

Office of the
Dane County Board of Supervisors
2017 Annual Report

2  17



GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIR



Dear Supervisors:

I'm pleased to share with you the 2017 Dane County Board Office Annual Report, highlighting our work over the past year. The overarching values of equity, sustainability, and transparency guide the work of County Board staff. Our efforts—from criminal justice system reform, to joining the Wisconsin Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Commission, to issuing weekly press releases to communicate with the public—reflect these values.

Our staff continue to work behind the scenes to move the County Board's policy innovation agenda forward. The 2017 Annual Report provides a glimpse into the work they have completed and the initiatives that continue to shape their work.

I believe the accomplishments of the past year lay the foundation for County Board efforts to improve the lives of county residents in the years to come. It's important to reflect on the role the Board plays in driving policy, and to draw inspiration from our work to help us address the social, environmental, and fiscal challenges now and into the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Corrigan".

Sharon Corrigan, Chair

Dane County Board of Supervisors

FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Dear Supervisors,

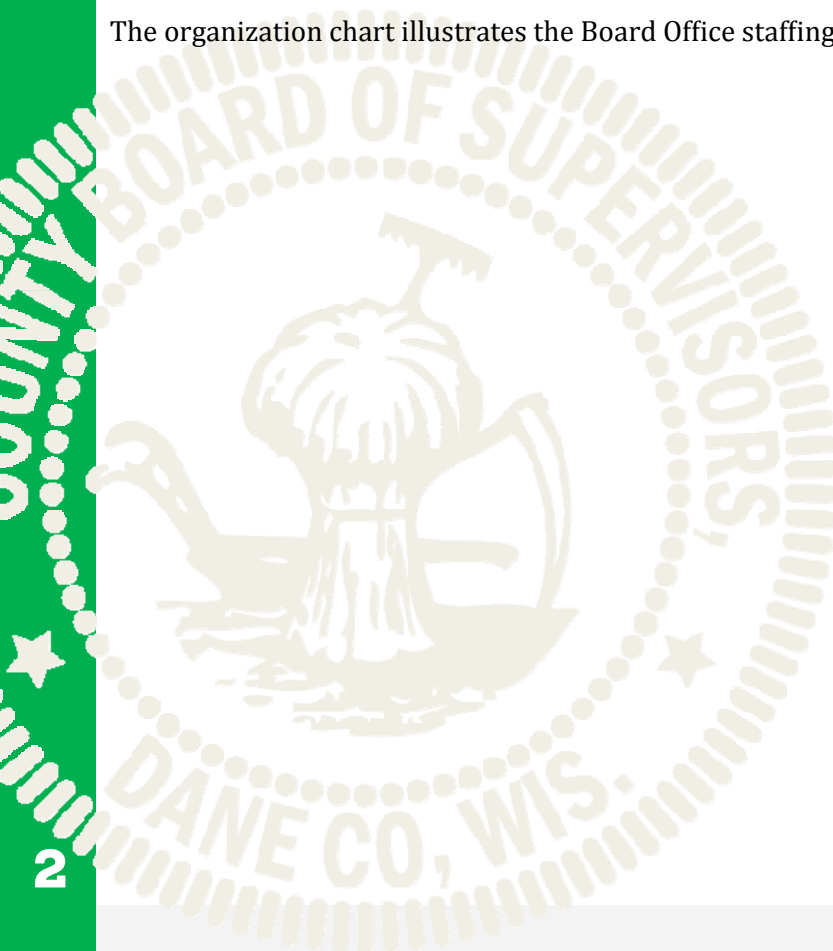
In the past year we have not only built the capacity of our available staff to meet the needs of the County Board, but also continued to make use of interns to provide additional support.

