

# Freedom Matters

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## Smart Growth: Agenda 21 in Drag Part 5: Bringing It Home to Dane County

by Bob Bowman

To paraphrase Sen. Zell Miller (D), leftists are liberals no more. Instead, they have moved far into the realm of socialist dictatorship. They see themselves as an "enlightened elite," whose *civilized-persons'* burden is to guide the rest of us, whom they see as peasants.

Yes, that mentality exists in Dane County. Its executive from her office high in Madison has presided over no less than three grand schemes whereby her enlightened leadership would govern the lives of the rest of the county. She has now launched her fourth scheme.

On land use, there is a correlation between U.N. politics and Wisconsin politics. To see it, start back in the 1970s. Then, Farmland Preservation was enacted in Wisconsin just 5 years after the U.N.'s 1972 World Summit, Habitat I, had proposed that governments worldwide take away all private property rights. Just a coincidence, right? Think again, because so-called "farmland preservation" was really a scheme that took away about 80% or more of Wisconsin farmers' property rights.

Farmland preservation in the form of "exclusive agricultural" zoning was thereafter enacted in Dane County in 1981. That was followed by about 14 years of no further major local land use legislation.

Then came another seismic U.N. land use action, to set off new local actions. The U.N. codified its land confiscation policies as **Agenda 21**, adopted in **1992** at a World Summit conference in Rio de Janeiro. Immediately after that, President Clinton, the Enlightened-Elite-in-Chief in the U.S., implemented **Agenda 21** via a Presidential Commission he appointed, whose **1995** report was titled *Sustainable America, A New Consensus*. It seems that only leftist liberals, with their peculiar blind sight, fail to see that U.N.-U.S. connection.

Just after that, the Dane County RPC started a million dollar 3-year effort called Vision 2020, mandated and funded by the **federal government**. Part of a "new consensus?" To a point. The Dane County RPC passed its ill-done **1998** Vision 2020 land use and transportation plan, only to have it **disapproved** by the majority of municipalities in Dane County. Even Dane County itself only implemented part of the Vision 2020 plan (i.e., the transportation part).

With Vision 2020 shelved by local governments, County Executive Falk conducted four new sessions of the sham land use planning so beloved by the socialist movement and announced **Design Dane!** as the product of that "stakeholder's" effort. That scheme also went nowhere. It sits, a useless trophy, on a shelf.

So, in 2000, without the sham of stakeholder or citizens meetings, Falk published *Farms & Neighborhoods* as her own statement of county land use policy. In it, she proposed to wipe out half of the remaining building lots ("splits") left to farmers under duly enacted land use plans. Those splits were the pittance "kindly" left to farmers after about 80% of the worth of their land re development rights were confiscated via Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Act.

The Dane County Towns, in a September 2001 meeting of their Association membership, heard from the County Executive's own mouth how she would implement *Farms & Neighborhoods* to take away the land use splits. She said that if towns did not change their land use plans to take them away, she would do it by her veto of petitions to rezone for building lots. It's hard to find a more arrogant example of an Enlightened Elite lording control over her peasants.

Still, #3, *Farms & Neighborhoods*, failed. How do we know it failed? Because Falk said so. She said it by announcing its **successor** plan, one she calls *Attain Dane!* So far, that's only a title and some grandiose and vague goals. So, it's quite a come-down as a plan.

(continued next issue)

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