

MINUTES
of the
Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

April 09, 2026

Zoom Webinar

6:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Steve Greb, Audra Dalsoren, Maureen Crombie, Cynthia Richson, Bill Tishler, Heidi Murphy, Noah Lieberman, David Pfeiffer, Jim Schuler, Peter McKeever, Regina Vidaver, Alison Volk

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jason Valerius, Matthew Kozlowski, Melissa Michaud, Nick Bower, Prachi Mehendale

Others Present: Caryl Terrell, Pat Bergen, Tom Mathies, Caleb Frostman, Luke Diaz

1. Establish Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pfeiffer at 6:00 pm. A quorum was established.

2. Public Comment on Matters not on the agenda.

None

3. **Consent Agenda (*all items below are actionable items*) (6:00 pm)**

- a. **Minutes of March 12, 2026 CARPC Meeting**
- b. **Executive Committee Recommendations**

- (a) **Job Description Updates – Senior Environmental Engineer, Water Quality Program Director**
- (b) **Organizational Chart Update**

Motion: Vice Chair Murphy moved to approve items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Crombie seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Acknowledgement of Receipt – February 2026 Financial Management Report (*actionable item*) (6:01 pm)**

Motion: Commissioner McKeever moved to acknowledge receipt of the February 2026 Financial Management Report. Commissioner Dalsoren seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. **CARPC Resolution 2026-07, Honoring Caryl Terrell for Service to the Commission (6:02 pm)**

Motion: Commissioner Richson moved to adopt Resolution 2026-07. Commissioner McKeever seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Proposed Amendment to the *Dane County Water Quality Plan* by Adopting Revised *Environmental Corridor Policies and Criteria* – Staff Presentation and Discussion (6:06 pm)

Melissa Michaud provided an overview of the proposed amendment.

Commissioner Vidaver asked for more information about the types of allowable temporary disturbances to environmental corridors. Melissa Michaud and Nick Bower provided examples of situations where temporary disruptions would be allowable under the revised policies.

Commissioner Schuler asked about what types of water bodies and wetlands are covered under the revised policies. Melissa Michaud provided examples from the policies.

Commissioner Richson expressed concern about the lack of a definition for temporary disturbances under the policies. Melissa Michaud provided an update on the language as it exists in the draft. Nick Bower further clarified that some situations make it difficult to exactly define a temporary disturbance, so the definition is left more broad to allow for more interpretation and situation-specific analysis.

Commissioner Richson asked for more clarity on what constitutes biodiversity under the policies and to include a statement of why biodiversity is important within the policy.

Commissioner Greb asked for clarification about the differences between voluntary and required corridors. Melissa Michaud and Jason Valerius answered that voluntary areas lack legal protections, but they're areas where municipalities and developers should have conversations about appropriate uses and protections for these resources.

Jason Valerius provided additional details about the discussions around woodland protections during the drafting process.

7. **CARPC Resolution 2026-08, CARPC Support for the Economic Development of our Region**
(actionable item) (6:37 pm)

Jason Valerius provided an overview of the proposed resolution.

Motion: Commissioner Tishler moved to postpone Resolution 2026-08 until the September 10th, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Richson seconded.

Discussion: Commissioner Richson stated that the term 'defederalization' of these funds is misleading and isn't an easy process.

Commissioner Dalsoren added additional details about situations where the debtor is unable to repay funds and when the federal government would forgive those funds. She also added that if MadREP has to return the funds, it would also require current loan recipients to repay funds immediately. She added concern that our unwillingness to accept these funds could have economic impacts for current loan recipients and their community which might reflect poorly on CARPC.

Commissioner Richson noted that there isn't anything in the restrictions from USDA that requires these funds be used outside of Dane County.

Commissioner Schuler asked for clarification on what would happen if staff wanted to bring the item back to the Commission prior to September 10th. Chair Pfeiffer answered that the Commission would have to vote to take up the item prior to September 10th.

Commissioner Schuler asked Jason Valerius if September 10th is appropriate given the timing. Jason Valerius answered that the soonest staff would be able to bring this up is the July meeting, and that this resolution isn't necessary to accept the USDA funds.

