

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

April 7, 2009

City-County Building Rm 309, 210 MLK Jr. Blvd., Madison WI

2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Curt Brink, Martha Gibson, Sally Kefer, Harold Krantz

Staff Present: Bridgit Van Belleghem, Barbara Weber

Others Present: Jim Welsh

1. Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2009

Motion by Kefer to approve the minutes of February 17, second by Brink. Motion carried.

2. Review of agenda

No changes.

3. Review results from the DATCP Evaluation of the Working Lands Workshop

Van Belleghem reviewed the DATCP workshop evaluations. Overall response was positive with notable interest by the attendees to learn more about the details of the preservation tools presented. Kefer requested that staff contact DATCP to get DATCP evaluations summaries from the other Working Lands Workshops held around the state to learn from those as well and understand better what is going on the rest of the state.

4. Review results of the Working Lands Workshop breakout session

Van Belleghem presented the results of the breakout session. There was broad support of regional programs such as TDR and PDR and other easements. The participants also commented on state regulations, such as taxation and annexation law, that can work against agricultural preservation. Additionally, profitability of farming, urban/rural boundaries, urban development requirements, and intergenerational/first-time farmer land transfer limitations were highlighted in the responses.

5. Discuss goals and next steps of the workshop

The work group recognized the Commissions limitations in preserving farmland through the Urban Service Area Amendment process. The work group discussed opportunities and potential to influence state level policy by gaining recognition that preserving farmland is a method to ensure groundwater quality and recharge as required under contractual agreement with DNR. Kefer suggested a brochure and webpage be created to demonstrate this. Also, CARPC should seek time on the RPC Directors agenda to learn more about the roles they are taking in preserving farmland.

Additionally, the Commission could serve as an educational and informational resource hub or portal, facilitate voluntary agricultural preservation efforts by local jurisdictions, and maintain and continue an open regional discussion amongst stakeholders, decision makers, and other key partners.

Van Belleghem will send out the Farmland Loss Mitigation Report 1 for final review by the workgroup in two weeks. Once review is completed, the work group will present the report, workshop results, and strategy to identify and develop possible solutions to the commission in June. Kefer will also look into having a professional from DNR come speak to the Commission about the link between water quality and farmland preservation.

Van Belleghem will begin brainstorming on the Farmland Loss Mitigation Report 2, which will focus on potential solutions. A framework for the paper will be developed at the next work group meeting. Similar workshops to the working lands workshop held in February will be held to discuss, develop, and implement the potential solutions.

6. Next meeting of the workgroup

The next meeting is set for May 19, 2009 at 2pm.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:20.

Recorded by Barbara Weber