

MINUTES

Dane County Cities' and Villages' Association

May 6, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Belleville:
Black Earth:
Blue Mounds:
Brooklyn:
Cambridge: Trustee Paula Hollenbeck
Cottage Grove:
Cross Plains:
Dane:
Deerfield: President Greg Frutiger, Administrator Elizabeth McCredie
DeForest: President Judd Blau, Administrator Steve Fahlgren
Edgerton:
Fitchburg: Mayor Steve Arnold, Administrator Tony Roach
Madison: Government Relations Officer Nick Zavos
Maple Bluff:
Marshall: Trustee William Spencer, Administrator Sue Peck
Mazomanie: Clerk/Treasurer Sue Dietzen
McFarland: President Brad Czebotar, Administrator Eric Rindfleisch
Middleton: Mayor Kurt Sonnentag, Administrator Mike Davis
Monona: Mayor Bob Miller, Administrator Patrick Marsh
Mount Horeb:
Oregon: Administrator Mike Gracz
Rockdale:
Shorewood Hills:
Stoughton: Mayor Donna Olson
Sun Prairie: Administrator Aaron Oppenheimer
Verona: Mayor Jon Hochkammer, Administrator Bill Burns
Waunakee: President Chris Zellner, Administrator Todd Schmidt
Others Present: Forbes McIntosh and Ann Gryphan, GPS/DCCVA
Larry Palm, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission
Stephen Steinhoff, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission
Josh Westcott, Dane County Executive's Office

1. **Call to Order.** The business meeting was called to order by DCCVA President Mayor Jon Hochkammer at 7:28 p.m. at Buck and Honey's restaurant in the City of Sun Prairie. A quorum was present with 15 member communities represented. Sun Prairie Administrator Aaron Oppenheimer and DCCVA President Jon Hochkammer welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Judd Blau made a motion to approve the minutes from the DCCVA meetings on November 19, 2014, February 25, 2015, and March 11, 2015, seconded by Kurt Sonnentag and approved on a voice vote.
3. **Year in Review.** DCCVA President Jon Hochkammer reviewed the DCCVA business and actions over the past year. The DCCVA met seven times over the past year and canceled the January meeting due to a special event for local officials that was held near that same time. In July 2014, DCCVA members approved an annual budget and dues increase, with dollar amounts going up slightly and also revising population numbers to reflect current populations. In September 2014, Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney and Public Safety Communications Director John Dejung attended the DCCVA meeting to give an update on DaneCom, as well as the Dane County Jail discussions. In October 2014, DCCVA held a special meeting to discuss DaneCom and the 911 Center Board governance issue. In November 2014, DCCVA had a meeting with a report on county action on DaneCom and 911 Center Board governance. The DCCVA also heard about two towns interested in joining DCCVA, and DCCVA needs to think about whether to allow towns to join this association. At that November meeting, DCCVA also heard from Forbes McIntosh a review of the fall general election outcomes, as well as a discussion on Chapter 51 placements and mental health. In February 2015, DCCVA had a special meeting at which Josh Westcott and John Dejung attended and talked about DaneCom. In March 2015, there was more discussion about DaneCom, as well as a state budget update.
4. **Election of Officers.** The membership held elections for the 2015-16 DCCVA officers.
 - a. **President:** DCCVA Vice President Kurt Sonnentag presided over the election of the DCCVA president. Jon Hochkammer was nominated by Bob Miller to serve as president. There were no other nominees, and Hochkammer was elected by acclamation.
 - b. **Vice President:** DCCVA President Jon Hochkammer presided over the remainder of the elections. Kurt Sonnentag was nominated by Donna Olson to serve as vice president. There were no other nominees, and Sonnentag was elected by acclamation.
 - c. **Secretary:** Judd Blau was nominated by Kurt Sonnentag to serve as secretary. There were no other nominees, and Blau was elected by acclamation.
 - d. **Treasurer:** Bill Burns was nominated by Aaron Oppenheimer to serve as treasurer. There were no other nominees, and Burns was elected by acclamation.
 - e. **Past President/Member-At-Large:** Hochkammer explained that this position used to be held solely by a DCCVA past president, however DCCVA amended its bylaws in 2011 to allow an at-large member to serve since at that time there were no longer

any other past presidents still serving as an elected official and involved in DCCVA. Donna Olson was nominated by Judd Blau to serve as Member-At-Large. There were no other nominees, and Olson was elected by acclimation.

