

DCTA Executive Board Meeting
February 15, 2023
Via Zoom

Present: Pulvermacher, Olson, Gibson, Manering, Anders, Mathies

Absent: Jerry Derr, at the Governor's Budget Address

Also Present: Lauber (DCTA), Michael Mucha (MMSD), Kathy Lake (MMSD), Deana Zentner (Rutland), Jim (Rutland), Ben Kollenbroich (Dunn), David Pfeiffer (Pleasant Springs), Patty Peltekos (Primrose), Mike Rupiper (CARPC), Lindsay Scheidell (MMSD)

Meeting called to order by Vice President Pulvermacher at 7:00 pm.

Motion: Manering/Olson. Reorder agenda to have MMSD discussion first. Carried unanimously.

Consider MMSD fees for existing homes and the possible discontinuation of flow to the Badger Mill Creek/Upper Sugar River. Discussion with Michael Mucha, Chief Engineer and Director of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)

Mucha explained how MMSD fees are calculated. The fee structure was reviewed in 2016 and determined to be the fairest way to assess fees. (Gibson, Scheidell, Rupiper, Anders joined the meeting.) Pfeiffer discussed connection fee concerns for existing development currently on septic. He noted that with new development / land annexation, wealth is created and there is incentive to connect to the sewer system. If improving water quality is the goal, changing the fees for existing infrastructure is needed. Right now, it is less expensive to stay on septic than to connect to sewer. Also, fees are charged by square footage of the lot, not the house. Existing town lots tend to be larger thus adding to the cost issue. Ways to achieve better water quality outcomes when the infrastructure is there were requested. Mucha discussed deed restriction and payment plan options to defer costs. He will do more research and report back to Lauber.

Kathy Lake, Pollution Prevention Manager with MMSD gave a powerpoint presentation on the need for phosphorus compliance in Badger Mill Creek, an area that is urbanizing quickly. Seven preliminary compliance approaches were considered. Three: modifying flow, water quality trading, and tertiary treatment (adding technology at the plant) are still being considered/evaluated. The MMSD Commission will be presented with a preferred alternative this May and MMSD will submit a final compliance option report to the DNR also in May.

The diversion proposal involves moving MMSD discharge water from Badger Mill Creek to Bad Fish Creek. Questions regarding the impact of additional flow to Bad Fish Creek were brought up. The Town of Dunn noted that they had not been informed by MMSD of this proposal (the MMSD effluent discharge to Bad Fish Creek starts in Dunn and goes through Grass Lake). MMSD stated that the maximum flow and concentration levels would not change in Bad Fish Creek. Erosion concerns were discussed.

Concerns about reducing flow to a Class 1 trout stream and making the Badger Mill Creek / Sugar River more susceptible to climate change were brought up.

Issues with the lack of enforcement, monitoring and town consultation from phosphorus trading by the Belleville Sewerage District were discussed. Resulting damage to town infrastructure and government agencies working against each other (tiling wetlands created by a different government program) were also brought up. (Mucha, Lake, Scheidell, Rupiper, Kollenbroich left the meeting.)

Approve 12/14/2022 minutes

Motion: Gibson/Olson. Approve minutes. Carried unanimously.

Consider Financial Report

Motion: Olson/Gibson. Approve Financial Report. Carried unanimously.

Consider extending Cynthia Richson's CARPC appointment. Cynthia Richson was appointed in October 2022 to serve out the remainder of Mark Geller's term which expires Spring 2023. A re-appointment would be for a term that expires Spring 2026.

Motion: Gibson/Mathies. Appoint Cynthia Richson to 3 year term. Carried unanimously.

Review year end letter to towns and 2023 membership request

Motion: Gibson/Manering. Approve letter with suggested edits. Carried unanimously.

Consider request to organize town candidate debate.

There was consensus that no matter how careful you are, you can be perceived as helping one side.

Motion: Manering/Mathies. DCTA to not participate in organizing debates. Carried unanimously.

Review and consider updates to DCTA financial policy adopted May 2013

The financial policy was edited to make it reflect actual practices and clarify sections. The Board would like to review the edited document and then present it for consideration at the May 2023 Annual Meeting.

Motion: Olson/Anders. Adjourn at 9:30 PM. Carried.