

# MINUTES

## *Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association*

January 15, 2014

### ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:  
Black Earth:  
Blue Mounds:  
Brooklyn: President Nadine Walsten  
Cambridge:  
Cottage Grove:  
Cross Plains:  
Dane:  
Deerfield: Administrator Elizabeth McCredie  
DeForest:  
Edgerton:  
Fitchburg: Mayor Shawn Pfaff, Administrator Tony Roach  
Madison: Mayor Paul Soglin, Alder Anita Weier, Government Relations  
Officer Nick Zavos  
Maple Bluff:  
Marshall: Administrator Sue Peck  
Mazomanie:  
McFarland: President Brad Czebotar, Administrator Don Peterson  
Middleton: Mayor Kurt Sonnentag  
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller, Administrator Patrick Marsh, City Planner Sonja  
Reichertz  
Mount Horeb: Administrator Dave Ross  
Oregon:  
Rockdale:  
Shorewood Hills:  
Stoughton: Mayor Donna Olson  
Sun Prairie:  
Verona: Alder Elizabeth Doyle, Administrator Bill Burns  
Waunakee: Administrator Todd Schmidt, Assistant Administrator Caitlin Stene  
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA

1. **Call to Order.** The business meeting was called to order by DCCVA Vice President Mayor Kurt Sonnentag at 12:09 p.m. at the City of Madison Municipal Building. A quorum was present with 12 member communities represented. Madison Mayor Paul Soglin welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Mayor Shawn Pfaff made a motion to approve the minutes from the DCCVA meetings on July 24, 2013, and November 20, 2013, seconded by Mayor Bob Miller and approved on a voice vote.
3. **Financial Report.** The financial report was included in members' packets. Treasurer Bill Burns reported that all 2013 membership dues that were expected were paid. DCCVA ended the year with a surplus of just under \$5,000, due in part to not spending the budgeted amount for legal fees. The 2014 membership dues notices have been sent out. Paul Soglin made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded and approved on a voice vote.
4. **New Discussion Items.**
  - a) **Compensation Study.** Bill Burns reported that the City of Sun Prairie plans to conduct a compensation study, possibly hiring a consultant to conduct the study, which could contain both public and private sector wage and benefit information. The City is interested in seeing if other municipalities might be interested in partnering on the study and issuing a joint Request For Proposals (RFP). Burns said this could be a good opportunity for municipalities to share information. The study could include two components: a compensation survey and analysis/pay plan recommendations. Sun Prairie hopes to get an RFP out in February, so municipalities that might be interested in joining the joint RFP are asked to contact Bill Burns or Ann Gryphan by the end of January. Middleton, Monona, Stoughton and McFarland expressed an interest in participating in the study, while Waunakee and Fitchburg already have plans underway for their own studies.
  - b) **Resolution on Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.** Forbes McIntosh discussed a resolution that was recently passed by the Madison Common Council that asks for legislation to change the appointment process to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Board of Commissioners. Cities/villages in Dane County have no formal representation on the MMSD board, as appointments are made by the Dane County executive and Board of Supervisors. The City of Madison is seeking to change this appointment process via state legislation. McIntosh said that it will take agreement among DCCVA member communities for this to move forward – and there is a limited timeframe to get this passed yet this session. Madison Mayor Paul Soglin gave background on the MMSD Board of Commissioners governance. He is concerned about the large rate increases at MMSD, as well as the long terms of some MMSD commissioners, some of whom have served on that board for decades. Soglin said the City of Madison's resolution calls for a MMSD board composition and governance similar to that of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. Mayor

