

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
Rutland Town Hall
785 Center Road Stoughton, WI
January 21, 2026

Present: Tom Mathies, Mark Geller, David Lonsdorf - Verona; Brian Willison - Bristol; Jim Dorn, Kent Knutson, Sue Williams, Nancy Nedveck, Mark Porter, Bonnie Larson, Mary Knutson, Robye Wood, Jim Post - Rutland; Larry Beck – Albion, Greg Hyer – Cross Plains; Dawn Redford – Christiana; Caitlin Shanahan, Jason Valerius – CARPC; Norm Monsen – Dunkirk; Cynthia Richson – Middleton; Lacy Fox, Andrew Beckett – Dane County; Steve Jernegan, Andy Hoeremann – Oregon; Chandler Denhart – Pocan’s office; Kerry Marren, Michael Engelberger, Patrick Miles – Dane County Supervisors; Troy Eickhoff, Steve Anders- Cottage Grove; Daniel Paltz – Dunn; Faith Schuck – Pleasant Springs; Mellisa Agard – Dane County Executive; Renée Lauber, DCTA.

On Zoom: Don Postler – County Board Supervisor; Laurie Fitzgerald – Oregon; Lyle Updike – Sun Prairie; Kristi Willians – Cottage Grove; Josh Cooper – Rutland.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by DCTA President, Tom Mathies followed by Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Chandler Denhart, Field Director for Mark Pocan’s office, noted his office can help constituents with grants, including letters of support for federal grants, case work for individuals, and is always happy to sit down and grab a cup of coffee.

Resolution Honoring DCTA District 3 (Albion, Christiana, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, Rutland) Director, Ted Olson

Motion: Norm Monsen/Mary Manering. To approve resolution. Carried.

Representatives from Albion, Christiana, Dunkirk and Rutland met prior to the meeting and elected Mark Porter, Rutland Supervisor as their District 3 Representative.

Approval of 9/17/2025 Membership Meeting minutes

Motion: Mark Geller/ Larry Beck. Approve minutes. Carried.

Consider DCTA 2026 Operating Budget

Motion: Steve Anders/David Lonsdorf. Approve Operating Budget. Carried.

Updating Dane County’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Andrew Beckett, Emergency Communications Outreach Manager, Dane County Emergency Mgmt.

Presentation: <https://danecotowns.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-NHMP-Towns-Assoc-Jan-21-FINAL.pdf>

Updates: CARPC, MMSD, Lakes and Watershed, DaneCom

CARPC: Commissioner Cynthia Richson. There is a recommendation for CARPC to take on a USDA Revolving Loan Fund and other MADREP regional economic development work. A comprehensive economic development plan would involve data centers, concern to proceed with caution on this. It would be a big change for an advisory only commission.

Jason Valerius, CARPC ED: We are updating the process by which we amend the Water Quality Plan for sewer service areas. We are accepting comments by 2/20. CARPC has not received an application for the data center yet, we are getting comments and saving them for when and if it the application comes in. Information is on the CARPC website for that. We are educating ourselves on data center impacts particularly on water quality. Site visit to a data center is planned.

Data Center Advisory Committee, Patrick Miles, Dane County Board Chair. All appointments have been made. Initial meeting is 2/10.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Dan Paltz, Commissioner. Our biggest fears are data centers and water coming back to us and growth, it takes years to plan for such changes.

DaneCom, Steve Anders. The new 911 center is moving forward and we are continuing system improvements on towers.

DCTA, ED, Renee Lauber. DCTA worked for full funding for the Conservation Fund and Sheriff's budget. Thank you to the County Board and Executive for funding those initiatives. We also asked for the Data Center Advisory Committee that is just getting set up. We have a CUP Working Group with county staff that will soon be sending out recommendation to towns for feed back.

Wisconsin Towns Association. Tom Mathies. Trying to advance extra territorial jurisdiction legislation, but the League of Wisconsin Municipalities is against it. Many remain optimistic that this legislation will pass.

Discussion with County Executive Melissa Agard.

Presentation: https://danecotowns.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/1-21-26-agard_20260126183300.pdf

Q: There was a compromise on Sheriff's budget funding shifting funds to health and human services. Can you give assurance the health and human services budget is being well spent and utilized?

A: Agard: I wasn't at the table for that compromised. It is important that we all hold each other accountable. I can't make any assurances about what future county boards will do. This upcoming budget 2027 will be more challenging. There is a Dane County hiring freeze. Last week I announced looking at 800 contracts and how we hold ourselves and others accountable re the contract. What is mandated and what isn't mandated. This goes beyond human services. We are looking at what more they can do and be accountable and contract management. Inventorying buildings, leases, land we own, truck and cars and working with DOA to figure out how to tighten our belts. Do people need their own desks if there are working from home?

A: Supervisor Engleberger: Human services is properly doing their job. Financially, a lot of the stuff has been alleged, most of that is false, we are looking at oversight as far as departments, I haven't found any violations, they are frugal.

Q: With the improvement plans for the coliseum, will there be naming rights or will it still be the Veterans Memorial Coliseum that we all grew up with?

A: It is vitally important that we honor our veterans. I hear you and share that value, but I don't know the end result for that project yet.

Q: Madison has put a 12 month moratorium on data centers. Why isn't there a Dane County moratorium?

A: Agard: The state preempts us. The County can not have a moratorium.

A: Supervisor Miles: While the county is prohibited from using the moratorium that tool, towns can have a moratorium on Comprehensive Plan updates. The County could draft a model resolution if wanted.

Q: The volunteer coordinator position for Dane County Parks, was removed in the budget process. That job did vital work, can that position be brought back?

A: The department director doesn't believe the position needs to be filled. I need to trust my directors and staff. I am a champion of the parks and volunteers but part of my job is to figure out how to work with in the resources that we have.

Comment. Appreciate comments about the natural landscape and the conservation fund money. We don't want our county to be an urban county, we want and rural county with urban spots. Regarding the budget crunch, is there more potential for sharing services between the county and towns? For example, Rutland/Pleasant Springs/Dunkirk/Dunn/Oregon share equipment and services and rely on each other. For plowing, when our crews drive on county roads they lift up the plows. Or mowing the ditches, our crews drive on county roads, seems redundant to drive with mower up.

Comment: The ambulance that is available is an incredible idea.

Q: When will things move on with the bike trail in Pleasant Springs. We would like to know the long range plan, is it on Williams Drive? It is a tight area. Would appreciate it if someone will get back to the Town Chair.

A: I ask my staff to get back to you.

Comment: Jason Valerius, CARPC on the Data Center. Weighing the financial upside on the data center. The land use and comp plan are discretionary not the water quality plan amendment. They will find the way to engineer that to get approval.

Motion: Larry Beck/Brian Willison. Adjourn at 8:32. Carried.