

# 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.*

## FOUNDERS & INTERIM STEERING GROUP

*Jon Becker  
Don Hammes  
Phyllis Hasbrouck, Vice-President  
John Hendrick  
Libby Lewis  
Peter McKeever, Treasurer  
Harry Read  
Caryl Terrell, Secretary  
Connie Threinen  
Robbie Weber  
Gary Werner, President*

**C.R.A.N.E.S., INC.**  
**POB 3413**  
**MADISON, WI 53704**  
**608.807.0887 tel**

*website under construction*

**CRANESinc.org**  
**Info@CRANESinc.org**

Caryl Terrell, Interim Secretary, CRANES  
Public Comment  
Before the Executive Committee of CARPC  
September 10, 2009

Thank you for including a Note on tonight's Executive Committee Agenda that "Two discussion items referred to Executive Committee by CARPC (8/13/09) will be included on a future agenda after staff completion of the draft Public Participation Plan." The second item is: "Discussion of providing commissioners additional time to review staff analyses of service area amendment requests."

CRANES continues to press for CARPC procedural changes. You received our letter in September 2008.

CRANES requested by letter that "CARPC staff reports on a USA application should be posted to the CARPC website no less than three months before the public hearing on the application. Rationale: CARPC Commissioners, the applicant, interested and affected members of the public and the media need a reasonable amount of time to digest the technical and planning comments, recommendations for mitigation and conditions on the USA. Clarifying questions about potential impacts and conditions should be allowed to be submitted to CARPC commissioners and staff. Commissioners, of course, cannot discuss among themselves the USA decision in compliance with the Open Meetings Law."

CRANES also requested in that letter that "CARPC should not vote on a USA application at the same meeting as the public hearing, but at a later meeting; public comments should be accepted up to one week before the meeting at which the commissioners will vote. Rationale: CARPC Commissioners deserve the opportunity to consider information presented at the public hearing before making a decision. They also should be encouraged to raise questions that staff would pursue following the meeting. For these reasons, the decision on the USA should be held at a later meeting when all requested information is available. The public and the press also need time and the opportunity to be able to formulate thoughtful responses to this information. In unusual situations with no testimony in opposition to the USA and some reason for urgent action, the CARPC can vote to suspend the rules in

order to act on an USA immediately following the public hearing.”

The CARPC Executive Committee rejected these proposals but has not addressed the need to extend the time for review of the staff reports once posted and following the public hearing. Allowing adequate review of staff reports is fair to the applicants, the Commissioners, adjoining jurisdictions to the USA, the public and the media. CARPC decision-making will benefit from reform of the procedures. CRANES reiterates the need for the CARPC Commissioners to address these needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this matter to your attention.