- Colleen Clark-Bernhardt was reclassified late last year to the new position of Manager of the Division of Policy and Practice Innovation within our office. This change reflects the leadership role Colleen has played both within the office and in positioning Dane County with national funding and research partners.
- Lauren Kuhl's position description was expanded in 2017 to include policy analysis duties. In 2018 she will participate in training opportunities to formalize and enhance the skills she uses on a daily basis in the Board Office.
- The Board Office budget has long included .25 FTE for the Elections Management Specialist position in the County Clerk's Office. In 2017 we expanded the position description to include policy analysis duties. During elections, Lila Walsh devotes all her attention to managing that process for the County Clerk's Office. At other times, she is available to lead projects for the Board Office.
- We have continued to rely on project-specific innovation interns, as well as an intern completing a Masters of Social Work who focuses on criminal justice issues. Additionally, to complete data analysis associated with the Pretrial Safety Assessment study, the County Board Office has hired a grant-supported part-time intern.

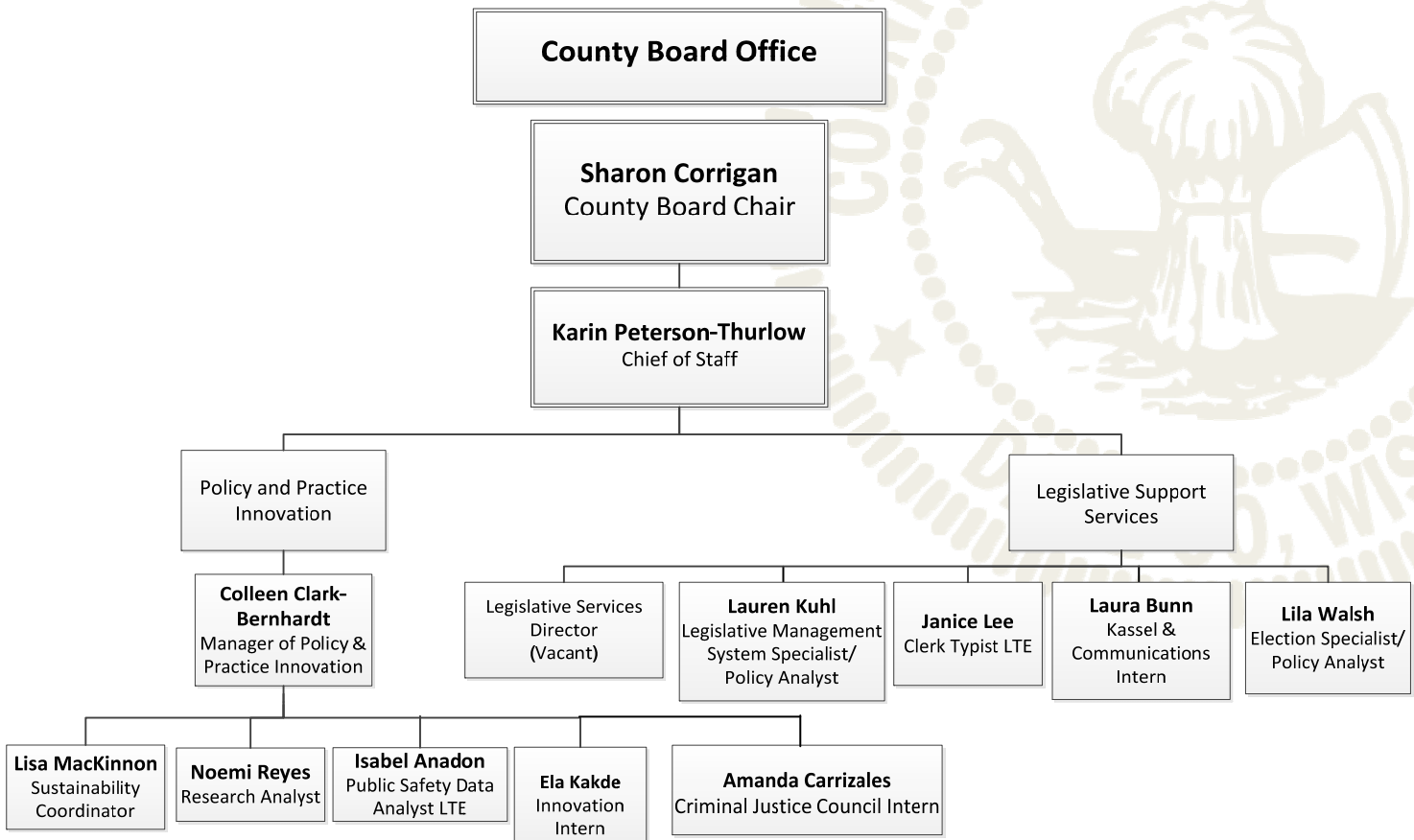
As you know, the Executive Committee approved the UniverCity Year project to further develop policy options in four areas, which are described more fully later in this report. This initiative has served as a vehicle for staff development, with Lauren and Lila each serving as project manager for a topic area.