5. **Appointment of Nominating Committee.** Jon Hochkammer led the appointments of the DCCVA Nominating Committee for 2015. The Nominating Committee members for 2015-16 are: Kurt Sonnentag, Donna Olson and Steve Staton.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** DCCVA Treasurer Bill Burns presented the treasurer's report. He said revenues for 2015 will be about \$60,000. Most of the revenues are from membership dues; membership dues revenue for 2015 is \$57,520, which reflects a recently enacted dues increase. The villages of Rockdale and Maple Bluff again have chosen not to become members. The primary expense for 2015 will be for Government Policy Solutions. DCCVA also is setting aside \$5,000 for legal fees and is trying to build a contingency fund, which is expected to be at about \$21,000 by the end of the year. Aaron Oppenheimer made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Steve Arnold and approved on a voice vote.
7. **Appointments to External Committees.**
 - a. **Capital Area Regional Planning Commission:** Forbes McIntosh led the appointment announcements. DCCVA has two positions up for appointment/re-appointment for CARPC. Evan Touchett, Verona alder, was appointed to CARPC in May 2014 to fill a vacant seat and that term is expiring in May 2015. He is seeking appointment to a full three-year term, which will expire in May 2018. In addition, Steve Arnold, City of Fitchburg mayor, is seeking to fill the CARPC seat vacated by Jason Kramar, trustee in the Village of DeForest, who resigned from CARPC in January 2015. The term for this seat expires in May 2016. Bob Miller made a motion to nominate Evan Touchett and Steve Arnold to the two CARPC seats, seconded by Judd Blau and approved on a voice vote.
 - b. **Madison Area Transportation Planning Board:** The DCCVA does not make direct appointments to the MPO, but individual members are asked to send their votes to Bill Schaefer at the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board. There are four people seeking three seats elected by small cities/villages within the MPO area. They are: Mark Opitz of Middleton, Patrick Stern of Fitchburg, Jason Kramar of DeForest and Jim Schuler of Maple Bluff. McIntosh noted that Maple Bluff is not a DCCVA member.
 - c. **DaneCom Governing Board:** McIntosh noted that Jonathan Freund of Sun Prairie serves on this committee and was not re-elected mayor of Sun Prairie in April, so DCCVA might need to re-appoint someone to serve on this seat on the DaneCom Governing Board. He will put out a notice seeking nominations soon.
 - d. **Dane County Redistricting Subcommittee:** Dane County is creating this new subcommittee of the Dane County Board of Supervisors and is seeking one representative of DCCVA to serve on this committee. Julee Helt, village clerk at the Village of Waunakee, has expressed an interest in serving on behalf of DCCVA. Judd

Blau made a motion to approve the nomination of Julee Helt, seconded by Liz McCredie and approved on a voice vote.

- e. **Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission:** There are no terms up for re-election on this commission.

8. **DaneCom Intergovernmental Agreement/DaneCom Update:** McIntosh said that cities/villages should have received a letter from the county executive about doing a new DaneCom intergovernmental agreement, representing that Dane County is allocating additional capital for enhanced/upgrade for better system coverage throughout Dane County. County officials have decided to go to an all-at-once implementation of the new system sometime next year, rather than a phase-in approach. The new proposed IGA is a result of some towns wondering if the existing IGA is legal because it had a deadline for implementation that was not met. In addition, some county supervisors are concerned that the county has committed an additional \$6.5 million and additional O&M costs without a clear continuing commitment from cities/villages/towns. McIntosh reported that he participated in a workgroup of city/village attorneys to review the IGA issue. They met with the county corporation counsel, and both sides believe that a revised signed IGA is not necessary. McIntosh said he is hoping to receive a written legal opinion on the matter soon, but he asks that cities/villages check with their individual attorneys on the revised IGA issue. The shared goal is to move toward the enhanced DaneCom system. Tony Roach said that at the last DCCVA meeting in March the membership recommended that the county/Harris do a “deeper dive” on investigating the two implementation options – a phase-in or delayed all-at-once – and come back to DCCVA with a recommended approach. Did that occur? McIntosh said that didn’t happen.

