

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
1/20/2021
Via Zoom

13 Towns Present: Bristol, Cottage Grove, Cross Plains, Verona, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Rutland, Dunkirk, Westport, Blue Mounds, Rutland, Springdale, Pleasant Springs.

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

Approval of 9/16/2020 Membership Meeting minutes

Motion: Duerst/Wilson. Approve minutes. Carried unanimously.

Yahara Clean Compact update – Paul Dearlove, Deputy Director, Clean Lake Alliance and James Tye, Executive Director, Clean Lake Alliance.

A presentation was given highlighting the history, participants and plans of Yahara CLEAN. The group is working to expand and bring in additional collaborators (DCTA joined in 2020) to speed up progress and achieve the goal of making our lakes useable to the public. Discussion focused on creating private solutions over government intervention.

Dane County ending their yard waste/compost collection was also discussed. Is there any information if the removal of the site/service is increasing P runoff to the lakes? The presenters did not know. Future Dane County plans were discussed. Renee will write a letter to Dane County and ask if there are plans for a facility.

Update on Dane County Redistricting Commission – Greg Hyer, DCTA Representative

Greg reported the commission has met 4 times. Tom Wilson and Greg are the only government representatives- it really is a citizens-based commission. Greg was on the commission last time (20 years ago) and reported that they never really saw a lot of the data. They are seeing data now. They spent the first several meetings getting a handle on the law and how you do redistricting. District populations will likely have to be around 15 to 16,000 people. He noted there are many pieces to balance including minority representation, geography, political boundaries, population, communities of interest, etc. They will be using a new software program that will allow for anyone to make a district map proposal. The census has been delayed so the timetable for some work is uncertain. The goal is to prepare 3 maps to present to the county board. Retaining the 37 seats, thanks to this group, will help to maintain town representation.

The importance of school district boundaries, need for review by local clerks, previous attempts to reduce rural representation, the loss of conservative county board members, and the impact of moving the County Board elections to coincide with national elections were discussed.

Municipal Shared services – What are we sharing now (formal and informal agreements)? What options should we look into/consider?

Sun Prairie joined with neighboring municipalities on bidding for paving contractors. It has been working well.

The concept of DCTA buying a boom mower for participating towns to use or rent back was brought up. Possible cost savings if many towns rented one was discussed (rather than the DCTA owning a machine). Springfield rents with 2 or 3 neighboring towns now and gets a better rate that way. If the number of towns renting was increased to say 10 – an even better price might be had. Shouldering is another area where working together could help get better prices.

Overall, if you know you are going out to bid for something, call your neighbors and see if you can join together for bids.

Updates: WTA, CARPC, MMSD, Lakes and Watershed, DaneCom

WTA (Wisconsin Towns Association) staff are lobbying at the Capitol. One issue that has resurfaced after many years is a county wide assessment bill – hopefully it will not go anywhere. Jerry noted that money is likely coming to local governments again. If your town is thinking of upgrades, consider this funding source in your planning.

Opening roads to ATVs was discussed. Cross Plains had a heated town debate. The village ended up allowing it and Cross Plains denied it. It was a close vote.

CARPC - Steve Steinhoff, Agency Director stated that CARPC is working with the MPO to host a series of webinars first one is 2/18 at noon that will discuss “What can your regional planning agency can do for you” and will let people know the services they can offer and also hear from municipalities on what they are interested in learning about. He also noted work with Black Earth Creek Watershed to obtain a FEMA grant to do a watershed plan focusing on flood resilience, green infrastructure strategies and reducing stormwater runoff. CARPC has two new commissioners from Madison and David Pfeiffer is now vice chair.

MMSD -Tom Wilson reported that revenue is down 5% for 2020 because of many businesses being closed. Rates have gone up 3 to 4% for some communities. Renee noted receiving an information request related to Badfish Creek and representation from southern Dane County on MMSD.

Lakes and Watershed – The illicit discharge and stormwater runoff ordinances that were reviewed in a December DCTA meeting with Jeremy Balousek have been submitted to Dane County corp counsel. After that review, they will be considered by the county board.

Dane Com - Director, Dejung retired just before Thanksgiving. Louis Bixler a former dispatch supervisor from Dane County is the new Director. Things are going well with him. Latest software update went well. No plans for DaneCom Governing Board meetings until COVID is done.

Adjourn

Motion: Hampton/ Wilson. To Adjourn at 9:23 PM. Carried unanimously.