

DCTA Annual Meeting  
Middleton Town Hall, May 17, 2023  
7555 W. Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI

**Towns Present:** Albion (1), Berry (2), Bristol (1), Cottage Grove (3), Cross Plains (1), Dane (2), Dunkirk (2), Middleton (1), Perry (1), Primrose (1), Rutland (4), Springfield (1), Sun Prairie (1), Vermont (1), Verona (4), Westport (3), York (1).

**Also Present:** Patrick Miles, Dane County Board; Steve Steinhoff, CARPC; David Pfeiffer, CARPC; Michelle Doolan, Dane County Board; Senator Hesselbein, Renee Lauber, DCTA.

Meeting called order by President Derr at 7:05 PM, Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions.

### **Election of DCTA Board of Directors**

Those present caucused and elected district directors. All DCTA directors were reelected. (Jerry Derr, Jim Pulvermacher, Steve Anders, Martha Gibson, Ted Olson, Mary Manering, Tom Mathies)

**Senator Hesselbein** was introduced. She stated that the Assembly is in session so no Assembly Representatives were able to make the meeting. AB 245 was discussed. The bill has a lot to do with towns, it covers shared revenue and quarries. Right now, the bill language is fluid. Jim Pulvermacher urged towns to contact their elected officials in opposition to the mineral extraction changes and loss of local control.

**Cynthia Richson**, Middleton Town Chair welcomed the group.

### **Consider January 18, 2023 Membership Meeting minutes**

Motion: Geller/Beck. Approve 1/18/23 minutes. Carried unanimously.

### **Presentation: The Town of Vermont's use of re-photography to produce input into the updating of their Comprehensive Plan, J. David Stanfield, Town of Vermont**

This work is being done to stimulate conversation and to provide citizen input and buy in for the planning process. The work will show town residents then and now photography illustrating changing land uses. Landowners will be interviewed about how they perceive the changes in land use and family/community structures. The project completion date is October 2023. There will be exhibits at the town hall, a book and suggestions for the town comprehensive plan.

### **Presentation: Oak wilt risk from roadside cutting and tree health issues to watch for in 2023, Michael Hillstrom, Forest Health Specialist, WI DNR**

Mr. Hillstrom focused his presentation on insect and disease management in towns for Spongy Moth and Oak Wilt. Spongy Moth (used be called Gypsy Moth), is an invasive moth introduced to the eastern US in 1869. The population increased dramatically in WI in 2022. Oak Wilt is a fungal disease of oaks. It is more severe in red oaks. Sap beetles spread fungal spores. The highest risk period is from April to July because the fungal mats are under the bark and the beetles are active. It is important for towns not to prune or do road maintenance that could damage oak trees during that time period. Utilities are not allowed to cut from 4/15 through 7/1 except during emergencies. Towns can develop a nuisance tree ordinance to address insect and disease issues. The DNR Forest Health website has lots of information. Towns can also sign up for the monthly newsletter.

### **Wisconsin Legislative Updates**

Jerry Derr reported on work the WTA (Wisconsin Towns Association) is doing to help towns get grant writers, increase road/transportation funding and increase shared revenue. They are also working at the federal level

opposing a proposal to increase weight limits on the interstate to 91,000 pounds. Also, they are addressing cyber security for town halls, many communities are vulnerable.

Motion: Mathies/Williams. To notify our state officials and the Wisconsin Towns Association that DCTA supports removing the provisions of AB 245 that would reduce or eliminate local authority over quarry operations. We support discussion with towns to resolve quarry issues while protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents who live near quarries. Motion carried unanimously. [Follow up: This motion was sent to state officials and the WTA on the following day.]

### **Consider changes to DCTA Fiscal Policy**

Motion: Pulvermacher/Gibson. Approve changes as presented. Carried unanimously.

### **Updates from DCTA representatives:**

DCTA Executive Director Lauber reported on the following:

-Joint DCCVA/DCTA training for newly elected officials, May 31 at the Alliant Center.

-January listening session with the Land and Water Department was well attended. They are working on developing a cheat sheet or quick guide for towns and plan commissions.

-There are two Dane County Ordinance Amendments (relating to daycare centers and salvage yards) currently out for approval by towns in county zoning. Let DCTA know if you have any issues with them.

-Broadband, several towns took advantage of the opportunity to meet with Jeff Whitman from AECOM.

-In April the Exec Board approved resolutions honoring Erv Breunig, Roxbury (43 years) and Tony Varda, Berry (16 years) for their years of service to their towns.

-Discussion with Majid Allan, Dane County Planning regarding changes to Conditional Use Permits including adding back provisions addressing revocation/enforcement and updating approval standards.

DaneCom Lauber read report submitted by Doug Meier: DaneComm is doing some appropriate maintenance with new microwave communications (data and voice between tower sites), site batteries, and likely dispatch consoles (the linked computers our dispatchers use) in the future. There will be some new costs as noted below; but \$85K should not be too severe once shared between all.

MMSD Lauber summarized the report that Tom Wilson submitted. The proposed Badger Mill Creek water diversion was discussed. Towns asked for the entire report to be emailed to towns.

Lakes and Watershed – Lyle Updike reported on available matching funds for PFAS testing, a new engineer added to help with the construction boom and to develop a fee in leu system.

Other: Pulvermacher reported that the opt out towns will be voting tomorrow on language to allow farm residences on active farms and will also be looking at allowing senior housing in towns. Ag farm housing would be an accessory use.

CAPRC – Pfeiffer/Steinhoff reported that the proactive cooperative planning committee effort is almost complete. Recommendations were presented to the commission and will be considered at the next meeting. They continue to provide planning, mapping and data services and process USA amendments. They are starting a grant funded project to do a watershed plan for the Lake Waubesa watershed.

### **Election of DCTA Officers**

Jerry Derr reelected as President and Jim Pulvermacher reelected as Vice President. Renee Lauber will continue as Secretary/Treasurer.

### **Adjourn**

Motion: Pulvermacher/Gibson. Adjourn at 9:15 PM.