



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes** **July 28<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am** **DuPage County Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Chris Aiston, Ivan Baker, Tracey Bosman, Consuella Brown, Lori Clark, Cynthia DeWitt (for Robin Kelly), JoAnn Eckmann, John Greuling, Rand Haas, Judith Kossy, Debbie Myers-Martin (for Bill Browne), Charles Perkins, Harry Pestine, Angie Powell, Ed Sitar

**Members Absent:** Grant Davis, Thomas Gary, Robert Gleeson, Robin Kelly, Cindy McSherry, Mike Scholefield, John Schneider, Gary Skoog

**Staff Present:** Annie Byrne, Bob Dean, Bola Delano, Brian Rademacher, Paul Reise, Justine Risinger,

**Others Present:** Kristen Anderson, Paul Heltne

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

### **2.0 Welcome and Introductions**

All attendees introduced themselves.

### **3.0 Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lori Clark and seconded by Tracey Bosman.

### **4.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

Discussion on item 7.2 -- Update on Scenario Conclusions -- was tabled until the next committee meeting to allow discussion on the innovation strategy report.

### **5.0 Staff Report**

Staff distributed copies of the regional snapshot on Industry Clusters. Committee members commended staff for undertaking the project. The Chairman commented that the report will be helpful in developing a regional economic development strategy and assist municipal planners and economic development professionals in their local development efforts.

## 6.0 Chairman Report

The chairman thanked CMAP staff for presenting an Invent the Future workshop at the IDC Annual Conference in July. Members found it informative and insightful.

## 7.0 GOTO 2040 Update

7.1 The chairman opened the discussion on the Innovation Strategy Report stating that the goal of the committee is to review the recommendations of the strategy reports written by RCF Economic and Financial Consulting and decide how best to proceed with in reviewing the other three reports.

John McDonald of RCF presented major findings from the innovation strategy report. He discussed innovation as key to economic growth highlighting what he thinks metropolitan areas need to be successful in fostering innovation including research & development, skilled workforce and technology transfer between universities, research parks, and private business. He highlighted challenges to innovation in Illinois including the need to foster more venture capital to start-up firms, tech-park infrastructure needs to be improved, and the state programs don't address changes in innovation. He highlighted recommendations for the innovation report and asked for comments from committee members.

Lori Clark recommended that future research into indicators on innovation should gauge technology transfer in the region. On a technical note, Lori Clark pointed out that many of the state programs described in the report are now defunct and needs to be updated before the report is officially released. Consuella Brown commented that the report does not discuss how the region creates an environment of innovation through education or creating a region where entrepreneurs want to bring their ideas. John Greuling suggested that CMAP's role in fostering innovation in the region should be assembling regional innovation indicators. He recommended that the report should start with a focus on the innovation clusters and highlight what the region is known for. The committee agreed that as a working group they are well positioned to provide support on these issues and would welcome an opportunity to do so.

In light of a number of issues and limited time the chairman recommended that three subcommittees be created to discuss each report. Members indicated which reports they were interested in commenting on and staff was asked to follow up to schedule meetings for discussion. Committee members that have relevant data and information were asked to provide it at each session. It was agreed that the committee would use the August committee meeting for one of the sub-committee meetings to discuss the papers and re-convene in September.

**8.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee will be held on **Tuesday September 22, 2009 at 9:00am** in the CMAP offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rademacher  
Staff Liaison

09-14-09