

# Freedom Matters

A News & Opinion Paper

Dane County, Wisconsin

Preserving Property Rights

Vol. 5, No. 2

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Our republic limits government to securing individual unalienable rights to life, liberty, and property. These rights are eroded by legislatures, and by courts complicit with them. To encourage wise jurists and journalists to help, *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore that republic.

## Falk's "Attain Dane" Agenda: [to attain = to possess] [to attain = to reach the end] Getting people to steal other people's land in the name of government

by Bob Bowman

*Attain Dane* is County Executive Kathleen Falk's cutesy name for the third iteration of her confiscatory land use agenda, most overtly revealed in her second iteration, a county document called *Farms & Neighborhoods, July 2000*. Her defunct, first iteration was called *Design Dane!*

I attended the second of six meetings that Falk is holding in Dane County to hawk *Attain Dane*. This one, held February 16 in the Village of Cross Plains, opened with Falk staffer Elizabeth Kluesner doing a Melendez imitation, "Here's Kaathleen Faaaaaaaalk!" Yes, an environmentalist can be that excited over **Attain Dane**.

Unfortunately, Falk's ensuing monolog did not have near the wit as one by Leno. Hers was a paean to Dane County as a paragon of natural and man-made beauty. Then, as **the most profound presentation** of her hawk talk, Falk supplied maps of each of the townships around the Village of Cross Plains and invited each audience member to mark on those maps where they personally would choose to put the new rural housing currently allowed by the land use plans of those various town governments.

Between the monolog and the map marking, there was an interlude of questions, and occasionally, a forthcoming answer. One very pertinent question came from David Lucey of the Town of Berry. Fran Turdot had noted that Berry has already laid out its development in a formally adopted **comprehensive plan** [funded by money pried out of the state by Kathleen Falk herself]. Lucey basically asked, "Why should this audience decide where Berry's development should go? The Town of Berry has already decided it by local control."

Falk's misleading answer: "Berry is ahead of the curve." She did not tell the audience: "Don't mark maps for the Town of Berry; that's already decided." To the contrary, she let stand her invitation to the audience for them to replan where Berry's residential housing should go.

"Bowman," you might say, "that's just your guess of her intent." No, it's not a guess, and I will let Ms. Falk herself tell you her intent, and even if she gives but few

details in the following quote of her intent, that is clearer than the answers she gave on February 16, 2005.

I quote Ms. Falk (*Attain Dane* speech of Feb. 23, 2004):  
"... Madison is exploding on every boundary. Subdivisions are multiplying like rabbits around most of our cities and villages. More landowners are cashing in their residential splits and scattered rural residential construction is proceeding apace. Sadly, most of this is occurring as planned; *this development is almost always in accord with some municipal or town plan. We must change these plans* or they will change us by hurting our quality of life. ..." [emphasis added]

Read the italics above. What are Falk's goals for Berry's brand-new comprehensive plan? She, **herself, self-anointed**, means to change it. You see, it was adopted before she hit upon the **Attain Dane** process.

I quote more of Falk's Feb. 23, 2004, speech:  
"... My proposal to meet these challenges has the working title "**Attain Dane.**" ...  
"**Here are the major points:**

"• **A shared vision.** County citizens and units of government would create a "build out plan" approach to identify the best long-term pattern of development, including integration of land use, infrastructure, environmental protection and community character. This plan will take the form of a map. *I hope that this can eventually be incorporated into the county's comprehensive plan.* ... to identify areas where development should occur and where land should be preserved. [italics added by *Freedom Matters*]

"• **Fair, new tools to make our vision occur.** The areas designated for preservation (for example, large tracts of farmland and natural areas) would be protected through a transfer of development rights (TDR) and/or purchase of development rights (PDR) program; a system of tax base sharing could be implemented ... or the plan could operate through an intergovernmental agreement of all the units of government in the county."

Note: Falk says **Attain Dane** is **not** comprehensive planning. Also, Falk's term "build out plan" as she used it means *putting development next to existing development*. Where else could it be put, on the lame maps she handed out Feb. 16 for the audience to mark? Those maps showed existing cities and villages, and state and county roads, but *no town roads*, and *no topography* (aside from blue lines marking ditches and streams).

Thus, there was no rational way for participants to place housing development on those maps, except around or within existing urban areas, and only in the crudest symbolic sense, since even the latter placement could represent houses on steep hillsides, wetlands or inadequate soils. So what is Falk up to with this absurdity?

*More next issue on Falk's tricky game.*

Readers' Bulletin Board. e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

\*\*\* Published by Freedom Matters, Inc., Cross Plains, WI. 53528, Michael Byrne, Editor \*\*\*  
To subscribe or unsubscribe, e-mail to rebshar@chorus.net, or call Bob at (608) 831-6653.  
Our e-mail subscriber list is confidential. We will not sell it or reveal it.

**Back Issues of Freedom Matters are available, as e-mail.**