The organization chart illustrates the Board Office staffing changes. We are poised for a productive year ahead.

Karin Peterson Thurlow



STAFF



INTERN

Amanda Carrizales is the Equity and Criminal Justice Council intern for the 2017-2018 school year. Amanda graduated with her BSW in December 2016 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was an active member of the University of Wisconsin Marching Band and the Powers-Knapp Scholars. She is currently a MSW candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, focusing on policy, administration, and criminal justice. Amanda will graduate this coming May and hopes to pursue a career in the criminal justice field working on the macro level, particularly with policy or a foundation.



STAFFING UPDATE

While all County Board Office staff continue to serve as resources and play a host of roles across the key topic-area priorities of the County Board, some staff saw changes and enhancements to their roles in 2017.



COLLEEN CLARK-BERNHARDT has served as the Equity and Criminal Justice Council Coordinator in the Board Office for several years. Colleen's work is a priority for the county, and she has brought funding support and national attention to Dane County for criminal justice innovations she has helped to lead. Her policy portfolio is broad in scope. Colleen works closely with not only County Board members but also criminal justice officials, playing a key role in the embrace of evidence-based decision-making, data driven justice, equity training for local law enforcement, restorative practices for those aged 17-25, community-based sentencing for those in the formal criminal justice system, approaches to address the nexus between mental health and criminal justice, and re-entry programs. Given Colleen's work complexity and supervisory authority, her position has been reclassified to Manager of the Division of Policy and Practice Innovation.



LAUREN KUHL continues to be the point person for Legistar, County Board Office administrative duties, and supervisor support. In 2017 her role was expanded to include policy analysis responsibilities and she embraced management of the water quality topic area of the UniverCity projects. Lauren was the staff lead on a team which included Supervisor Nikki Jones. As part of this initiative, Lauren worked with UW-Madison staff, professors, and students in three courses to identify potential policy initiatives related to water quality. In 2018 and 2019 Lauren will be participating in the Certified Public Manager program to further develop her leadership skills.



LILA WALSH primarily works in the County Clerk's Office as the Elections Management Specialist. In this role, she also provides some backup Legistar program support. However, the slower elections period of 2017 afforded Lila the opportunity to work more intensively with County Board staff as a policy analyst on the 2017 Fall semester UniverCITY Alliance project. Lila was the staff lead on a team that included Supervisor Hayley Young for the "Frequent Users of County Services in Multiple Systems" project. This project collaborated with two courses and four student projects. During this time, Lila worked closely with County Board staff as well as with key staff members within the Department of Human Services. Lila earned her Master's Degree in Public Affairs and Policy from Washington State University in 2011 before moving to Wisconsin. Lila was hired by Dane County in August 2015 and has appreciated the dual nature of her position within the County Clerk's Office and the Office of County Board Supervisors.