Commissioner McKeever noted that many of the concerns about this resolution can be resolved with some adjustments to the resolution. He asked for clarification about what the deadline is for accepting these funds before USDA requests repayment from MadREP. Jason Valerius answered that there isn't a specific deadline on accepting these funds, but USDA continues to ask for these items to be completed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Richson Aye
Commissioner Schuler No
Commissioner Vidaver No
Commissioner Lieberman Aye
Commissioner McKeever Aye
Commissioner Dalsoren No
Vice Chair Murphy Aye
Commissioner Crombie No
Commissioner Greb No
Commissioner Volk Aye
Commissioner Tishler Aye
Chair Pfeiffer No

The motion failed 6-6.

Motion: Commissioner Schuler moved to postpone Resolution 2026-09 to no earlier than the July meeting. Vice Chair Murphy seconded.

The motion carried 11-1.

8. CARPC Resolution 2026-09, Creating an Ad Hoc Rural Economic Development Committee (7:09 pm)

Jason Valerius provided an overview of the proposed resolution and recommended delaying approval until additional documentation about future use of the funds can be provided by USDA.

Commissioner Richson stated that CARPC should see the paperwork from USDA prior to accepting the funds.

Commissioner Dalsoren added that seeing the agreements [for the outstanding loan] would be important to see what language was negotiated in the lending agreements.

Motion: Commissioner Schuler moved to table Resolution 2026-09. Commissioner Dalsoren seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. CARPC Resolution 2026-10, Accepting the Rural Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund from the Madison Region Economic Partnership (actionable item) (7:13 pm)

Jason Valerius provided an overview of the proposed resolution and recommended delaying approval until additional documentation about future use of the funds can be provided by USDA.

Motion: Commissioner Dalsoren moved to table Resolution 2026-10. Commissioner Schuler seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. Framework with the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District for CARPC to Support Implementation of Badger Mill Creek Resilience Improvement Projects – Staff Presentation and Discussion (7:14 pm)

Verona Mayor Luke Diaz stated that it is premature for CARPC to begin the process for this item while the legal challenges are ongoing.

Pat Bergen of the Friends of Badger Mill Creek stated that he's a stakeholder of the group and outlined the concerns from stakeholders. Among the concerns raised is the timing for this agreement prior to the resolution of the court case, the uncertainty around the outcome of the pending litigation, and the potential to amend the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*. Additionally, stakeholders are seeking to have CARPC staff review the DNR report.

Jason Valerius provided an overview of the intent of Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District ("MMSD") to support projects that enhance the resilience of the creek, the discussions between CARPC and MMSD staff to explore an arrangement whereby CARPC would administer the associated funding for those projects, and the MMSD Commission action on March 26 to support continued work toward an agreement about that arrangement.

Commissioner McKeever asked for clarification around whether administrative costs would be considered in CARPC administering the funds and asked if a joint committee between MMSD, CARPC, and stakeholders could be established. Jason Valerius answered that discussions are ongoing for costs and solutions for decision-making, but that there is an expectation that CARPC's administrative costs would be covered in some way.

Chair Pfeiffer asked for clarification about where the proposals for projects would originate. Jason Valerius answered that stakeholders have been proposing ideas and that more stakeholder participation would be possible in the future.

Chair Pfeiffer noted his understanding that MMSD would not approve an agreement with CARPC until the legal challenge is resolved.

11. Reports (7:36 pm)

a. Commission Chair

None

b. Executive Director

(1) Program and Services Updates

(2) Partnership Updates

Jason Valerius provided highlights from the Executive Director's report.

12. Future Agenda Items (next meeting May 14, 2026, via Zoom Webinar and in-person at the Westport Town Hall, 6:00 pm meeting start time)

- a. Public Hearing – Proposed Amendment of the *Dane County Water Quality Plan* by Adopting Revised *Environmental Corridor Policies and Criteria* (May)
- b. Review of CARPC approach to public engagement related to sewer service area amendments (May)
- c. Resolution 2026-XX, Approving the 2027 Preliminary CARPC Budget and Dane County Charge (June)
- d. 2025 Annual Report Presentation (June)
- e. 2025 CARPC Audit (June)
- f. Visits/presentations by allied organizations - TBD

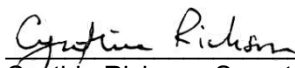
13. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Richson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dalsoren.

The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Minutes prepared by Matt Koz and reviewed by Executive Director.

Respectfully Submitted


Cynthia Richson, Secretary