Kurt Sonnentag said the Middleton Council voted down support of Madison's resolution, noting that some council members thought Madison was attempting to oppose adaptive management. Soglin said the resolution is not an attack on adaptive management - he supports substituting rural phosphorus reductions instead of outfitting the treatment plants. He is concerned, however, about the flip attitudes of some current MMSD commissioners about the cost of phosphorus reduction to taxpayers. Soglin said he is concerned that some residents might not be able to pay their sewer bills in the future due to high wastewater treatment rates. Village President Nadine Walsten said the Village of Brooklyn is not part of MMSD and is struggling with high sewage treatment costs, noting its tremendous impact on economic development. Mayor Bob Miller said he prefers to not take sides in disputes between the City of Madison and Dane County. He also said he has had good dealings with MMSD over the years and isn't sure that changing the MMSD governance would reduce wastewater treatment rates. Todd Schmidt said Waunakee supports Madison's position. Some DCCVA members expressed a concern about voting today on whether DCCVA should support Madison's resolution. It was agreed that any DCCVA membership vote would take place via an electronic ballot – and only communities that are a part of MMSD would be able to cast a vote. Tony Roach suggested that any vote have two elements – the vote and more general governance question(s).

- c) **Position on Madison Area Transportation Planning Board governance.** Forbes McIntosh gave a brief history about the governance structure of the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board. He said that the MPO recently added Oregon and Cross Plains as member communities, and wonders if cities and villages should therefore ask for greater representation on the board. Cities/villages (other than Madison) have three appointments currently. Mayor Paul Soglin said that it is important to stay vigilant about city/village representation on external boards/commissions. Mayor Donna Olson made a motion to have Forbes McIntosh draft a memo – to be reviewed by the Executive Committee – that communicates our concerns about city/village representation on the MPO, seconded by Tony Roach and approved on a voice vote.
5. **CARPC Update.** Forbes McIntosh discussed continuing issues with the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). He expressed concern about the future of CARPC and said he expects things to come to a head this summer during the next CARPC budget process. He expects CARPC to experience cash flow problems next year and will require either an infusion of money or will face staff reductions, leading to the compounding problem of not being able to fulfill its contractual obligations to the Department of Natural Resources. McIntosh said DCCVA could pursue a couple of methods that would take CARPC off the county tax levy and have it funded by cities and villages within Dane County. Under this scenario, the county would need to reduce its tax levy and the cities/villages increase their tax levies accordingly to represent the revised funding sources. It would be budget-neutral for taxpayers if funding is kept at the same level – although it was noted that funding for CARPC needs to be increased to make it viable in its regional planning responsibilities.

Mayor Paul Soglin, who serves on the Budget and Personnel Panel of CARPC, agreed that the current CARPC governance structure is not sustainable. He supports the ideas suggested by McIntosh. Timing and other factors will be an issue, but McIntosh said that cities and villages should begin discussing this idea with their councils, if they have not done so already, as he expects the issue to escalate in coming months. McIntosh also noted that DCCVA still needs to appoint an individual to fill the vacancy on the CARPC board. McIntosh said he may contact cities and villages individually to try to identify a qualified CARPC Commissioner nominee for the membership to consider.

6. **DaneCom Update.** No update given. Implementation has been again delayed.
7. **Legislative Update.** The legislative session will end in early April. Ann Gryphan has prepared a legislative bill-tracking document, which she will distribute to DCCVA members via email due to its size. McIntosh expressed concern about the room tax bill, Assembly Bill 385. He said it could move forward – and some amendments are occurring that may help make it more palatable for some municipalities (but not all) and it could pass. Another bill of concern regarding payments in lieu of taxes, Assembly Bill 522, faced some significant opposition during the public hearing and it will be difficult to pick up momentum for it to pass this legislative session.
8. **Other Business.** The remaining 2014 DCCVA meeting schedule is below. DCCVA will be calling individual cities/villages – particularly in outlying areas - in search of hosts for our 2014 meetings.
  - Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 12 p.m.
  - Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 5:30 p.m. (annual meeting and dinner)
  - Wednesday, July 23, 2014, 7 a.m.
  - Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, 5 p.m.
  - Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, 12 p.m.
9. **Adjourn.** Tony Roach made a motion to adjourn at 1:30 p.m., seconded by Brad Czebotar and approved on a voice vote.