

DCTA Executive Board
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Via Zoom

Present: Mathies, Willison, Hyer, Anders, Porter, Gibson, Manering

Also Present: Lauber

Meeting called to order by President Mathies at 6:01 PM.

Mark Porter was welcomed and the role of directors was discussed.

Approval of 12/16/2025 Meeting minutes

Motion: Gibson/Manering. Approve 12/16/25 minutes. Carried.

Approval of Financial Report

Motion: Anders/Hyer. Approve Financial Report. Carried.

Update on Data Center Advisory Committee

The Committee held its first meeting last week. The initial meeting was mostly introductions of the 13 members and discussion of future speakers. The group will take about a year to hear from speakers, collect information and then make recommendations.

Towns enacting moratoriums on data centers was discussed. It was noted that the action maybe largely symbolic as there are no town Comprehensive Plans with hundreds of acres of land designated for commercial development. It was also noted that adopting a moratorium requires a defined path toward resolving the underlying issue, and a town may be reluctant to commit to that process. Manering noted that Westport is considering a moratorium.

Update on BPP meetings, CARPC appointments

Motion: Anders/Manering. Thank Cynthia Richson for her service on CARPC and reappoint her of another 3-year term. Carried.

The history of the BPP and the February BPP meeting were discussed. Proposals to change the funding structure of CARPC and to take on economic development work were reviewed at the meeting. Both proposals had little detail and were not well received. (Porter left the meeting.)

Update on Dane County Farmworker Housing Initiative

Lauber attended the Housing Initiative workshop on February 11, 2026. In 2023, the Dane County Board allocated \$8 million to support a farmworker housing initiative, and this meeting was convened as part of that initiative.

The workshop was attended primarily by Dane County staff and consultants. Representatives from DCCVA, General Engineering, and the Town of Perry/Black Earth Clerk were also present.

Discussion focused on the significant need for farmworker housing, particularly within the dairy industry. It was noted that most dairy operations are in northern Dane County. Several potential approaches were explored. The concept of providing funding to improve existing housing was well received, as were options such as repurposing existing buildings for housing. Renee will attend the next meeting in March and provide an update.

Link: [Dane County Farmworker Housing Planning Project - Engagement Summary for Housing Opportunities Lab #1](#)

Update on Dane County Conservation Fund

Lauber attended a zoom meeting with Agard, Land and Water Department staff and local land trusts. The county will be announcing 75% funding for land conservation through the Conservation Fund. This is a good thing but there are issues with the details of the program, specifically how the funding will be based on purchase price and not appraised value. Doing this diminished the impact of discount sales, where the landowner donates a portion of the land value.

Plan Educational Programming

General guidance on grant writing (UW-Extension), grant opportunities (Greg Hyer) were discussed. Having the County Broadband Coordinator at the May meeting and Sheriff at September meeting and asking membership to suggest speakers for 2026 were discussed.

Review annual letter to towns

Direction given to add content about work on CUPs.

Other

Mathies discussed his first State Incorporation Review Board meeting. The Wisc Towns Association state meeting in Barnaveld was discussed. The next Executive Committee meeting is on Saint Patrick's Day. The meeting will be move to a daytime meeting in Westport. 1:00 pm was discussed.

Adjourn

Motion: Gibson/Willison. Adjourn at 7:25pm. Carried.