

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
Town of Dunn
4156 County Rd B
McFarland, WI 53558

Towns Present: Albion (Larry Beck); Blue Mounds (Mary Ann Bellazzini); Bristol (Jerry Derr); Cottage Grove (Steve Anders, Kris Hampton); Dunkirk (Norm Monson, Ted Olson); Dunn (Steve Greb); Middleton (Cynthia Richson); Oregon (Laurie Fitzgerald, Kate Gladding, Carl Walser, Steve Jernegan, Arlan Kay); Pleasant Springs (Faith Schuck); Primrose (Martha Gibson); Rutland (Mark Porter, Kent Knutson, Jim Dorn); Springfield (Jim Pulvermacher); Sun Prairie (Lyle Updike); Verona (Tom Mathies, Mike Duerst); Westport (Mary Manering); York (Dean Helwig).

Also Present: Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk; Patrick Miles, Dane County Board Chair; Majid Allan, Dane County Planning; Chee Thao, Public Health Madison & Dane County; John Hausbeck, Public Health Madison & Dane County; Jeremiah Yee, Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Melissa Ratcliff, Dane County Supervisor and State Assembly Representative; Jaron McCallum, Dane County Planning; Jenna Jacobsen, State Assembly Representative; Allison Madison, Wisconsin Salt Wise Program Manager; David Pfeiffer, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission Chair; Cathy Hasslinger, Town of Dunn Clerk-Treasurer.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction of guests

DCTA President Jerry Derr called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Town of Dunn Chair Steve Greb welcomed the group. Jerry Derr introduced Melissa Ratcliff, Jenna Jacobsen, Patrick Miles, and Majid Allan.

Approval of May 17, 2022, Annual Meeting minutes.

Motion: Jim Pulvermacher/Kris Hampton. Approve 5/17/2023 minutes. Carried by voice vote.

Dane County Broadband Coordinator Jaron McCallum.

This is a new position in the Dane County Department of Planning and Development. Jaron said his goals include engaging with internet service providers (ISPs) and pursuing grant dollars, such as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program under the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). Jaron asked to connect with people interested in broadband to discuss underserved areas and possible providers. and encouraged people to check out resources. See the Broadband Task Force newsletter at <https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>. The PSC is accepting applications for the current round of capital projects grants. Applications are due November 7.

Responding to questions, Jaron said:

- The purpose of grants is to deploy infrastructure,
- Contact info: McCalum.Jaron@countyofdane.com 608-206-6316
- Charter Communications won grant funding from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) which has spurred activity in some towns.
- Funding is mainly through the PSC. Counties distribute funding for BEAD planning.
- An ISP would be the lead for a grant submission. If there's a question of one large application involving multiple towns vs. smaller applications then there's no single answers. The PSC tries to avoid creating unserved pockets.

- Please reach out to Jaron with contact info.

Additional links from Jaron:

Wisconsin Broadband Office (WBO):

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband.aspx>

WBPO Planning Map:

<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandPlanningMap/>

PSC Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Grants

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/CPFIInfrastructure.aspx>

Martha Gibson announced that the Town of Primrose is seeking a part-time clerk.

Security for the 2024 Election Cycle, Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell.

Scott discussed election security as we look towards the 2024 presidential election. The county is implementing storage of all municipal election equipment. Municipalities will be required to store equipment with the county except when equipment is used for election activities. Chain of custody will be established for all equipment. The county will be responsible for equipment that is lost/damaged during storage. Towns may choose to test equipment at the county location.

Scott asked people to be concerned about security of staff and election workers. He suggested considering layout, swipe-card access, and cameras, and going over emergency plans (for example, active shooter and power outage scenarios). Scott has coordinated de-escalation training for clerks.

Responding to questions, Scott said:

- In November, national experts will provide training, including emergency scenarios, for clerks.
- A big goal is to prevent human error. Mistakes can be amplified, stoking outrage.
- Elections workers should behave transparently, announcing what they are doing to avoid misunderstanding.
- Dane County is the most transparent county in the country. Images of all ballots and inspector reports are online.
- Towns still need to secure equipment when it is in their custody for elections.
- Clerks are receiving numerous public record requests. Requestors ask for confidential information such as IP addresses and user manuals for election software or try to persuade clerks to run inappropriate procedures.
- The county has a template for emergency plans.

WI Salt Wise Events and Resources, Wisconsin Salt Wise Program Manager Allison Madison.

See slides on the DCTA website <https://danecotowns.net/agendas-minutes/>

Salt Wise is a state-wide effort now part of CARPC. Allison said the program is needed due to increased use of road salt. For water softener salt entering sewer systems, statewide there is a correlation between groundwater hardness and DNR allowances for excess chloride discharge. Allison said that Salt Wise goals include:

- Improving water softener efficiency
- Transitioning from salt-based water softening

- Reducing road salt usage

Salt Wise practices to meet these goals include education (training, open houses, and monthly webinars) and implementing best management practices.

