

# Dane County Board

## Monthly Updates



April/May/June 2019

### SMART Fund Is Improving The Environment

The SMART Fund has invested about \$4.2 million toward over 80 projects to make Dane County government and buildings more sustainable. These improvements have saved over \$720,000 annually and reduced CO2 emissions by over 3,200 metric tons annually. Examples of this in action include reduced lighting costs at the Alliant Energy Center and reduced utility costs at the Henry Vilas Zoo.

Dane County Government Sustainable Operations Plan [available here](#).

[More Details](#)

### Top Priorities For Dane County Board

In April the Board established the legislative agenda for 2019-2021. Alliant Energy Center, clean environment and youth programs are among the top priorities .

The full agenda is [available here](#).

[More Details](#)

### County Board Discussed New Jail Design

Dane County has spent the last several years analyzing approaches to close the outdated and unsafe jail in the City County Building, consolidate the jail into one building with fewer total beds and space for medical and programming needs, while also investing in front-end justice programs to divert individuals from incarceration.

[More Details](#)

### Projects To Preserve The Environment

Among the conservation projects before the Board is a proposal to provide \$113,000 from the Dane County Conservation Fund to Groundswell Conservancy toward purchase of approximately 84 acres in the town of Westport. Another project is a \$124,000 agreement with Operation Fresh Start of Madison to provide and supervise youth conservation crews to work on county lands.

[More Details](#)

### Plan For Census And Redistricting

The Board approved a resolution establishing the Dane County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, which is a group of diverse community leaders appointed for the purpose of developing and implementing a comprehensive 2020 Census awareness campaign in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau.

[More Details](#)



The Board approved a resolution April 11 that designates the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019 as "Work Zone Awareness Week" in Dane County.

### Newsletter Spotlight



The County Board honored Dane County employees Don Kraft and Ron Foye and Badger Prairie Health Care Center for individuals who have gone above and beyond their day to day job duties to improve safety.



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## Board Recognizes Mental Health

Dane County presented a copy of the resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month to National Alliance on Mental Illness Dane County in recognition of its role in increasing public awareness and advocating for those suffering with mental health conditions.

[More Details](#)

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## Experts On Pretrial And Bail Reform

Dane County has invested substantial resources in our pretrial process and is the first county in the country to study use of the pretrial risk assessment with Access to Justice Lab, at Harvard University.

[More Details](#)

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## Funding Of Jail Consolidation Project

The Board considered adding funds to the plan approved in 2017 in order to build an eight-story tower behind, and connected to the existing Public Safety Building at 115 W. Doty St. The project reduces the total number of beds in the system from 1,013 to 922. That reduction comes on top of a 41 percent drop in the overall jail population since 2007.

[More Details](#)

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## Newly Elected Supervisors Sworn In

Elizabeth Doyle (District 1), Kristen Audet (District 17) and Ann DeGarmo (District 33) took the oath of office on June 20. They are filling vacancies created when three former Supervisors resigned to take positions in Governor Evers' Office.

[More Details](#)



The Board recognized the five year anniversary of marriage equality in Dane County at the June 20 meeting.

## Newsletter Spotlight

Michele Besant was recognized at the June 20 Board meeting for her contributions to Dane County for her implementation and management of the library in the Dane County Jail.



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