9. **Legislative/State Budget Update:** McIntosh gave an update on the 2015-17 state budget process and various provisions that have been introduced as part of the state budget. The Joint Finance Committee voted 12-4 in support of a budget motion that makes changes to water quality management planning in Dane County and restricts the county’s involvement in the development of an areawide water quality management plan, among other changes. This same legislation failed to pass in the regular legislative session. It doesn’t take Dane County out of water quality planning entirely, but Dane County would not be able to be appointed the federal designated water quality body for the area, and it is getting a lot of press. McIntosh noted that DCCVA is not the catalyst for this initiative. Bob Miller said he would like DCCVA to come against at least the water quality part of the budget motion that passed Joint Finance Committee yesterday. Larry Palm said the opposition should be broader. Hochkammer said he believes we all want to protect water quality, but he’s not sure what the answer is. Bob Miller asked what the county executive’s office’s opinion is on this budget motion. Josh Westcott said they are still reading through the budget motion language and trying to figure out its impact. There was much discussion about whether DCCVA should take a formal position on this budget motion or to just put out a statement broadly supporting regional planning or a statement opposing loss of local control. In addition to the area water quality management issue in the state budget, the Dane County Towns Association is seeking to add a state budget provision that would allow towns to

withdraw from Dane County zoning. Apparently, the budget motion is being introduced by Rep. Keith Ripp (R-Lodi) on behalf of DCTA. McIntosh said he fears this provision will lead to a land grab, annexations and a race to who can build on the borders first, resulting in “bad growth.” Bob Miller said he wants to go on record as being in support of strong water-quality planning and water management. Hockhammer said that this provision takes away local control and at the very least it should be withdrawn from the budget and be allowed to be separate, standalone legislation to allow for greater input. Steve Arnold said good development should not conflict with the current processes in place. McIntosh said that if DCCVA does not come out against this, it could pass in the budget. Another item in the state budget would allow the Town of Windsor to circumvent the regular incorporation process to become a village. Blau said the Village of DeForest is opposed to this because it tries to get around the established process and because the town is not willing to share the proposed statutory language. He asked that DCCVA also come out against this state budget item.

- a. Steve Arnold made the following motion, seconded by Judd Blau and approved on a voice vote: ***(The Dane County Cities and Villages Association is opposed to the legislative proposal that seeks to allow towns to withdraw from Dane County zoning.) (Ripp legislation/budget motion.)*** Additional discussion: Arnold asked to hear from CARPC chair Larry Palm, who was in attendance. Palm said CARPC does do other things other than just urban service area amendments (USAs). He suggested that DCCVA make more decisions about legislative initiatives and stand up for themselves legislatively. Blau said the Village of DeForest passed a resolution against this budget item and he suggests that other cities/villages have state legislation as a standing agenda item.
- b. Bob Miller made the following motion, seconded by Paula Hollenbeck and approved on a voice vote: ***(The Dane County Cities and Villages Association goes on record that the provision with respect to the Dane County Areawide Water Quality Management Plan does not belong in the state budget. If the Legislature has interest in that area it should be introduced as separate legislation so that all stakeholders have an opportunity to comment on the intended and unintended consequences.)***
- c. Judd Blau made the following motion, seconded by Kurt Sonnentag and approved on a voice vote: ***(The Dane County Cities and Villages Association opposes any attempt by a municipality to circumvent the municipal incorporation process as provided by state law.)***

10. **Other Events:** McIntosh noted the following events that are coming up that DCCVA members are invited to attend:

- a. League of Municipalities Legislative Luncheon – May 13 at Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison
- b. How We Grow Matters Forum – May 15 at American Family Headquarters, Madison
- c. Dane County Housing Summit – May 27, Alliant Energy Center, Madison

11. Other Items:

- a. **Surveys:** Bob Miller asked whether other communities are having an issue with fire department staffing, especially regarding paid/on-call firefighters. Hochkammer said it seems to be a problem across the country. Miller said it comes down to response time because volunteer firefighters (paid/on-call) often are working in neighboring communities during the day and must drive back to respond to a fire call. There seems to be a huge appetite for learning more about addressing staffing and anyone who has more information on this topic is invited to share it with Forbes McIntosh. Steve Arnold said the city of Fitchburg has both full-time and volunteer firefighters. On a separate note, Judd Blau said he would like to see greater attendance at DCCVA meetings and suggested doing a survey of members. Government Policy Solutions agreed to put together a poll on both topics – fire department staffing and DCCVA meeting attendance – to distribute to DCCVA members.

12. **Next DCCVA Meetings:** The remainder of the 2015 DCCVA meeting schedule is:

- Wednesday, July 22, 2015: 7 AM – Village of McFarland
- Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 5 PM – City of Stoughton
- Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 12 PM – Lions Park (indoor shelter), Village of Mazomanie

13. **Adjourn:** Aaron Oppenheimer made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m., seconded by Nick Zavos and approved on a voice vote.