ISABEL ANADON comes to Dane County with over 15 years' experience working in communities and NGOs to impact public policy on the city, county and state level. Most recently she worked with Chicago-based Latino Policy Forum on immigration and civic engagement issues. Her work sought to organize community members, local leaders, legislators and policy makers to address issues of immigrant integration, redistricting, education, federal immigration policy and access to health care. She has also worked as a policy analyst on environmental and cultural policy issues with the City of Chicago Office of the Mayor. Isabel is currently a doctoral candidate in sociology with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her current research investigates socio-legal processes primarily related to criminal justice and immigration. Isabel has a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a dual B.A. in Anthropology and Psychology from the University of Notre Dame.



LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Transparency remains a focus for the Board Office. Public engagement through social media, events, and press releases were a few of the ways the Board engaged the public in 2017. 2018 will prove to be another year of actively engaging the public in Board initiatives and policy-making.

Legistar continues to be the vehicle to access committee minutes and agendas and track Legislation. In 2018, there will be a Boards and Commissions module added to this already robust program. The public will have easier access to view committee vacancies, contact members, and apply for committees online.

STAFF SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- Alliant Energy Center Master Planning Oversight Committee
- City County Liaison Committee
- Criminal Justice Council
- Criminal Justice Council—Pretrial Services Subcommittee
- Criminal Justice Council – Racial Disparities Subcommittee
- Executive Committee
- Executive Committee Boards and Commissions Subcommittee
- Healthy Farms, Healthy Lakes Task Force
- Kassel-Dane Sister County Task Force
- Technical support to the Public Works and Transportation Committee – Sustainability Subcommittee

SUSTAINABILITY

PACE

In June 2017, the County Board passed [2017 RES-074](#) authorizing Dane County to join the Wisconsin PACE Commission.

PACE, or Property Assessed Clean Energy, is an innovative program that enables property owners to obtain low-cost, long-term financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation building improvements. Commercial projects in Dane County financed using PACE can be completed with no up-front, out-of-pocket cost to property owners and can generate positive cash flow upon completion. The term of PACE financing may extend through the useful life of the improvement, which may be as long as 20-25 years, and can result in cost savings that exceed the amount of the PACE financing. The result is improved business profitability, an increase in property value, and enhanced sustainability.

PACE Wisconsin authorizes municipalities and counties to work with private sector lenders to provide upfront financing—usually for 100 percent of the cost of improvements—to property owners for qualified projects.

In addition to advocating for Dane County's membership in the PACE Commission, Supervisor Patrick Miles and Lisa MacKinnon, the County Board Office's Sustainability and Program Evaluation Coordinator, worked with the Wisconsin PACE Administrator to advocate for enhanced verification and accountability standards in the state's PACE program.

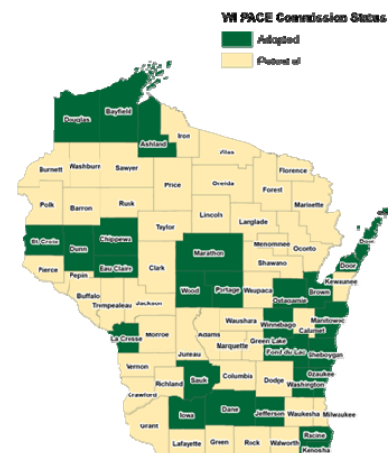
These enhanced verification and accountability standards require that clean energy installations funded through the PACE WI program and subject to a Savings Guarantee be verified by a commissioning agent/provider. These changes make it explicit that any Savings Guarantee associated with a PACE project must include an Engineering and Commissioning and Verification process. Prior versions of the program manual left decisions regarding this aspect of the Savings Guarantee to be set by the market (Contractor / Engineer and Building Owner / PACE Lender). These enhancements will help ensure that PACE projects completed through PACE Wisconsin have the proper assurance that clean energy improvements perform (and provide associated cost savings) according to the representations set forth in the energy assessments for the project. This is becoming the standard around the country. The Wisconsin PACE Commission unanimously adopted the changes to the guideline for statewide application at its meeting on December 5, 2017. This enhanced verification and accountability standard will be included in all of the installations and financing documents for commercial properties using PACE throughout Dane County and the State of Wisconsin.

