

Notes  
**DCTA Executive Board Meeting**  
Cross Plains Town Hall  
3734 County Road P  
Cross Plains, WI

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

**Present:** Ted Olson, Tom Mathies, Greg Hyer

**Absent:** Gibson, Derr, Anders, Manering

**Also Present:** Renee Lauber, DCTA; Doug Meier, Supervisor Vermont; Tim Pierce, Vermont Plan Commission Chair

Note there was not a quorum.

**Discuss CUP changes and idea of a zoning commission**

The formation and progress of the working group addressing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) procedural and legal issues was reviewed. It was noted that the group has not met since May because of staffing issues. Lauber will check on the next meeting date and status of Corp Counsel review. Pros and cons of replacing the ZLR (Zoning and Land Regulation) Committee with a Commission were discussed. Lauber was asked to talk with Patrick Miles about the concept. Moving some controversial land uses to CUPS in new zoning categories was discussed.

**Discuss concept of town administration and regulation of soil erosion and stormwater control programs if they have adopted stormwater and erosion control ordinances**

The listening session a year and a half ago (Jan 2023) with representatives from the Land and Water Department was discussed. It took some time but the FAQ document promised at that meeting was completed. Other items like updating the website have not been done.

Comments were share about an overall perception of the department not being service oriented and of there always being “one more thing” added to requirements and changing goal posts. “Dane County staff blame landowners and engineers for the problems, but the staff are the constant.” Surety bonds were discussed. It can take people years to get their money returned and timing of the return seems like a staff judgement call – too subjective. Bonds should be based on the complexity of the project not the square footage.

Town rights were discussed. Similar to towns doing their own zoning, a path for towns to do their own stormwater/erosion control should be considered. Feeling that Dane County ordinance is built for developers not single family home owners. Because of long driveways in Vermont, the square footage of the site has it treated more like commercial square footage. Dane County staff should be telling applicants about options and solutions to consider instead of pushing highly engineered plans. For example, suggest planting prairie strips/swales instead of engineered retention ponds.

Comments from the WTA attorney were reviewed. Renee will follow up with Laura Hicklin and also learn about how/why the Dane County Lake and Watershed Commission was established.

### **Educational programming**

#### Speed Limits:

Town ability to lower speed limits and speed studies were discussed. Tom Mathies started on a guide that is being reviewed by Joe Ruth. Cross Plains has hired Dane County to do traffic studies. The cost was \$500. Verona has had the sheriff set up speed boards to collect information. The boards record number of cars and speeds and there was no charge for the service.

Other suggestions for programming were: do the Land Preservation and Grants presentation again; Green Infrastructure for black earth creek CAPRC has this information; how towns can prepare for climate change; grant strategy and how to plan ahead and have info ready for grants ex get accurate your traffic counts, places to look for grants etc;