

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.

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Public Hearing on Resolution No. 2009-11 Adopting the CARPC 2010 Budget and 2010 Unified Planning Work Program and 2010-2015 Overall Program Design

Before the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

By Caryl Terrell, Interim Secretary, CRANES

September 10, 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of CRANES. CRANES stands for Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability. Our board members are leaders in various existing Dane County conservation, environmental and transportation groups in Dane County. As a Network we research key Dane County issues and share this information with other conservation groups in Dane County.

The purpose of these comments is to endorse the actions of the Budget and Personnel Oversight Panel and to call for more effort in the future urban development area (FUDA) process and less effort in the processing of urban service areas (USAs)

2010 Budget

We congratulate CARPC on the July decision by the CARPC Budget & Personnel Oversight Panel to approve the CARPC budget. Also we congratulate you that they decided to hire an outside recruitment firm to search for candidates for the position of Executive Director. This represents crucial support from the principals of the Commissions' four appointing authorities.

CRANES supports the CARPC budget. In working with CARPC over the last two years, we find that the agency is under-staffed for the considerable amount of work expected to be done. But in times of economic stress, it is appropriate to maintain a strong core of staff for that work and add staff and resources for specific tasks. We note with interest that three projects are under contract funded by EPA/DNR for December 2010 completion – "USGS Black Earth Creek Monitoring (\$30,000), Yahara Clean Project (\$27,100), and WQP Appendix B update (\$30,000)." Page 2 of http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/PDF/capd/Draft_2010_CARPC_budget.pdf

2010 Unified Planning Work Program and 2010-2015 Overall Program Design

Our major concern is with the 2010-2015 Work Program. It is always difficult for outsiders to fully understand internal work flow documents. The intent of the comments below is to emphasize increasing staff person months on the multi-year work of the process to define areas to be protected from development and on the FUDA and to decrease the emphasis on the short range review of USAs. If we have chosen the work elements incorrectly, please rely on the intent of our comments to guide you in these modifications.

Executive Order #197 and local government resolutions creating CARPC are clear. The EO “charges the Commission to develop a Water Quality Plan that will define areas to be protected from development, areas that can be developed with measures to protect, restore or minimize degradation of water quality.”

CARPC has been active since May 2007, but in over two years, little work has been done to define areas to be protected from development. CARPC has dealt with several important issues but since May 2007, CARPC has approved 18 amendments to USAs (Urban Service Area) and LSAs (Limited Service Area), adding 1,985 acres to sewer service areas (of which 1,121 are developable), as requested by 15 communities.

Dane County is hit by the same economic distress as the rest of the nation. It is not justified to expect that in 2010 there will be the same level as in past years of workload associated with municipal applications for Urban Service Area Expansions. Yet that is what the Work Program reflects.

CRANES requests modifications to the Work Program that will reduce USA workload in Work Element 1220 for year 2010 and distribute this to Work Elements in 2010 directly related to defining areas to be protected from development. In addition, modify the wording for Work Element 3550 (see underlining added) to delete the emphasis on USAs.

Work Element 1220: Plan Implementation

Work activities in 2010 will focus on urban service area, limited service area, and environmental corridor amendments to the *Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan* as requested by various local units. Evaluations are conducted based on adopted policies and criteria. The process involves considerable consultation with local officials, staff, planning consultants, and interested citizens who seek information on adopted plans. The emphasis will be on community urban service areas in coordination with surrounding towns. Four person-months of joint Senior Planner and Junior Planner effort and 1 person month of GIS Specialist effort are scheduled for 2010.

Results: Review and revision of urban service areas and coordination of plans among adjoining communities.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Estimated Staff Person-months	5	5	5	5	5	5

NOTE – There is a **typo** in Work Element 1220 in the original document. The Staff months begin with year 2009 and lacks year 2015. This should begin with year 2010 and end with year 2015, as elsewhere in the 2010-2015 Work Program. This typo reveals that the standard USA workload is projected as 5 staff person months.

Work Element 3530: Environmental Conditions Reports for FUDA Planning

The FUDA planning process will have two general sub-elements: 1) collection of environmental resources data and materials for the preparation of Environmental Condition Reports; and 2) working with individual communities to collaboratively create FUDA plans within the context of the comprehensive plans for those service areas (see Subcategory 1500).

Work directed to sub-element 1 will include the screening and collection of natural resources information (presence and condition) in study areas surrounding existing urban service areas in Dane County. Each Environmental Conditions Report is estimated to take 2-3 months to assemble and will include an analysis and presentation of available environmental, natural resource, infrastructure and cultural resource data for each study area. The CARPC Environmental Resources Technical Advisory Committee will be involved in the development of the technical details or metrics associated with each item (e.g., surface and groundwater resources, wildlife habitat, etc.). The reports will also include the identification of mitigation measures, applicability, effectiveness, and limitations.

Environmental Conditions Reports will provide the basis for further work conducted under sub-element 2. Work effort involves the Division Director (1 person-month) and Environmental Resources Planner (2 person-months).

Results: Facilitate and promote deliberations by CARPC Environmental Technical Advisory Committee and communicate proposed policies and criteria to the full Commission for consideration and approval. Complete Environmental Condition Reports for existing USAs (est. 6-10). Coordinate with work conducted under subcategory 1500.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Estimated Staff Person-months	3	7	7	7	7	7

CRANES requests modifications to the Work Program that will increase staff months on the FUDA work in the three years leading up to the 2012 deadline.

The 2009 Annual Unified Planning Work Program states (p. 16) “Work effort in 2009 is expected to involve six to 10 FUDA plans, involving one Senior Planner who will be central to this task (9 person-months), two part-time work-study/interns (6 person months), 6 person-months of Graphic Designer, and one person-month of GIS Specialist.” CRANES does not believe this work was completed. The FUDA work is not getting done because of the extensive staff work on USAs.

The 2010-15 Unified Planning Work Program acknowledges the “2012 deadline for the completion of the first iteration of Future Urban Development Area Plans for urban service areas in the region as outlined in the CARPC formation agreement.’ (page 5) Yet

on page 15 the work program begins in 2010 and stretches until 2015 at an even level of effort.

“Results: The CARPC formation agreement has clear deadlines and prioritization for the completion of FUDA plans. This work is to be updated every 5 years.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Estimated Staff Person-months	16	16	16	16	16	16
Intern Person-months	6	6	6	6	6	6

In order to get the FUDA work done on or close to schedule, it is necessary that CARPC have a moratorium on review of new USAs. There are several USAs in the office for review. These should be the only USA reviews undertaken in 2010. Several large USA applications are spoken about but not yet received in final form. They should be deferred until the 2011 work program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these documents.