Supervisor Al Matano was appointed by County Executive Parisi to represent Dane County on the PACE Commission.

THE SMART FUND

The Smart Fund (Sustainable Management and Renewable Technologies) initiative, managed by the County Board Office's Sustainability and Program Evaluation Coordinator, Lisa MacKinnon, continues to assist departments in achieving Dane County's sustainability objectives, such as reducing greenhouse gases and other pollutant emissions through energy efficiency and conservation, and use of renewable resources; ensuring that important natural resources and ecosystem services are maintained for current and future generations; and reducing county government operating costs. Supervisors Chuck Erickson, John Hendrick, Dave Ripp and Robin Schmidt serve on the Sustainability Subcommittee of the Public Works and Transportation Committee which is responsible for distributing grant money, funded in the county's capital budget, to county departments. Proposals are selected based on their consistency with the sustainability principles adopted by the Dane County Board (on October 18, 2012) to guide county government management, operations, and policy making, as well as based on their ability to further implement the [Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan](#). As a part of this initiative our Sustainability Coordinator also connects departments with our Focus on Energy representative to make sure Dane County projects receive any additional financial incentives offered by this statewide program for improvements in energy efficiency and conservation.

Fifteen new capital proposals totaling \$548,836 were funded by the SMART Fund in 2017, including projects that will increase water softener efficiency in county buildings, install LED lighting upgrades at numerous county facilities, install solar panels at Silverwood Park, achieve energy efficiency improvements at the Vilas Zoo Rhino Barn, and purchase technology to significantly reduce paper use at traffic court.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The County Board continued to seek innovative and evidence-based approaches to improve the criminal justice system. Highlights of initiatives in 2017 include the following.

SAFETY AND JUSTICE CHALLENGE—COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE COURT

In March of 2017, Dane County became one of 20 jurisdictions awarded \$50,000 from the MacArthur Foundation to join the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC). The SJC is an initiative dedicated to the substantial reduction of incarceration throughout the country by changing the way the United States thinks about and uses jails. Dane County was selected as an “innovation site” for the Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC). The SJC will design and test innovative local justice reforms with the support and technical assistance of the SJC’s Innovation Fund, with the goal of safely reducing jail usage and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the local criminal justice system. As a member of the SJC, Dane County has access to the larger SJC network, technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning, and success benchmarks.

In addition to the work with the Safety and Justice Challenge, Dane County has gathered and increased resources for the Community Restorative Court—including partnering with ‘Code For America’ to bring text messaging reminders to respondents, peacemakers, and advocates of the CRC.

DATA

Data, Data, Data. The Dane County Criminal Justice Council, County Board and community have requested data integration of disparate data base systems (from law enforcement to corrections). The Dane County Research Team comprised of Colleen Clark-Bernhardt, Noemi Reyes, and Isabel Anadon strive for transparency and data accuracy in reporting current Dane County criminal justice data. Specific outcomes include gathering and analyzing data around the following areas: number of arrests and bookings in Dane County, outcomes of the pretrial assessment, racial and ethnic disparities throughout the criminal justice continuum, and frequent users of multiple systems.

The work of the research team is ongoing and far from the finish line—however—Dane County is one of four counties in Wisconsin that is moving criminal justice forward with data analysis in a systemic way. The overall goal of the research work is to provide information that will create more just and equitable public policy, better decisions throughout the system, and better use of current resources. For more information, please view the Criminal Justice Council website: <https://cjc.countyofdane.com/>

IMPLICIT BIAS AND RACIAL ANXIETY COMMUNITY MEETING

In December, 2017 the Dane County Criminal Justice Council and the County Board, joined by the Perception Institute, hosted a community meeting discussing implicit bias and racial anxiety. Community and stakeholder attendance was high and discussion facilitated by the Washington D.C.- based Perception Institute was insightful and encouraging. The Perception Institute is a consortium of researchers, advocates, and strategists that uses cutting-edge “mind science” to help organizations reduce discrimination linked to race, gender, and other identity differences. Mind science is the study of human consciousness used for the betterment of civilization.