Responding to questions, Allison said:

- She may be able to help if a town is having difficulty accessing bulk brine.
- Brine uses less total salt so there is less availability to damage vehicles. Additives (magnesium chloride and calcium chloride) are more corrosive. Municipalities have transitioned from beet juice to a sugar mix.
- There is a range of costs to adding brine equipment to a vehicle. Search YouTube for “Brine on a Budget” to find Salt Wise webinar about the Town of Linn’s approach.

Consider DCTA Executive Board recommendation to keep dues at 2022/23 level.

Motion: Lyle Updike/Cynthia Richson. Keep dues at 2022/23 level. Carried by voice vote.

Chair Cynthia Richson, Town of Middleton, reviewed the contents of a memo from the town's legal counsel, Boardman Clark, that summarized the legal basis for the town's request for other towns in Dane County zoning to submit a resolution to the county by the October 7 deadline opposing the county's proposal to add salvage operations to the Manufacturing and Industrial (MI) zoning district as a conditional use. The Town of Middleton supports putting salvage operations in a separate zoning district as the conditional use permit "substantial evidence" requirement does not apply to rezone requests and would help keep salvage operations away from residential areas. Jim Pulvermacher made the point that towns used to have more discretion with CUPs.

PFAS Community Impact and Management, PHMDC Environmental Health Services Supervisor John Hausbeck and Environmental Health Specialist Chee Thao.

See slides on the DCTA website <https://danecotowns.net/agendas-minutes/>

John and Chee also said:

- PHMDC can help towns with fish advisory signs.
- The negotiated price for PHMDC private well-testing for PFAS is \$418, a volume discount from about \$600. Municipal wells are not included in this effort.
- Testing results are kept confidential. Results are used to try to understand system and may be confidentially shared with partners.
- If well water exceeds PFAS standards the DNR can provide bottled water for 6 months.
- There is no information that the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District tests fields for PFAS in the years following application of Metrogro.
- The strategy for town-sponsored testing would depend on the town’s goals – would want randomized spread to characterize town. (Cathy Hasslinger said the Town of Dunn shied away from testing and focused on sharing information.)
- The source of contamination is unknown for the contamination found west of Lake Waubesa.

Additional PFAS comments:

- Lyle Updike said the Lakes and Watershed Commission has been working on PFAS for 3 to 4 years and Dane County and the City of Madison have had strong responses to PFAS issues.

- Follow-up is needed to find out if towns have authority prohibit the spreading of Metro unless the concentration of PFAS is below a specified level.

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

Capital Area Regional Planning Commission: David Pfeiffer reported that CARPC is starting the process of recruiting for an executive director. This new position was approved by CARPC's Budget and Personnel Panel.

Lakes and Watershed Commission: Lyle Updike reported that last year an environmental engineer was added to the county Land and Water Resources Division. This engineer is involved in evaluating a potential fee-in-lieu program for stormwater management. A report is expected in April 2024 to weigh the benefits and costs of this program. Due to expiring terms, the LWC did not have a quorum for September.

Dane County Towns Association: Written report from Renee Lauber, DCTA executive director. Thank you to Cottage Grove for suggesting an educational session about rules for ATV routes in Dane County. Sheriff Barrett will be providing a speaker (Captain Kerry Porter) to discuss the new Dane County ordinance and what it means for towns and the operation of ATVs and UTVs on county roads. We are looking at either Thursday, 10-26, or Thursday, 11-2, as potential dates. If any town would like to host the meeting or has comments please contact Renee.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District: Written report from Tom Wilson, town commissioner. We are working on the budget for next year. Proposed increase for ratepayers about 9%. But keep in mind that amount will be spread across quite an increase in residential and commercial units. Might be about a \$25 per year annual increase for the average ratepayer, depending on how the local government bills. Still way below national average. Otherwise, no real issues with plant operations or personnel. If someone wants more budget information and timing for meetings, see the MMSD web site.

DaneCom: Written report from Chad Fleck, radio system administrator. DaneCom has taken over two sites from the City of Fitchburg. We are just about to begin the process of upgrading the microwave subsystem of DaneCom and are also in the process of replacing batteries at all the DaneCom sites. None of the microwave or battery costs will be passed on to the users and once the microwave subsystem upgrades are complete, there will be costs savings passed through to users.

Other: Jim Pulvermacher suggested looking at dangers due to large groups of bicyclists.

Adjourn

Motion: Jim Pulvermacher/Kris Hampton. Adjourn. Carried by voice vote at 9:24 PM.

Minutes prepared by Tom Mathies