

Sauk County Town Association Unit Meeting
November 18, 2010
Town of Delton, Lake Delton

Chairman Jim Huebsch called the meeting to order at 7:00. The pledge of allegiance was recited. The minutes of the August 19, 2010 meeting were approved read. The treasurer's report showing a balance of \$990.01 was approved after some explanation which included an increase in the sum received from Scott Construction for lunch expenses. Roll call was taken. There were 36 town officers representing 17 of the 22 townships in the county.

John Exo, UW Extension representative, addressed the group about invasive species. Invasive species are species or varieties that are not native to Wisconsin and that cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species may be plants, animals, diseases or pests. Emerald Ash Borer, wild pigs, Zebra Mussels, and garlic mustard are all examples of invasive species. Wisconsin needs to modernize its response to invasive species. A new law - Chapter NR 40 which was five years in the making - attempts to define invasive species and promotes a coordinated response through best management practices. Best management practices goal is to minimize the spread of invasive species. Sauk County offers training to patrolmen for mowing control of certain invasive species.

Paul Wolter, President of the Sauk County Historical Society, spoke to the group about the Sauk County Historical Society which has been collecting history since 1905. Currently the museum is inside the Jacob Van Orden Museum at 531 Fourth Avenue, Baraboo. The Society has acquired the historic Island Woolen Company Office Building in Baraboo. When renovation is completed this building will provide a permanent home for records, photographs and other documents important to the county's history. Mr. Wolter also gave a brief explanation on ownership of local government records and what is important to keep and what means of disposal are available.

Kathy Schauf, Sauk County Administrator, gave updates on county issues. The county has received an EDA grant for the installation of fiber optic cable. The tentative timetable is for the engineering and permits to be completed by the end of this year. The bidding process will begin early next year with bids due in the spring, April or May. After County Board approval it is hoped that construction would begin in May 2011 with all work completed by October 2011. Planning and Zoning is working on a rewrite especially to Chapter 7 which pertains to non-metallic mining and Chapter 9. Chapter 9 relates to flood plains, particularly new construction in the Town of Spring Green in the areas affected by the 2008 floods. CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) for flood victims is not finished though no new applications are being accepted. Budget for 2011 has been passed. Conversation on the budget for 2012 will begin in December. There were two very successful Clean Sweeps in 2010. There is still money

available for more Clean Sweeps, due in part to a DATCP grant. The recommendation is to hold two in 2011 in opposite corners of the county. Discussion about doing some restructuring to save money by doing some consolidation of some departments is going on. A study of the Health Care Center has been completed. A study of the Community Forest will begin this spring. A Rails and Trails stakeholder group will meet in December.

Art Reese, our district representative, reported on the national towns convention in Washington and the state convention in Lacrosse. Planning commission educational sessions will be held in December. December 14th is the closest one at the Kalahari.

Jerry Derr, told of the urban towns legislative issues. Our most important issue is transportation. We are requesting a \$150/mile raise. Equally important is to make sure transportation money stays in the transportation fund. Other important issues are boundaries and prevailing wages. There is hope that the prevailing wages will go back to \$234,000 limit. Capital Day is May 30. Each town would do well to have one representative. Read your newsletter.

Ed Brooks, Fred Clark and Howard Marklein, all members of the state legislature, agreed prevailing wages is the top issue for them and the people they serve. They would also like to see transportation and managed forest laws discussed.

The next meeting will be February 17 at the Town of Fairfield. The meeting after that will be May 19th at the Town of Woodland. Since there was no other business brought, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

John Pearson
Secretary / Treasurer Sauk County Unit WTA