The community meeting preceded a full-day training on implicit bias and racial anxiety for Dane County local law enforcement, juvenile justice staff, and criminal justice stakeholders. The funding for the staff training was provided by the Wisconsin Department of Justice Disproportionate Minority Contact grant.



EQUITY

In addition to our criminal justice efforts, the Dane County Board has supported a number of community events and meetings that further racial equity and inclusion in Dane County, partnering with the following community groups: YWCA “Racial Justice Summit”, Just Bakery, Fountain of Life Church, Justified Anger, and the Dane County Community Restorative Court.

In an effort to shine a spotlight on efforts throughout County departments and encourage further work in 2017, the Dane County Board of Supervisors requested each department director to provide a detailed description of their equity plan and action to date as part of their annual presentation regarding departmental budget requests.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

2017



UNIVERCITY YEAR

The Dane County Board Office was selected as the 2017-2018 community partner with UW-Madison in its UniverCITY Year Initiative. The Dane County-UniverCITY effort involves four different subject areas: workforce/affordable housing; economic development; frequent users of county services in multiple systems; and water quality and nutrient management. These project subject areas were selected by the Executive Committee of the County Board based on County Board priorities and supervisor input.

Each project has an internal team consisting of County Board Office staff, at least one County Board supervisor, and relevant county department staff. Each team is working with a multidisciplinary group of UW-Madison faculty to accomplish the goals of the UniverCITY Initiative.

CLOSING THE HOUSING GAP

Lisa MacKinnon is the staff team lead on this project and Mary Kolar is the supervisor member. Faculty and five classes from the UW School of Business/Real Estate, Engineering School, and Planning and Landscape Architecture participated in this project in the fall semester and three more are participating this spring. As a part of their assignment, faculty asked students to conduct interviews of key point people who are experts on land use, economic development, and local affairs throughout Dane County communities in order to obtain relevant information from a variety of perspectives. The findings, reports, guidelines, and posters generated through this project will stimulate conversation in Dane County communities, increase awareness about the workforce and affordable housing needs of Dane County employers and residents, and provide Dane County communities, housing authorities, and other workforce/affordable housing stakeholders with additional helpful information and resources to address the countywide housing gap in ways that meet the communities' individual needs and plans.

In addition, through this project students are gaining valuable experience by doing this research and presenting their findings to an audience of their peers and to Dane County. It's likely that some of these students will become real estate and workforce housing developers, planners, local decision makers, or local employers. Exposing them to the complexity of these issues now and to how to engage with local communities will be useful for them as future members of our communities, and in considering their career paths.

Five classes worked on projects for this topic area in the Fall 2017 semester:

- Urban and Regional Planning 611: *Urban Design, Theory and Practice*
- Real Estate 420: *Urban and Regional Economics*
- Real Estate 365, 765: *Residential Health Care Property Development*
- Real Estate 611, *Residential Property Development*
- Civil Engineering 421: *Environmental Sustainability Engineering*



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ela Kakde is the intern who serves as staff team lead on this project, with both Shelia Stubbs and Robin Schmidt as supervisor members. Faculty and three classes from the UW Business School, Department of Applied Agricultural Economics, and Department of Consumer Sciences applied the lens of economic development to their student projects. Additional Spring 2018 semester classes are slated to participate. Economic development works to bring jobs and build tax base, which create additional revenue for the county. With Dane County unemployment hovering around 2%, businesses are struggling to find the workforce to meet their existing demand and unable to expand at the pace they desire. Additionally, to meet the county's goals of equity and inclusion, these courses sought to address the question, "how can the county connect underserved audiences to jobs and use its resources so that all populations are encouraged to participate in entrepreneurial activities?" Students will research out-of-the-box models in use elsewhere to inform county policy and suggest applications of county resources to these two areas.

