



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Tree Board

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

3:45 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Lyman
Anderson building 5201 Fen Oak Dr; Meeting Room
Driftless (121); attend virtually via Zoom

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:51pm.

Present 7 - Supervisor MICHELE RITT, MATT NOONE, CORY RICH, CATHY BRODBECK,
TIERNEY BOCSI, TEDWARD ERKER, and KATE KENDZIORA

Excused 2 - JAY WEISS, and LAURA WYATT

Others present: Brian Wahl, Adam Alves, Lisa Johnson

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-066](#)

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2025, TREE BOARD MEETING

Attachments: [2025 MIN-066](#)

A motion was made by BRODBECK, seconded by RICH, to accept the minutes.
MOTION unanimously passed (7-0).

C. Tree Board Operating Agreement

1. *Have a common understanding of Acronyms. CARPC, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, assists regional governments with planning efforts and assists DNR with water quality management. OFS, Operation Fresh Start, assisting youth with social barriers obtain work experience and education. TCC, Tree Canopy Collaborative, a diverse group of professionals whose goal is to increase tree Canopy. WAA, Wisconsin Arborists Association. DCTB, Dane County Tree Board.*

2. *This will be an evolving agreement between board members that can help our team create an environment in how we communicate and operate.*

- *Action-oriented agenda items: “decide, brainstorm, weigh in on” –*
- *Shift from reporting and information-sharing to engaging*
- *Be deliberately engaged*
- *All members of the board feel valued and respected*
- *Permission to be unpolished*
- *Communicate the ask*
- *Hear from everyone*
- *Make new members feel welcome*
- *Follow up on request/tasks (accountable)*
- *Start on time / end on time*
- *Review TB Minutes prior to TB Meetings*

D. Project and General Updates

1 – *Tree Board Member Recruitment: No applications so far, keep spreading the word. The application info is on the website, some have indicated interest verbally.*

2 – *DC Tree Resolution Implications for DCTB: Alves and NOONE attended the County Board meeting and represented the Tree Board for the resolution. They answered some questions about the tree preservation and policy resolution. Resolution passed. Outside of the passed resolution Alves recommended to the County Board that the Tree Board act as an advisory board for forestry plans, policies, and procedures to serve as civilian oversight for ethics reasons. This is not part of the resolution as written. May need to be a separate resolution, but the oversight/advisory function is already in the Tree Board's mission statement.*

3 – *Tree Nursery Projects – Severson Learning Center & La Follette HS: OFS interns were in attendance at Severson, and at La Follette they worked in the forest onsite.*

4 – *Recap of Recent TB Events: The Tree Board gave away trees at various events. The seedlings are now planted in 23 counties. Events: Party for the Planet had activities and 370 kids did the tree climb. Madison College arborist training students were there to help. Indian Lake Park Arbor Day event for 300 middle school students offered various stations. Some activities included microscopes, quiz boards, had an arborist 'equipment extravaganza', line shooter, planted saplings, tree ID, etc. Earth Day Extravaganza at Lussier Center had activities and tree seedlings, OFS Earth Day featured the line shooter, bucket truck, climbing station, prairie plugs, controlled burns, etc. OFS grads talked about their new jobs in arboriculture/conservation and it spiked OFS conservation applications. RICH says it was the most successful Earth Day program to date for OFS.*

5 – *DC Heritage Oak Progeny Map: shows sites where seedlings have been planted <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/80ea346c68394d48a2106746082a910f/>*

6 – *TB Budget Updates: RITT researched the idea of selling Heritage Oak seedlings for fundraising for the Tree Board. County Board approval would be needed for Tree Board to fundraise by selling trees, need full resolution process. Current Tree Board budget has about \$700 left for Tree Board activities and supplies. Signs for tree cribs not cut yet, Alves needs dimensions to proceed.*

7 – *Federal Budget Spending Impacts: WI DNR to date has had no state IRA grants withdrawn, can submit early for reimbursement. Is a federal injunction in place against IRA disbursed grants being withdrawn. AmeriCorps federal staff had a 5% reduction, many state commissions were defunded. Serve Wisconsin may be affected. OFS has other funding sources for programming.*

MICHELE RITT left at 4:30.

CATHY BRODBECK left at 4:36.

Present 5 - MATT NOONE, CORY RICH, TIERNEY BOCSI, TEDWARD ERKER, and KATE KENDZIORA

Excused 4 - Supervisor MICHELE RITT, JAY WEISS, LAURA WYATT, and CATHY BRODBECK

E. Discussion Items

1 – After numerous events held, consider signage for next year? For events - sandwich boards, educational signs, tabletop pull-up banners, maybe 1-2 quiz boards.

2 – Any interest in an outdoor Tree Board meeting with Tree Board Juniors invited (kids of TB members)... Discussion ensued.

3 – Short presentation (return to this after action items) Not discussed.

Notes: Add review of mission to next meeting's agenda.

F. Action Items

1 – Tree Board Purchases: Not discussed.

2 – TB Letter of Support for Statewide Old Growth Forest Mapping Project at State Cartographers Office.

A motion was made by RICH, seconded by ERKER, for the Tree Board to write a Letter of Support. NOONE will write the letter. MOTION passes unanimously (5-0).

3 – TB Letter of Support for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program: The program involves conservation and stewardship, land preservation, utilizing land, etc. Many counties writing letters of support, including Dane County which has it also as a resolution.

A motion was made by RICH, seconded by ERKER, for Tree Board to write a letter of support. MOTION passes unanimously (5-0).

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

6/17/2025 @ 3:45 pm. Location to be determined.

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

J. Adjourn

A motion was made by ERKER, seconded by RICH, that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION unanimously passed (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Johnson, pending board approval.