

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
Rutland Town Hall
785 Center Rd, Stoughton

Present:

Larry Beck – Albion	Faith Schuck – Pleasant Springs
Kevin Depies – Blue Mounds	Martha Gibson – Primrose
Chuck Kvalo - Bristol	Kent Knutson, Mark Porter Jim Dorn, – Rutland
Dawn Redford – Christiana	John Rosenbaum – Springdale
Kristi Williams - Cottage Grove	Ashley Ballweg (via Zoom) – Springfield
Greg Hyer (via Zoon), Tom Rhude – Cross Plains	Tom Mathies, David Lonsdorf, Mike Duerst –
Richard Haag – Dane	Verona
Norm Monsen, Becky Dakin – Dunkirk	Lyle Updike (via Zoom), Sun Prairie
Cynthia Richson – Middleton	Mary Mannering – Westport
Arlan Kay – Oregon	Dean Helwig - York

Also Present: Berent Froiland – Wisconsin Towns Association District 1 Representative; Jaron McCallum, Dane County Broadband Coordinator; Majid Allan – Dane County Planning and Development Senior Planner; Renée Lauber – DCTA Executive Director; Jason Valerius – CARPC Exc. Director; Carrie Meier, Dane County Emergency Management Deputy Director; Adam Plotkin, Dane County EMS Commission Chair; Patrick Anderson, Chief Fitchrona EMS; several town of Rutland residents.

Meeting called to order by President Mathies at 7:01 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Minutes.

Motion: Duerst/Beck. Approve May 20, 2026 Annual Meeting minutes. Carried.

Dues. Consider DCTA Executive Board's membership dues recommendation.

Motion: Helwig/Duerst. Approve dues proposal. Carried.

Rural EMS. Carrie Meier, Dane County Emergency Management Deputy Director and Adam Plotkin, Dane County EMS Commission Chair will provide an update on current rural EMS issues and be available for questions.

Adam Plotkin spoke about the role of the Dane County Emergency Mgmt. He has been on the Commission for about 20 years and has seen the system grow. Dane County is recognized nationally. Chief Patrick Anderson from Fitchrona EMS and Carrie Meier, Deputy Director of Dane County Emergency Management were introduced.

A handout with information on Wisconsin Chapter 60.565 Ambulance Service, Models of EMS Around Dane County, Benefits of Dane County EMS System for Municipal 911 EMS Providers, Pressures facing municipal EMS services, Fiscal Impacts, Funding Options Available to Municipalities and Contact Information was passed out and discussed. [Link to document](#)

It was also noted that southern Dane County is looking at a regionalization process. One driver is tax levy limit exemptions for fire fees for combined departments. Lauber was asked to share more information on the use of fire fees. [James Small, Rural EMS Outreach Program Manager University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, provided the following: A fire fee originates in 60.55(2)(b) which allows the town to establish a fee schedule for the cost of fire protection. This is for the cost of readiness, not the cost of a response. This interpretation is supported by the court of appeals decision in Clark County from 2015. The Town of Ottawa in Waukesha County uses a fire fee to pay their share to Western Lakes Fire District and has a great explanation: <https://www.tn.ottawa.wi.gov/custom/110858>]

Zoning Code Updates. Majid Allan, Senior Planner, Dane County Planning and Development.

Allan gave a short presentation on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and the concept of allowing them through an overlay district. [Link to presentation](#) There was also a brief discussion of CUPs and the need to have the committee working on that meet again.

Broadband Rollout. Jaron McCallum, Dane County Broadband Coordinator.

A map showing broadband expansion in the County was passed out and discussed. [Link to map.](#) Federal and State grant programs were discussed including BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program) and programs through the Public Service Commission. A County dig once initiative that placed empty conduit in a road right of way was discussed. The 2022, 270K pilot project put conduit in Hwy M in the Town of Westport. The 3 miles of conduit was installed under the purview of the County Hwy Department. In theory dig once makes sense. It was intended to grease the skids for future broadband. In practice providers want to work on their own time lines. McCallum's opinion is that we are probably better off using the money to do expansion. McCallum stated that to his knowledge the conduit isn't being used.

Updates:

Data Center Advisory Committee, Cynthia Richson reported on the committee's monthly meetings. The presentations from expert speakers have been a valuable resource for understanding the issues. She noted that recordings of the meeting are available. She emphasized that any leverage we have in shaping development needs to be exercised at the front end of the process.

DaneCom, Steve Anders – Lauber noted an update sent by Steve Anders regarding billing and that she would attach the information to the meeting minutes. [Link to email](#)

CARPC (Capital Area Regional Planning Commission) – Commissioner Cynthia Richson noted that CARPC is proposing to expand its mission to economic development in a 6-county area. She shared concerns that this work is outside their mission. CARPC is funded by Dane County tax payers not the larger area. Jason Valerius stated that CARPC is an entity that could accept and utilize the funds. CARPC is also updating the Dane County Water Quality Plan and recently worked on a cooperative boundary agreement with the city and town of Sun Prairie.

MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization – Chuck Kvalo, the new town representative to the MPO was introduced. He is learning about transportation planning and the organization.

Wisconsin Towns Association - Berent Froiland spoke about the Fall Financial Workshops on the 27th and noted there was more information on the WTA website. Also, the Annual Convention is October 4 through 6th and Oct 30th is the town law conference. District 1 is expanding; Adams county will be joining.

4 Town Solar Project Committee. Norm Monsen and Becky Dakin from Dunkirk spoke about how the towns of Dunkirk, Albion, Porter and Fulton are working together to address solar development. They noted that they recently learned that EDP renewables had been signing leases in their area, some leases were signed 3 to 5 years ago. 900 acres will be proposed for battery storage and solar panels. The company hasn't submitted an application to the PSC (Public Service Commission) yet. They first knew something was going on when they were told that a local Class B highway is being improved to a Class A and asked why that is happening? [Link to handout](#). Request for towns to pass a resolution to give local approval of large scale solar facilities. [Resolution](#).

Proposed 765 Kilovolt Transmission Project. Link to [Dane County press release on resolution](#). Lauber noted that County Board Chair Miles was not able to make the meeting because of a conflicting County Board meeting. She read a statement he emailed. [Link to email](#). Dean Helwig noted that requiring upfront road improvement have stopped projects. I have emailed Dean to ask for the sample road ordinance and any resolutions regarding the line he would like me to share with towns. I will update the minutes when I get the information.

Adjourn

Motion: Chuck Kvalo/Mary Manering. Adjourn at 9:30 PM.