



Dane County

Minutes - Draft

Tree Board

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Tuesday, August 19, 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 3:48pm

Present 5 - Supervisor MICHELE RITT, LAURA WYATT, CORY RICH, TIERNEY BOCSI, and
TEDWARD ERKER

Excused 3 - MATT NOONE, CATHY BRODBECK, and KATE KENDZIORA

Others Present: Brian Wahl, Lisa Johnson

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2025](#)
[MIN-246](#)

MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2025, TREE BOARD MEETING

Attachments: [2025 MIN-246](#)

A MOTION to accept minutes was made by RITT, seconded by RICH. MOTION
passed (5-0).

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 - **Rezones** not discussed

2 - **DCTB Apparel to Represent our Board at Events** RICH needs a budget for the apparel. Johnson has sent to RICH as of 8-21-25.

3 - **Upcoming Events** Urban Forestry program Oct 7 DNR and Extension are hosting. Topic is invasive plant ID and management, held at Fitchburg Library. Johnson sent promo material to the Board as of 8-21-25. SCRUFs meeting October 21 Village of Dane, use of air spades, demonstration of same. DNR grants closing Oct 1, there will be a webinar either August 21 or Sept 18 about the grants and application

4 - **Tree Board Member Recruitment**, Jay has resigned as of 8/18/25. RITT said a Dane County Supervisor told her about an interested community member, she will follow up so the person can apply. Tree Health Management (Briana Frank) expressed interest. There are two spots that will be open (second is WYATT's spot; she will stay on until a new member is confirmed). Johnson checked with County to see if anyone has applied; there are 3 applications as of 8-21-25.

5 - **Matt Applied to the CD Besadny Conservation Fund to Obtain Tree Planting Materials for Schools** Wahl said the application was submitted and accepted for review

E. Discussion Items

1 - Projects/Policies That We Should be or Want to be Working on -

RICH and BOSCI discussed youth involvement in workforce development. BOSCI offered to put some ideas together. Ideas discussed included hosting a field day/mini career day in summer for youth with County Parks, municipal arborists, land restoration people, conservation groups, DNR arborists, internships, Madison College, OFS and commercial examples of careers. Madison College could do a talk on what is needed to get trained for the industry. Kid's climb? RITT suggested to partner with Parks on this. Resumé workshop, inviting OFS and Parks interns. RICH offered to lead a subgroup.

Wahl suggested that the Board should work on refining concepts around the county tree preservation ordinance resolution the Tree Board got passed and creating a tree preservation ordinance template for municipalities to use. ERKER offered to look at creating a list of existing ordinances in different municipalities in the County as the first step in creating the tree preservation ordinance template. Possibly a specs manual could be developed once there is a structure for implementing the communications piece between departments. Alves should be involved in this as it involves the County Forester Specialist position. Ordinances for the manual may involve Parks, public works, streets within a city and the county and development vs street tree or park tree ordinances. Might approach Ian Brown from City of Madison for perspective and advice on ordinances since Madison just got a tree ordinance passed. ERKER offered to look at creating a framework and someone from Corp Counsel or other county staff could do the wordsmithing.

2 - **Mission and Vision Statement Review** Wahl suggested setting aside a meeting to discuss

3 - **Next Steps for TB in Regard to County Tree Preservation Resolution** see E-1

4 - **Chair and Vice Chair Roles and Work Distribution to Other Members** not discussed

F. Action Items

1 - **Tree Board Purchases**

2 - **Tree Board Letter of Support for City of Madison Tree Ordinance**

Wahl will connect with Ian Brown re how we can best support that work and invite him to speak to the Board.

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

9/16/2025 at 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 WYATT. The MOTION passed (5-0).
The meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Johnson, pending board approval.