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Environment and Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

October 1, 2008 —9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Ingrid Ruttendjie – Fox Waterway Agency, Joyce Coffee – Chicago Department of Environment, Patricia Young – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Karla Kramer – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Pete Harmet - IDOT, Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, Martin Jaffe - University of Illinois at Chicago, John Rogner (alternate) – Chicago Wilderness, Jim Van der Kloot – USEPA, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Mel Nickerson – Environmental Law & Policy Center, Mike Rodgers – Illinois EPA, Amy Walkenbach – Illinois EPA, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg

Staff Present: Kristin Heery, Bob Dean, Megan Elberts, Jesse Elam

Others Present: Linda Young – Center for Neighborhood Technology, Paul Heltne – Center for Humans and Nature

1.0 Call to Order

Vice Chair Ingrid Ruttendjie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

The coordinating committees update was moved to the back of the agenda to accommodate a speaker's schedule.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2008

The minutes were approved without changes.

5.0 GO TO 2040

Bob Dean summarized the proposed approach to scenario development for the regional comprehensive plan, passing out a memo originally directed to the Planning Coordinating Committee on September 3 and emailed to the ENR Committee later that month. A member asked for a summary of any written comments received on the

scenarios from ENR or other committee members. Another asked whether there would be a baseline associated with the scenarios. Bob indicated that the “reference” scenario, a reflection of current trends, would fulfill this function. Another member asked how policy “silos” would be connected through the scenarios. Bob responded that cross-impacts would be measured through indicators.

6.0 Chicago Climate Action Plan

Joyce Coffee from the Chicago Department of Environment reviewed the City’s recently-released *Chicago Climate Action Plan*. She noted that while the biggest opportunities in the City were in the energy and buildings categories, in the region as a whole transportation was one of the most significant categories to look to for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. Ms. Coffee summarized a number of mitigation strategies planned by the city, such as encouraging building owners to utilize energy service contractors, implementing gray water systems, investing in transit systems and encouraging transit oriented development, and accelerating closure of coal-fired plants in the city. Ms. Coffee touched on a smaller number of adaptation strategies, such as managing increased heat and health impacts, increased precipitation, and ecosystem changes.

7.0 Overview of Volpe Center climate change mitigation recommendations for CMAP

Jesse Elam led a discussion of the Volpe Center’s major recommendations for CMAP’s *GO TO 2040* Plan, referring to a memo dated September 26. One of the recommendations was that the Plan focus on mitigation rather than adaptation. This prompted discussion to the effect that the Plan should consider climate change impacts on infrastructure, particularly the possibility that flooding could grow more severe, and prioritize retrofits to reduce the vulnerability of key infrastructure in the region. The Volpe report focused on transportation. A committee member suggested that the Plan should also include building retrofits as well as improvements for new construction, while another agreed that many municipalities are aware of building code issues. It was recommended that the Plan look at incentives that could encourage municipalities to focus on building code improvements. Another recommendation from the Volpe report was to have a “regional overlay” climate change plan. A member asked whether CMAP would expect municipalities to have a baseline and target. Jesse answered that CMAP would not expect them to, but that CMAP could provide baseline information to some municipalities from the regional inventory it is conducting with the assistance of the Center for Neighborhood Technology.

The Volpe report recommended including GHG as a performance measure at the network or project level. It was noted that the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference includes GHG as a project selection criterion. Another member suggested that the use of GHG emissions at the project level needed to be required of the state by the federal government, and the requirement needed to come with a satisfactory methodology. In a number of places the Volpe report recommended measuring GHG

emissions. For the comprehensive plan scenarios, it was recommended that CMAP focus on accurate estimation of emissions. Committee members agreed that the use of a VMT multiplier with attention to assumptions about fleet mix, etc. would be easy and relatively accurate.

8.0 Summary of greenhouse gas emissions

Linda Young of the Center for Neighborhood Technology presented a summary of the work CNT will be performing under contract to CMAP for an improved regional GHG emissions inventory. She noted that regional estimates had been made by CNT for the *Chicago Climate Action Plan*, but that a number of improvements could be made, such as improving estimates of GHG emissions by agriculture, estimating emissions from Kendall County, etc. It was also noted that CNT would try to make estimates of GHG emissions at a smaller scale. A member suggested picking a select number of municipalities by their geographic and socioeconomic characteristics. A member suggested presenting GHG emissions on a per capita basis to control for size differences. Another member returned to the Volpe report, suggesting that it was too focused on transportation and that other sectors and gases – Volpe recommended concentrating on carbon dioxide – should be examined.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Several members wondered about the approval path for the proposed process for Developments of Regional Importance. It was reported that the Programming Coordinating Committee had made some changes to the document and forwarded it on to public comment. John Rogner noted that Chicago Wilderness would be setting up a forum for CW members to come to CMAP and provide comments on the DRI process. An audience member suggested that the current version of the DRI process had been significantly weakened from the original by CMAP staff.

9.0 Discussion Items/Follow Up for Future Meetings

No discussion.

10.0 Other Business

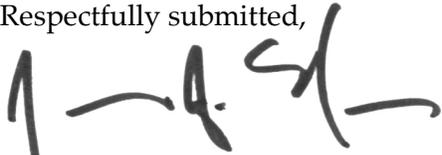
None.

11.0 Public Comment

Paul Heltne suggested that other working committees operate differently from the ENR committee and noted that the Economic and Community Development Committee had commissioned CMAP staff to conduct two major pieces of research. He suggested that the ENR Committee could make a similar request of CMAP staff. Jesse responded that staff hours for the relevant personnel were fully allocated in the work plan for the current fiscal year.

12.0 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elam', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesse Elam
CMAP staff liaison