Three classes worked on projects for this topic area in the Fall 2017 semester:

Environmental Studies 402 – *People, Environment, and Sustainability*

Consumer Science 340 - *Building Financial Assets and Capability for Vulnerable Families*

Applied Agricultural - *Economics 323—Cooperatives*

FREQUENT USERS OF COUNTY SERVICES IN MULTIPLE SYSTEMS

Lila Walsh is the staff team lead for this project and Hayley Young is the supervisor member. Historically, over half of Dane County's budget has been allocated for human services. A number of users of county services can be considered "frequent" or "super" users. Typically, these individuals struggle with multi-dimensional problems but they are not tracked across systems, making it difficult to identify them and provide targeted, coordinated care. The county's ultimate goal is to enact intervention plans, so that repeated rounds of institutional and emergency care, as well as periods of incarceration, are avoided.

Two classes worked on projects for this topic area in the Fall 2017 semester:

Population and Health Sciences 780: *Public Health Principles and Practice*

Library and Information Studies 677: *Concepts and Tools for Data Analysis and Visualization*

WATER QUALITY AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Lauren Kuhl is the staff team lead for this topic area and Nikki Jones serves as the supervisor member. Dane County strives to harmonize support for the county's defining industries in dairy and agriculture while protecting water quality and open space—both factors that contribute to the county's high overall quality of life. The county has been successful in collaborative outreach with stakeholders to address manure and nutrient management, as well as embracing public-private partnerships for waste-to-renewable energy/products. Many of the student projects and outcomes tied the existing report goals and plans together into prescriptive recommendations for implementation. The Department of

Land and Water Resources, the Lakes and Watershed Commission, and the County Board's Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee will use the information gathered to consider policy decisions.

Three classes worked on projects for this topic area in the Fall 2017 semester:

Environmental Studies 402 – *People, Environment, and Sustainability*

Environmental Studies 972 – *Conservation Planning*

Engineering 601 – *Interdisciplinary Design for Energy and Sustainability*

Our relationship with UW-Madison as part of the UniverCITY project continues in the spring semester and will culminate in a comprehensive report and end-of-year event on May 4, 2018.



ALLIANT ENERGY CENTER MASTER PLANNING

Throughout 2017, the Alliant Energy Center Master Plan Oversight Committee moved forward on key steps necessary for redevelopment of the 164-acre campus.

In February marketing consultant Hunden Strategic Partners issued a report that recommended renovating the existing Coliseum building while capitalizing on the larger economic potential for surrounding neighborhoods. The study also called for adding new hotels, expanding the existing Exposition Hall, and adding four to six privately run restaurants.

