

DRAFT MINUTES
CARPC Farmland Loss Mitigation Workgroup
of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

March 22, 2011

City-County Building Rm 351, 210 MLK Jr. Blvd., Madison WI

5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Caryl Terrell (left 6:05), Sue Studz, Ed Minihan, Curt Brink

Staff Present: Bridgit Van Belleghem, Barbara Weber

Others Present: Mike Slavney

Meeting called to order at 5:05

1. Review of agenda

2. Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2010

Moved by Terrell, second by Slavney to approve the minutes of December 21. Motion carried with Studz abstaining.

3. Update on the Dane Co. Farmland Preservation Plan process

Ms. Van Belleghem updated the workgroup on the Plan status. The plan was approved unanimously by the ZLR subcommittee to go to Dane County's full ZLR Committee. Ms Terrell noted that Chapter 3 of the report provides a good summary of the goals and policies.

Ms. Van Belleghem also noted that the City of Fitchburg Farmland Preservation Plan has been submitted to DATCP.

4. Revisit and affirm the FLM process and timeline

Ms. Van Belleghem provided a handout titled "Farmland Loss Mitigation Workgroup Goals" that outlined a process for the FLM workgroup. Ms. Weber clarified that the document had been reviewed by the workgroup in 2008, and not adopted.

Workgroup members agreed that this would be an appropriate time to pursue outreach to stakeholders to gather input for FLM 3 conclusions and recommendations.

Suggested stakeholders included:

- County level Farm Bureau
- Ag Extension
- Contacts established through the "Cultivating Collaboration" conference
- Cities and villages
 - Fitchburg and Sun Prairie both have local farmland preservation plans
- Town Boards
- Local farmers

- Agribusiness community
- Co-ops
- Farmers market/REAP/CSA representatives

Outreach options discussed included:

- Working with the Policies and Criteria Advisory Group.
- Conference

Ms. Van Belleghem reported that CARPC would be hosting a conference in the fall (August or September) associated with the Sustainable Communities grant that could provide an opportunity for outreach by the FLM Workgroup. Ms. Terrell stated that the information in FLM 3 should be made available to conference attendees in advance so they will be informed and ready to provide input on possible recommendations.

- Presentations/Informational meetings

Following CARPC approval of the release of FLM 1 and FLM 2, workgroup members (assisted by staff) could attend community meetings to make presentations about FLM 1, 2 and 3 and ask for input for FLM3 recommendations.

- Brochures
- Public Survey

The workgroup discussed what a survey would consist of and to whom it would be directed. Commissioner Minihan emphasized that it should reach decision makers. The workgroup identified a need to define what is needed as information, what a survey would be testing for, and what a survey would be asking. Ms. Terrell suggested looking to the goals and objectives in Chapter 3 of the County's farmland preservation plan. Commissioner Studz emphasized the need to find out what farmers want.

Workgroup members will further discuss outreach options at the next FLM meeting.

5. FLM 2 Issue Paper

Ms. Van Belleghem described changes made to the draft. She explained that a sub-county breakdown of economic data she had hoped to include was not available.

Moved by Commissioner Minihan, seconded by Commissioner Terrell to take FLM2 to the CARPC for approval for public review. Motion carried.

6. Review and provide input and further guidance on the Draft Agriculture section of the FUDA Environmental Condition Report

Ms. Van Belleghem requested that workgroup members contact her with any input or suggestions for the FUDA Agricultural Conditions Report. She will send additional information by e-mail within the next two weeks and ask for feedback.

7. FLM 3 Issue Paper

Ms. Van Belleghem suggested that the workgroup may want to define a decision making framework (or different frameworks for differing areas) for FLM 3. She proposed including this for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Slavney suggested that, as part of FLM 3, stakeholders be asked why they are interested in Farmland Preservation, and what outcomes they would like to see. He proposed that three questions be asked:

- How much land do we want to preserve?
- Where is the land that should be preserved?
- Who pays for preservation of farmland?

Mr. Slavney provided a handout with an example calculation of how much land should or could be preserved. The Workgroup expressed support for Mr. Slavney's questions as a good approach to prompt valuable input and help develop usable recommendations for the FLM 3 issue paper. Mr. Slavney will write up a description of his proposed approach.

Ms. Van Belleghem requested that workgroup members provide recommendations of any literature related to the future of farmland they are aware of to help in the development of FLM 3.

Ms. Van Belleghem described the revisions to the coding for plan policies and asked for further input from the workgroup. Mr. Slavney suggested that it would be useful to have the codes listed in two ways: grouped by function, and alphabetically.

Discussion of FLM 3 recommendations was deferred until the workgroup has had an opportunity to pursue outreach efforts and incorporate input.

8. Set next meeting of the workgroup

The next meeting of the workgroup will be in April. Ms. Van Belleghem will send out a Doodle message to check members' schedules for the last two weeks in April.

The April meeting will focus on outreach.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Recorded by Barbara Weber