

**DCTA Executive Board**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**  
**Town of Westport**

**Present:** Tom Mathies, Mark Porter, Mick Klein-Kennedy, Steve Anders, Brian Willison, Mary Manering.

**Also Present:** Renee Lauber, DCTA Exec Director; Jason Valerius, CARPC, Exec Director.

Meeting called to order by President Mathies, at 1:01 PM.

**Meeting with Jason Valerius, CARPC Executive Director.**

The structure of CARPC and the BPP (Budget and Personnel Panel) were reviewed. BPP meetings are the only time the Madison Mayor, County Executive, DCTA President and DCCVA President get together. There is a meeting in 2 weeks to go over the duties of the BPP. It was noted that the creation of CARPC predates levy limits and that now, every dollar used by CARPC counts against the county levy limit.

Concerns about how CARPC handled QTS (data center proposal in Vienna) were discussed. CARPC met with QTS and the town of Vienna was not aware of the meeting/involved. CARPC should be advising towns not giving advice to outside entities. Additionally, the CARPC Regional Development Framework doesn't support development in that area and it was not supported by the town's comprehensive plan. Meetings were viewed as free consultation to a developer on the tax payer's dime.

Q: Why is CARPC getting involved with out communicating with the town?

A: How does CARPC have influence in land use decisions when the state statutes say we aren't involved in land use? Influence is done at the early stages when communities invite CARPC to be involved or when a development idea comes forward. That is our opportunity. When we were approached, in the quiet phase, not public, they were doing their due diligence. We answer questions.

Q: Did CARPC sign a non-disclosure form?

A: No – it wasn't an issue – they didn't ask CARPC to.

It was noted that CAPRC does not have a policy on non-disclosure forms and suggested that CARPC create a policy.

Q: Do you have a policy on letting the local municipality know about discussions, it is very important that the local government know who is contacting you.

A: No.

Discussion that it would be good to have a policy that either the developer or CARPC contact the local municipality, but the local government should know about meetings.

CARPC looking into farmland stewardship was discussed. Jason noted the preference for using the word "stewardship" instead of "farmland preservation."

CARPC taking over MadREP's (Madison Region Economic Partnership) revolving loan fund was discussed. The USDA loan was created by Columbia County to support rural economic development, then given to MadREP. Only one loan has been given out, to 7-Acre Dairy. For CARPC to take on the loan, a new

committee with representation from the multi- county area would need to be created. Jason reported that USDA said they could release their jurisdiction on the loan, but it would need to be used for its original purpose – economic development planning or rural economic development. The fund amount is 370,000. That amount includes the \$80,000 that 7-acre dairy owes. Most of MadREP activity is being picked up by the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce. Jason noted that the definition of “rural” in this context, is everything outside of the immediate Madison metro area (some villages are included in this) and the city of Janesville.

It was noted that when DCTA appoints CARPC commissioners we haven’t considered their background in economic development. This seems separate – does CARPC staff have a track record in economic development. (only Jason has economic develop experience)

Q: Have other counties expressed interest?

A: I have been holding off on that because it is a moving target. Waiting for the commission to say this is something we are going to do.

### **Approval of 2/17/2026 Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Manering/Porter. Approve minutes. Carried.

### **Review Dues Report**

Reviewed.

### **Approval of Financial Report**

Motion: Anders/Manering. Approve report. Carried.

### **Discuss hosting Q&A or listening session with elected state officials**

Mick Klein-Kennedy discussed Perry’s efforts to have Senator Marklein and Representative Jacobson to attend a town meeting. He noted that he bumped into Marklein and he stated that he would like to come to a Dane County Towns Association meeting. Mick would like to let our representative hear our concerns, silence is compliance. Being in a position to say something and not saying something is wrong. It was noted that timing is an issue with an upcoming election. There was consensus to wait until after the election.

### **Update on Data Center Advisory Committee**

Meetings can be viewed on-line.

### **Update on Dane County Farmworker Housing Initiative**

There is another meeting tomorrow.

### **Update on CUP working Group**

Shared draft memo that will go out to towns soon.

### **Educational Programming/May Meeting Speakers**

Town Hall security would be a good educational topic – maybe someone from an insurance company (Rural Mutual?) could present. Bluetooth tracking device in equipment was suggested. Smart thermostat that you can check on line. Cottage Grove just put up 6 cameras at the Town Hall. Problems with people leaving stuff in the yard waste area. Perry added camera's during renovation. Dash cams in patrol trucks. Also, the Sheriffs office can provide crime rate information that is town specific. Issue of tire dumping.

Public health, would like to reach out to more rural areas about health issues, quarterly newsletter. Mary will send contact information.

### **Updates from Towns**

- Cottage Grove is considering an 80 acre or more business park. This would require a Comp. Plan amendment.
- Roger Lane is retiring in April. Renee to check in on his replacement
- Westport incorporation. Waunakee and Westport signed the agreement last night. Others are scheduled to sign by the end of March.
- Sun Prairie and Bristol and renegotiating the boundary agreement. Islands created by annexation would be absorbed upon sale.
- 

The April meeting will be Bristol at 1:00 PM. The May Membership Meeting will be at Westport.

### **Adjourn**

Motion: Manering/Klein-Kennedy. Adjourn. Carried.