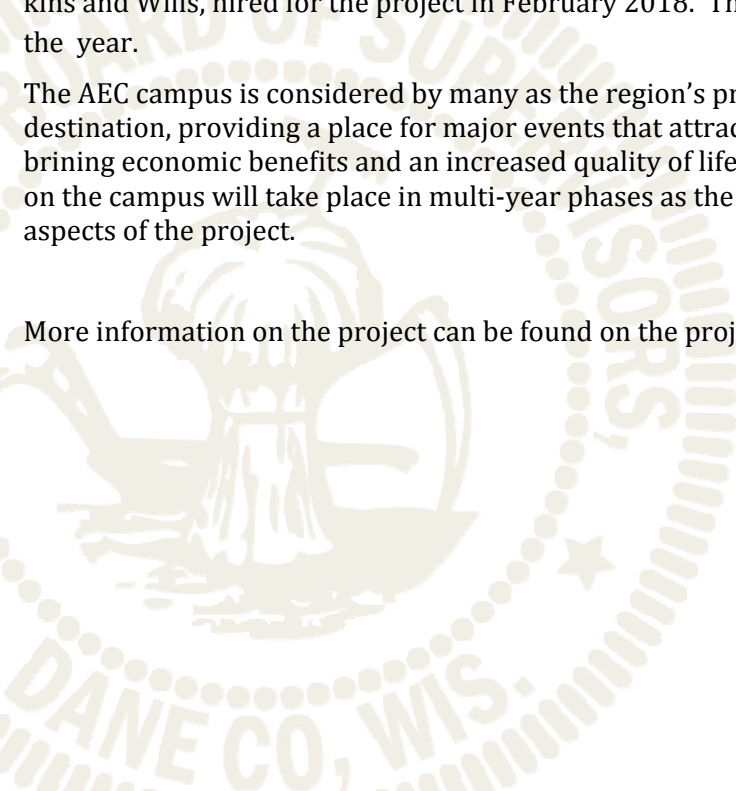
Following a presentation to the full County Board and community in March, the Master Plan Oversight Committee worked throughout the spring and summer with Vandewalle & Associates on a 6-month "Visioning Phase" to guide a civic engagement process to listen to the voices of the neighborhood, business and government stakeholders, and the broader community. The Visioning Report found strong community and business support for improvements to the AEC, and also puts a major focus on improving connections between the AEC and nearby businesses, Lake Monona, and the downtown.

In September the Master Plan Oversight Committee made a recommendation to the County's Public Works and Transportation Committee and the Personnel and Finance Committee regarding next steps. Those two committees agreed that the county should move forward with the master plan process.

RFP development for the campus master plan occurred in the fall with the nationally known consulting firm, Perkins and Wills, hired for the project in February 2018. The master plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The AEC campus is considered by many as the region's premier, multi-venue exposition, convention, and event destination, providing a place for major events that attract visitors from across the country and around the world, bringing economic benefits and an increased quality of life to county residents. It is anticipated that development on the campus will take place in multi-year phases as the county works on the various financial and governance aspects of the project.

More information on the project can be found on the project website at <https://aecstudy.countyofdane.com>.



HEALTHY FARMS, HEALTHY LAKES TASK FORCE

In 2017, the County Board of Supervisors created the Dane County Healthy Farms, Healthy Lakes Task Force with the charge to create a report with findings and recommendations for phosphorous reduction in surface waters.

The task force brings together a group of stakeholders and experts from a variety of backgrounds including farming, environmental groups, and state and local agencies to learn from experts and each other and build on current practice to improve water quality.

The task force began meeting in 2017 and will continue in 2018, working on recommendations to protect both the environment and the economic quality of life in Dane County.

The task force has been directed to:

- Create a greater community understanding of the best practices and policies for nutrient management
- Make recommendations to the County Board regarding county policy
- Make recommendations on how to develop a cost-sharing proposal for capital investments directed at watershed phosphorus reduction
- Complete a report and be ready for action by late 2018



TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Mary Kolar	Dane County Board Supervisor, Chair of the Zoning & Land Regulation Committee, and Chair of the Task Force
Carl Chenoweth	Dane County Board Supervisor and Chair of the Land Conservation Committee
Dave Fahey	Yahara Pride Farms Representative and Vice Chair of the Task Force
Laura Hicklin	Director of the Dane County Department of Land and Water Resources
Nikki Jones	Dane County Board Supervisor and member of the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Rob Klink	Agricultural Farm Advisor
Rebecca Larson	Assistant Professor, UW Madison
Allan Levin	President, Yahara Lakes Association
Jim Matson	Retired former DATCP Counsel
Rebecca Power	Chair of the Lakes and Watershed Commission
Mark Riedel	Water Resource Management Specialist, WI DNR (advisory, non-voting member)
Dave Taylor	Director, Yahara WINS
James Tye	Executive Director, Clean Lakes Alliance
Advisory, non-voting member from WI DATCP	





To effectively represent the people of Dane County, providing services which secure the blessings of freedom, ensure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, and perfect the forms of government.