to list our concerns and ask if we can fix them. Unless we start the process, we would suffer a year or maybe more continuing in this dysfunctional situation.

Executive Director –there has not been one. CAPRC needs a person directly accountable to the BPP and to have someone in there that can run it properly.

FUDA (Future Urban Development Areas) has not been done.

If the commission lacks the capacity to say no to USA requests – if they are going to be granted by the DNR anyway then why are we spending \$800,000 on CARPC? They have improved every USA petition they have looked at.

Q: Why now? – These complaints have been around for a long time. Why are we leading the charge in this aggressive fashion when it seems like no municipality is happy?

A: We are the only entity that has the votes to dissolve CARPC.

The Town of Windsor heard about this from a former CARPC commissioner – should have heard from DCTA itself. The Town Chairs meeting should have been before the email asking towns to dissolve CARPC. The process is flawed. We pay dues and expect more. The DCTA has been talking about this for a year and has not shared discussions with the membership. Consult the towns and give us the respect we deserve. We need to think long and hard on this. This whole process could have been handled differently.

We need to reconfigure this thing – towns are not being protected. We need to get into a position where we can start to bargain with the cities and village so we can protect the towns. What we built back we thought was going to be better – but the cities and villages are not participating in good faith. We are right back where we were. The towns that want to develop will not be able to. The towns that want to develop and those that don't are going to be eaten up.

We would be far better off trying to fix – rather than break CARPC – the DNR doesn't have the staff – they will rely on administrative rules (we have already seen that). Process by which this was handled – the press was talked to before the towns were talked to- out of the proper order. Coming up with any policy other than dissolving is going to be hard – because the ball is already in play.

What is this going to do to FUDAs our completion of FUDA- future FUDAs? If the staff bail then we don't have the staff to keep this continuing.

Goal is to get to a better result. We apologize for our process miss steps.

Data functions, core staff inventory, data analysis, mapping information, could not be done more efficiently if privatized.

This agency has run away – there is no oversight of CARPC there is a clear effort to make sure the BPP has no power and no control. The FUDA process is excellent – it can be done by the county as can the data analysis and do it just as well. If the county had it they would at least talk to the towns at the same time as the cities and villages that is not happening now. Accountability is a critical issue.

We need to find some way to make the BPP more functional.

Motion: Updike/Hampton. Go into recess to discuss possible motions. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Hampton/Updike. Hold resolutions and report to Dane County that the resolutions are coming in and that the County Board needs to take action on dissolution before the DCTA does anything else with the resolutions and put dissolution on the agenda for next general membership meeting of DCTA currently scheduled for July 11, 2012.

Motion failed.

Motion: Wipperfurth /Rattmann. Authorize DCTA Executive Committee to enter negotiations with appropriate parties to fix problems with CARPC, proper funding, hiring exec director, addressing BPP meeting structure, and to the extent possible, that the DCTA Executive Committee keep the membership informed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Farmland Preservation

Blue Mounds and Vermont have concerns. Renée will work with them and Dane County staff to make sure they are addressed.

Motion: Wipperfurth/Roehl. Adjourn. 9:50 pm.