Wetlands in Comprehensive Plans

- Earliest phase in process
- Easier to discuss when development is not imminent
- Gives fair warning to developers before money is invested
- Parks and Open Space Planning
- Resource Protection Corridor Planning
- Service Area Planning
Dane County Comprehensive Plan
Water Resource Goals

1. Develop comprehensive water management policies…
2. Decrease flooding and flood-related problems…
3. Protect, improve and rehabilitate the quality and quantity of groundwater…
4. Protect and rehabilitate the water quality and clarity of the surface water resources…
5. Develop and promote a countywide system of resource protection corridors based on watersheds…
What you're looking at:

Resource Protection Corridors consist of water, wetlands and steep topography and are only generally defined. In this context Environmental Corridors are more clearly defined as part of the Urban Service Area expansion based on the Dane County water quality plan.

For more information:
http://www.daneoplan.org


This map was prepared through the Department of Planning and Development in conjunction with the Land and Water Resources Department, Land Information Office and the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission.

August, 2012
Ordinances to Protect Wetlands

- Zoning
  - Shoreland Zoning
  - General Zoning
- Land Division
- Stormwater and Erosion Control
- Manure Storage
- Sanitary
- Wells
- Cities and Villages?
Specific Tools in use in Dane County

- Types of Wetlands Protected
  - Shoreland and inland wetlands [s.11.06(2), Dane County Code]
  - Wetlands under 2 acres [s.11.06(2), Dane County Code]
  - Wetlands in cities and villages (Lakes and Watershed Commission) [s.13.11, Dane County Code]

- Wetland Buffers
  - 75’ setback (2 acres or larger) [s.11.06(5), Dane County Code]

- Identifying Wetland Boundaries
  - Field conditions prevail over maps [s.11.06(3), Dane County Code]
  - Location survey / delineation required for development near wetlands [s.10.25(3), Dane County Code]
Specific Tools in use in Dane County (continued)

- **Land Division**
  - Comprehensive plan consistency [s.82.54, Dane County Code]
  - “Land suitability” [s.75.13, Dane County Code]

- **Secondary Impacts**
  - Construction site erosion control [s.14.45(7), Dane County Code]
  - Stormwater management [s.11.47(5), Dane County Code]

- **Education of Stakeholders**
  - County Board: “Limit wetland rezones.”
  - Board of Adjustment: “Limit variances.”
  - Property owners: “Easier to stay away.”
Other Tools

- Vegetative buffers
- Expanded wetland definitions or maps
  - Hydric soils
  - NRCS wetland maps
- Restoration and enhancement
  - County Conservationist resources
  - Wetland classification
  - Cost-share and incentive programs
  - Technical assistance
Wetland Classification and Inventory

Map 1
Existing & Former Wetlands
Dane County, WI.

- Existing Wetlands *
- Former Wetlands **

* Derived from 1986 Wisconsin DNR Mapped Wetland Inventory
** Potentially restorable wetlands derived from hydro soils contained in the NRCS Dane County Soil Survey, 1948, and existing DNR mapped wetlands

Jan 2008
Gaining Support

- Be patient – good ideas tend to resurface
- Cooperate with other county staff
  - Land Conservation
  - UWEX
  - Zoning
  - Public Health / Sanitarians
- Surveys
Gaining Support (continued)

- Get a good steering committee
- Work with critical stakeholders
  - Hunting / fishing community
  - Property owner groups
  - Realtors
  - Builders
  - Environmental groups
  - Consultant Engineers and Landscape Architects
  - Town, City and Village staff and elected officials
- Design an open and accommodating process
  - “Shuttle diplomacy”
  - Use specifics, meet one on one
  - Make everything public
- Education and assistance to the public before, during and after adoption.
More information

- **Dane County Water Resources Regulations**

- **NR 115 Compliance Project Page**

- **Dane County Comprehensive Plan – Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources**
  - [http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/PDF/PlanDev/ComprehensivePlan/CH5_Agriculture.pdf](http://danedocs.countyofdane.com/webdocs/PDF/PlanDev/ComprehensivePlan/CH5_Agriculture.pdf)

- **Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds**

- **Dane County Land & Water Resource Management Plan**

- **Dane County Wetland Resource Management Guide (CARPC)**
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