

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

*Gary Werner, President
Phyllis Hasbrouck, Vice-Pres.
Caryl Terrell, Secretary
Jon Becker, Treasurer
Don Hammes
John Hendrick
Harry Read
Connie Threinen
Robbie Webber*

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

608.807.0887 tel

**CRANESINC.ORG
INFO@CRANESINC.ORG**

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February 6, 2010

(handwritten Addressee and their organization)

You are cordially invited to join in the development of a new environmental partnership:

Saturday, March 6, 2010
8:30 -11:30 am
Warner Park Community and Recreation Center
1625 Northport Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

This invitation is being sent to many organizations in Dane County and the surrounding State Capital region – organizations that have an interest in preserving and advancing environmental quality and sustainability. We know that you have diverse programs, many activities, and busy members. Our proposal is intended not to increase the work load but to make it easier for all to be more effective.

The invitation comes from a group of eleven local environmentalists who came together in the hope that the new Regional Planning Commission and the new Regional Transportation Authority could and should be the basic tools for protecting and enhancing our environment. These individuals have incorporated under the name “Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability” (CRANES).

We are inviting you to meet together with CRANES to consider present environmental realities and what we might do about them. As we see it, too many urban-type developments are destroying agricultural lands and open space, degrading wildlife habitat and other natural resources, and threatening the quality of air, land and water – the very essence of life. We believe that a concerted effort must be made to keep urban development where urban services already exist so to minimize further losses. We are advocates for protecting and enhancing our environmental base.

Separately, the environmental organizations in our region offer many activities to their members and occasionally communicate with public officials in the interest of some specific element of their program. We know from personal experience that success in such efforts does not come easily.

The purpose of the March 6th meeting is to discuss a cooperative partnership that would improve the effectiveness of any environmental advocacy actions that are part of your goals. The unified chorus of conservationists, land trusts and environmentalists working cooperatively is far more likely than is a lone voice to reach the public's ear and the minds of elected and appointed officials.

Under this proposal, CRANES would commit to continue watching situations and problems relating to our environment. CRANES will assist the environmental community in their advocacy by gathering information from all sources including you, our partners; providing this information with analysis to all interested parties; developing, with you, a plan of action including recommendations for individual action by the partners. We intend to hire paid professionals and will need to raise funds.

All such matters will be up for discussion at the meeting on March 6th when we will have the opportunity to discuss the proposal and how each organization might both benefit and contribute to achieving our goals.

Enclosed you will find a response form and an addressed prepaid envelope to encourage you to reply to this invitation and help us to make adequate meeting arrangements. We are suggesting that each group send two representatives, expecting that at least one is in a position to report to your Board of Directors and to participate in the decision whether to join the partnership. (Based on room capacity, we may need to limit the number of attendees per group.)

To be green and reduce costs, we have put the proposal on our website. You can find the "Organizational Partnership Proposal" at www.CRANESinc.org

We plan to announce the CRANES Partnership around the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2010.

Much depends on your response. Please give prompt attention to this proposed partnership and return the enclosed response form to us.

Sincerely,

Gary Werner, President
Interim Steering Group, CRANES