

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Via Zoom

Towns Present: Larry Beck, Albion; Jerry Derr, Bristol; Kristi Williams, Kris Hampton, Mike DuPlayee, Cottage Grove; Norm Monsen, Ted Olson, Dunkirk; Cynthia Richson, Middleton; David Pfeiffer, Pleasant Springs; Martha Gibson, Primrose; Deana Zentner, Rutland; Wayne Hefty, John Rosenbaum, Springdale; Jim Pulvermacher, Springfield; Tom Mathies, Verona, Mary Manering; Westport.

Also Present: Renee Lauber, DCTA; Alex Andros, Dane County; Steve Putt, AECOM, Jeff Whitman, AECOM.

Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:00 PM.

Approval of 9/21/2022 Membership Meeting minutes

Motion: Manering/Gibson. Approve 9/21/2022 minutes. Carried unanimously.

County Broadband Strategy Presentation. Alex Andros, Dane County Planning talked about a new staff position in the Planning and Development Department expected to start on 6/1/2023. A goal is for the person to act as a clearing house for information, look for grant opportunities, and work on education. In the meantime, people can contact Alex with their issues/questions. Steve Putt and Jeff Whitman from AECOM gave a presentation on work they are doing to map the fiber and cell towers available and the advertised versus reported speeds in the county. They are contacting internet service providers to make connections for future service. A grant application related to the affordable connectivity program was discussed. Using double copper wire was discussed. This is antiquated technology that is being discontinued by carriers. (Middleton and Pleasant Springs joined.) Federal and state grant criteria were discussed. The rules are not set yet but will be for unserved or underserved areas. Grants will be competitively bid with public/private partnerships having an advantage. In areas with 2 to 3 homes per mile, getting fiber will be very difficult, they may need other options.

Wisconsin Towns Association presentation on their legislative agenda and plans for 2023. Joe Ruth, Government Affairs Director/Legal Counsel went over the legislative agenda ([Link](#)). He noted that more detail and talking points will be provided at the WTA district meetings. Ensuring public safety and dealing with fire and EMS district issues is their priority issue. Initial conversations regarding allowing local governments to reduce speed limits without DOT approval have been good but most legislators are focused on the budget right now. "Without DOT approval" means that an official traffic/speed study would not be required. A "finding of fact" from the Town Board would be required.

Consider DCTA 2023 Operating Budget

Motion: Pulvermacher/Gibson. Approve 2023 operating budget. Carried unanimously.

Updates: DCTA, CARPC, MMSD, Lakes and Watershed, Dane Com

DCTA: Lauber reminded towns of the meeting calendar and talked about using mailchimp. The Executive Board supported OA 44 dealing with CUP appeals and OA 57 dealing with cell tower siting. The county approved a \$300,000 new PDR grant program and will be working on program criteria. Cynthia Richson was appointed to CARPC. Lauber is working on a roads educational session for February. The listening session last week with the Land & Water Resources Department on erosion control and stormwater mgmt was well

attended and a “cheat sheet” of steps and expectations will follow. On 1/31 there will be a meeting with Kathy Kuntz, Director of the County Office of Energy and Climate Change on federal funding for local sustainability projects. (Springdale representatives left the meeting.)

CARPC: Pfeiffer was reelected chair and Hampton is also on the Executive Committee. CARPC is working on proactive planning and pivoting to an approach of more guiding the region than regulating the region.

MMSD: Concerns regarding the possible discontinuation of flow to the Badger Mill Creek/Upper Sugar River and MMSD fees for existing home conversions were discussed. Homeowners resisting moving from failing septic systems to sewer because of connection fees is an issue. Could a different fee structure be developed for existing homes in these situations. Renee will check in with Tom Wilson, who was not able to make the meeting, and report back.

Other: Support for the jail project and the upcoming Dane County Board vote on the issue was discussed.

Motion: Beck/Pulvermacher. Send letter of DCTA support for the Sheriff’s version on the Dane County Jail to the Sheriff and County Board. Carried. Mathies opposed.

Adjourn

Motion: Pulvermacher/Hampton. Adjourn. Carried.