

RECAPPING 2018, LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

Regional planning is about working together to address challenges that span municipal borders, and achieving outcomes that require intergovernmental cooperation. For the Capital Area RPC, last year brought progress and challenges for regional planning. This year offers opportunities to build on this progress and take on challenges.

A Greater Madison Vision launched a regional survey last fall that asked people to explore four alternative futures of the region in 2050, identify their priorities, and select a preferred growth option. More than 9,100 people completed the survey with participation throughout Dane and in surrounding counties. This year, we will share and discuss the results with area communities and stakeholders to prepare a vision and plan for regional growth.

A major accomplishment for the Capital Area RPC in 2018 was the **completion of a Collection System Evaluation Study for the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District**. This planning document assesses population, land use, and wastewater flow trends and forecasts throughout the District's service area to estimate existing and future capacity requirements throughout the collection system. The District uses the study extensively as a guide for planning their future capital improvement projects.

Last year saw **progress toward more integrated land use, environmental and transportation planning**, with the final report and recommendations from the Joint Work Group of the Capital Area RPC and the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board. The organizations started this year with a joint meeting to advance the recommendations for closer collaboration. We also hope to colocate staff from each agency, and work together on updating the regional land use plan.

In 2018 the Capital Area RPC began **an initiative to modernize the way we provide information** to support communities in making vital decisions that

strengthen our region. An Open Data Portal was established for more efficient GIS data sharing and housing construction data was provided via interactive data visualization software. This effort will continue in 2019 with the update of the Water Quality Summary Plan from a static report to a dynamic web-based resource.

Last year, **many communities in Dane County experienced flooding**, some severe, resulting in loss of life and extensive damages. Due to climate change we can expect more frequent and intense weather events like this in the future. Such increased threats of flooding require a regional response. The Capital Area RPC started conversations in the region late last year about the need for regional responses and what that might look like. This year we continue these conversations and look at local and other models for ideas on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of future floods.

Also in 2019, the **Capital Area RPC looks forward to continuing leadership** with the re-election of its officers: Larry Palm, Executive Chairperson; Peter McKeever, Vice Chair; Mark Geller, Treasurer; and Kris Hampton, Secretary. New staff include Caitlin Shanahan, Community Planner, and a soon-to-be hired GIS Specialist. And we said goodbye to Matt Covert, Malissa Dietsch and Danica Derks.