

From: Carol Lynch <davecarol.lynch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 9:26 AM
To: Planning & Development
Cc: Kodl, Curt; Holloway, Rachel
Subject: Fwd: Written testimony for Jan 27 2026 ZLR Committee Mtg
Attachments: Adoption of Town of Vienna Comp Plan 2025.pdf; Flood Photos.zip; Quality.jpg; Cattail.jpg

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From: **Carol Lynch** <davecarol.lynch@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 12:05 PM
Subject: Written testimony for Jan 27 2026 ZLR Committee Mtg
To: <plandev@danecounty.gov>

Attached is my written testimony and supporting photos regarding the adoption of the Town of Vienna's Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you.
David Lynch



Pumps Photos.zip



Wildlife Photos.zip

As a resident of the Town of Vienna I am writing in opposition to the County's adoption of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Final Draft as written. The natural resources sections of the plan remain the same as the 2006 plan, containing outdated statistical data and mapping. In the introduction of the draft plan it states, "As per Wisconsin's comprehensive planning legislation, the Town will review and update the Comprehensive Plan at least every ten years. Changing conditions and goals in the Town will be noted and adjustments will be made to the Comprehensive Plan text and maps accordingly. This plan update is intended to aid the Plan Commission and Board in meeting statutory timeline requirements and achieve the Town's goals".

Although most elements of the draft are updated and clear, the natural resources and development areas are not. The natural resources, environmentally sensitive and wildlife habitat areas are not identified. Most of the verbiage addressing woodland losses and the mapping used carry over from the 2006 Plan and do not reflect current realities.

In 2006, the wetland depression that County V crosses, was dry, historically typical of a glacial depression per Ian Anderson, DNR Hydrologist. In the Spring of 2009 (see Flood Photos) the entire basin flooded putting Schumacher Rd, Patton Rd and Hwy V under water. The County invested to lower the 2009 flood water level and repair Hwy V and the Town of Vienna invested in repairing Schumacher and Patton Roads. Even after the floods of 2009, the Counties land use map used by the Town has not identified the area, and particularly parcels 064-0909211-80003 and 064-0909211-9500 as being located in a floodplain.

As of 2020, there have been acres and acres of woodlot groundwater recharge lost to mineral extraction sites surrounding the wetland and to agricultural clear cutting, intensified farming practices of tiling and pumping of agricultural storm water from the surrounding cropland into the wetland. (see Pumps Photos) There are currently 3 pumps surrounding the wetland impacting the quantity and quality of the water. (see photo Quality) With the additional water being pumped into this area, it is just a matter of time until another flood occurs. All it takes is one extremely wet season. In 2024, the dry spring allowed farmers to till under acres of cattails to plant and spread the fields and then the heavy rains came and flooded all of these areas. (see photo Cattail)

This wetland consists of approximately 180 acres, of which 120 acres is publicly owned. I am bringing this to the Committee's attention to emphasize the considerable public investment already put into this environmentally sensitive wildlife habitat. (see wildlife photos) This area is the Town of Vienna's largest natural area providing opportunities for recreation and critical groundwater recharge and filtration and needs to be protected in its entirety (as well as other depression wetland areas). By being aware of the current realities and by updating Policy/Ordinance/Mapping to address them in the Town and County Plans we will be better prepared to protect our waters, wildlife and the Yahara Watershed.

The Town has chosen to expand their commercial/industrial development on a case by case basis. The Plan is clear on developing near agricultural boundaries but non agricultural and environmentally sensitive area protections are missing, vague or open to interpretation, ie. if identified, when feasible, encourage/discourage.

It is crucial for this plan to utilize up-to-date data and mapping to identify wildlife habitat, floodplains and include resource losses and water quality threats. I ask the committee to allow Dane County Planning and the Town the opportunity to review the mapping identifications of floodplains and wildlife habitat and the Policies protecting them and the opportunity to update the 2006 and 2012 data.

Cattail:



Quality













Spring 2009 Flooding



Spring 2009 Flooding



Spring 2009 Flooding



Pumps photos















