

CRANES

Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability

On behalf of its member organizations and individuals, advocating collaboratively for the environment of the South Central Wisconsin region (eight counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk) toward a high quality of life; an ecologically sustainable and just culture; and, the celebration of the beauty of this place, both natural and built.

VISION

The Capital area's environment, including water, land, and air resources, will be conserved or restored to ensure the region's quality of life and the beauty of this special place, for all who live or visit here, now and in the future.

INTERIM STEERING GROUP

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Capital Area Regional Planning Commission
Chairperson & Commissioners
c/o Kamran Mesbah, Commission Staff
City-County Building Rm. 362
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

11 February 2010

RE: Consideration of Resolution CARPC No. 2010-1 revising the Central Urban Service Area boundary and Environmental Corridors in the City of Madison, the Town of Blooming Grove, and the Town of Burke.

Dear CARPC Chairperson & Commissioners:

The Capital Area Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability (CRANES) urges the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) to accept the recommendation of your staff to defer action on the Madison, Burke and Blooming Grove application for an extension of the CUSA boundary in the "Northeast Neighborhood."

The CARPC staff report raises many concerns that deserve your extensive consideration. We note staff's concentration on stormwater management, especially the sentence "Recent urban service area requests by the Village of Mazomanie, City of Verona, City of Middleton and Town of Westport, City of Madison (Shady Wood), and City of Fitchburg have all proposed to meet more stringent stormwater management standards than those proposed by the City of Madison for the urban service area amendment."

Having opposed the applications from the aforementioned municipalities on the basis of the potential stormwater problems, CRANES views the Northeast Neighborhood application with considerable concern.

The CARPC staff looks at the impact of this proposed development on Lake Kegonsa and recommends, as an interim measure, a standard of no-increase in runoff volume for all future development in the Yahara Lakes watershed. The staff offers to facilitate an intergovernmental agreement to develop consensus among all the stakeholders regarding the best approach for managing stormwater runoff contributions to the lakes.

CRANES believes that now is not the time for action on this application. In the matter of declining regional groundwater, the CARPC staff recommends that the City of Madison continue working with other municipalities to find solutions. Transportation plans are in flux. Protective measures for wetlands and wildlife still need to be undertaken. Measures to prevent sedimentation and excessive nutrient discharge should be undertaken before this project can begin.

For such reasons, CRANES urges that action on this matter be delayed. In the meantime the CARPC staff can put its efforts into the FUDA project, thereby making future decisions on land-use and development easier and wiser.

Cordially,



Gary Werner

for the
CRANES Interim Steering Group