

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
January 17, 2024
Via Zoom

18, Towns Present: Ted Olson, **Dunkirk**; Jim Pulvermacher, **Springfield**; Tom Mathies, Mark Geller, **Verona**; Mary Manering, **Westport**; Martha Gibson, **Primrose**; Jeff Bayliss, Grey Hyer, Patti Mullins, **Cross Plains**; Lyle Updike, **Sun Prairie**; Kristi Williams, Kris Hampton, Steve Anders, Mike DuPlayee, Mike Fonger, **Cottage Grove**; Nancy Nedveck, Ken Knutson, Mark Porter, **Rutland**; Cynthia Richson, **Middleton**; Mary Ann Bellazzini, Rick Van Domelen, **Blue Mounds**; Dean Helwig, **York**; Clerk Town of **Vermont**; Kate Gladding, Carl Walser, Laurie Fitzgerald, **Oregon**; Steve Greb, **Dunn**; Jerry Derr, **Bristol**; Mick Klein-Kennedy, **Perry**; George Dorn, **Dane**.

Also Present: Renée Lauber, DCTA ED; Calvin Barrett, Dane Co Sheriff; Senator Mark Spreitzer, Joe Ruth, Wisconsin Towns Association.

Meeting called to order by President Derr at 7:03 PM

Approval of 9/20/2023 Membership Meeting minutes

Motion: Manering/Updike. Approve minutes. Carried.

Consider DCTA 2023 Operating Budget

Motion: Hyer/Bayliss. Approved Budget. Carried.

Kalvin Barrett, Dane County Sheriff was recognized. Sheriff Barrett gave an update on the jail consolidation project and the body worn camera pilot project. There will be a listening session on the pilot project at the West Precinct (Town of Middleton), date to be determined.

New laws impacting towns and legislative initiatives, Joe Ruth, Wisconsin Towns Association, Government Affairs Director/Legal Counsel

Joe Ruth discussed proposed state legislation including: the Urban Town Bill, legislation that would allow towns with a population above 5,000 to get protection from extraterritorial powers and annexation; Town Law Fix Bill, a bill done every few years to address town issues; the Speed Limit Bill, allowing local municipalities to reduce speed limits up to 20 miles hour; the Highway Safety Bill, focusing on education and use of cameras; and the Wedding Barn Bill, proposing changes to alcohol licenses that would impact town hall rental use.

Jerry Derr provided an update on LRIP funding/pilot project to try to improve the funding program. New administrative rules for heavy ag use roads should be out soon as well as program grants.

Future state legislation was discussed. It was noted that the Wisconsin Town Association will have listening sessions this summer for new legislative initiatives.

Senator Mark Spreitzer was recognized. Senator Spreitzer represents the towns of Rutland, Dunn, Dunkirk, and Pleasant Springs. He reported that this is a very busy time at the Capitol with a lot of bills moving. He is following the speed limit bill and has heard frustration on that issue.

DCTA 2024 work plan and educational programming

Ideas for presentations and educational sessions, model ordinances and procedures, and work with others were reviewed. (Document Link: <https://danecotowns.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Presentations-and-Educational-Sessions.pdf>)

Perry and Verona noted they had dark sky ordinances. The importance of grant writing was discussed. Inviting the new Exec Director of CARPC to talk about strategic planning was suggested. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) were discussed. Some towns see them as a backdoor way to double density. In addition, fears of ADUs turning into party rentals was brought up.

Updates: CARPC, MMSD, Lakes and Watershed, DaneCom

Fly Dane: Lauber read an email from Fred Iausly, Dane County Land Information Office, stating that the project is moving forward. 36 municipalities and regional agencies are contributing to make it possible for the first ever 3-inch resolution project. Flights to acquire imagery should happen in late March/April.

CARPC: Richson reported the ad hoc committee to review USA amendments was approved. She is concerned this will create a rubber stamp process and that substantive discussion will not happen at the Commission level.

MMSD: Lauber read an email from Tom Wilson, MMSD town representative. Nothing really new, working with a group on what to do with money for the Badger Mill Creek area. After that decision and budget/rate increase issues settled, it has been pretty standard business as usual.

Lakes and Watershed: Lyle Updike was thanked for his service. Steve Greb has been selected by the County Executive. The appointment should be finalized this month.

Dane Com: Anders reported status quo, not much to report.

Executive Director: Lauber reported that OA 68, changing the resubmittal requirements for conditional use permits and rezones, will have a public hearing on 1/23. So far 5 towns have voted in favor of the OA. The deadline for town action is 2/22.

Updates from Towns: Opportunity to share success stories and to ask for help with challenges.

- Middleton shared that they found a way to contribute 5K, using room tax revenue, to support a Black Earth Creek monitoring project and to co-sponsor annual Trout Days (1st weekend in May).
- Competition in the labor market and snow plowing was discussed. Springfield gives x-mas bonuses. This recognition helps to retain employees.

Motion: Hampton/Gibson. Adjourn at 8:49 PM. Carried.