

## DNR Suspension of Urban Service Area Amendment Reviews Reinvigorates Successor Agency Discussions

In October 2005, following concerns raised regarding a proposed Verona urban service area amendment, the Department of Natural Resources announced that it would not process further urban service area amendments in Dane County “until negotiations are substantially complete to replace the current interim review procedures and reinstitute policy reviews by county government.”

In November 2005, the Dane County Executive and the Mayor of Madison, along with leaders of the Dane County Towns Association and the Dane

County Cities and Villages Association began work on a proposal to create a regional planning organization that could carry out the water quality planning required under federal and state law and regulations - - and accommodate the growth that Dane County communities are planning for. In May 2006, the group announced agreement on a model resolution petitioning the Governor to establish a Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission - - with safeguards intended to avoid the problems that the various groups had with the Dane County Regional Planning Commission.

## Capital Area Regional Planning Commission proposed

On May 12, 2006 Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, Madison Mayor David Cieslewicz, Middleton Mayor Doug Zwank, DeForest Village President Jeff Miller and Town of Bristol Chair Jerry Derr called for the creation of a Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (or CARPC). Miller and Zwank represent the Dane County Cities and Villages Association and Derr represents the Dane County Towns Association. The Governor may create the regional planning commission if Dane County cities, villages and towns with more than half the population and property values adopt resolutions in favor of the proposal.



The five officials said:

*“The key mission of the CARPC will be working with our towns, villages, cities and county to plan for our urban growth with protection of our vital water resources: our lakes, rivers, streams, springs, wetlands and groundwater. CARPC will do such planning on a cooperative, pro-active, long-term basis, all of which we need more of.”*

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The elected officials' press release and the proposed model resolution calling for the creation of the commission can be viewed on the Dane County website: <http://www.co.dane.wi.us/press/default.asp?frmPRID=667>

The proposal for the new commission is set out in the proposed model resolution. The jurisdiction of the proposed commission will be Dane County. Representation on the commission would be the same as the representation on the 2000-2004 Dane County Regional Planning Commission - - which Governor Thompson helped the parties reach agreement on. The thirteen members would be appointed as follows:

- Four members appointed by the Mayor of Madison
- Three members appointed by the Dane County Cities and Villages Association
- Three members appointed by the Dane County Towns Association
- Three members appointed by the Dane County Executive, of which one will represent Madison, one of which will represent cities and villages, and one of which will represent towns.

Any modifications of sewer service areas will require eight votes.

The new commission will also have a Budget and Personnel Panel made up of the Mayor of Madison, the Dane County Executive, the President of the Dane County Towns Association, the President of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association and, as a non-voting member, the chairperson of the Regional Planning Commission. The panel will have the authority to establish the budget, levy, and fees and hire and fire the Executive Director. The annual levy would be limited to .0017 percent of the equalized valuation of Dane County, expected to be about \$757,993 for 2007.

The model resolution also calls for the Commission to work with local communities to prepare 25-year future urban development area plans for all the urban service areas within Dane County. The new plan is intended to do a better job of evaluating the cumulative impact of development on water resources than the current incremental approach to urban service area expansion which looks at development on a project-by-project basis. The Commission will provide most communities with Environmental Condition Reports within three years, and communities are expected to propose a future urban development area plan within two years of their receipt of the Reports. Environmental Condition Reports are compilations of existing information on natural resource constraints, sensitivities, restoration goals and plans, and capacities. This information is expected to inform the local decisions on the location, type, and density of growth, and the mitigation measures that will be needed to address potential adverse impacts from development on water resources.