



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Environment and Natural Resources Committee

### DRAFT Minutes

September 3, 2008 —9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Patricia Young – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Mike Prusila - Lake County SMC, Jack Darin – Sierra Club, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Pete Harmet - IDOT, Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, Martin Jaffe - University of Illinois at Chicago, Melinda Pruett-Jones – Chicago Wilderness, Jim Van der Kloot – USEPA, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Mel Nickerson – Environmental Law & Policy Center, Harlan Spiroff – Municipal representative

**Staff Present:** Annie Byrne, Kristin Heery, Erin Aleman, Bob Dean, Hala Ahmed, Andrew Williams-Clark, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Lee Deuben, Tim Loftus, Don Kopec, Shana Alford, Lindsay Banks, Ross Patronsky, Randy Blankenhorn

**Others Present:** Joe Schuessler (MWRD), Bob Heuer (Farm Credit Council), Paul Heltne and Anja Claus (Center for Humans and Nature), Lynn Peemoeller (Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council)

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Jack called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

#### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2008

The minutes were approved after noting inaccuracies in the roster of attendees.

#### 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Karla Kramer attended the August Programming Coordinating Committee devoted to the Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) process, but was not present for the September ENR meeting to give the update. Lenore Beyer-Clow reported on it briefly. Randy Blankenhorn also reported on the Programming Committee meeting and noted

that the working committees' comments on the draft DRI process, as well as CMAP staff responses and recommendations, would be on the CMAP board agenda for its meeting September 10.

## 5.0 GO TO 2040

### 5.1 Indicators Development – Andrew Williams-Clark, CMAP staff

Drew reviewed the three elements of the Regional Indicators Project – the data warehouse, tracking indicators, and scenario evaluation – as well as the criteria for indicator selection. The entire set of indicators needs to be 150 or less, with the environment and energy indicators making up part of that 150. Drew referred the committee to the draft list of environment and energy indicators in the committee packet and noted that staff had tried to follow the pressure – state – response framework as much as possible. A member remarked that with the air quality indicators CMAP had the opportunity to be more cutting edge by grounding the indicators in human health considerations, suggesting that emergency room admissions for respiratory distress could be an appropriate indicator. Mortality could also work for this. Another member suggested that Clean Air Counts participation would not be an ideal indicator for overall air quality stewardship or societal response and that the indicator should be broadened to include other programs. Melinda felt that the number or dollar value of ecosystem restoration projects in the region should be on the “A-list” of indicators. Jesse responded that it would be a good stewardship indicator, but that pulling the data together from all the organizations involved in restoration would be difficult and that the project could run into gray areas of accounting. Melinda noted that the Chicago Wilderness consortium would be the most appropriate entity to pull together these data. Restoration volunteer hours could also be a good indicator of stewardship. Another member suggested that Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites would not be an appropriate indicator given that it is not clear whether having a larger acreage of INAI sites is “good.”

### 5.2 Scenario Construction – Bob Dean, CMAP staff

Bob Dean gave an update on the scenario development process for the *GO TO 2040* plan, concentrating on the environmental “courses of action” that would be part of each scenario. A member asked whether there would be a kind of “report card” to compare the scenarios so that tradeoffs could be understood and evaluated. Bob responded that indicators would be used to compare scenarios, but that themes like “environment” vs. “economy” would represent false choices. Each scenario would represent an illustrative picture of the future that appeals to a variety of interests. Another member asked whether one scenario would be picked as the preferred scenario or whether the preferred scenario would be a blend of elements from the others. Bob responded that the preferred scenario would be a blend of the others. Another member felt that costs needed to be associated with potential strategies as early as possible; Bob noted that CMAP is preparing a financial plan for *GO TO 2040*.

**6.0 Update on Regional Water Supply Planning Group** – Tim Loftus, CMAP staff  
Tim presented an overview of the recently completed demand report (“Regional Water Demand Scenarios for Northeastern Illinois: 2005 – 2050 / Project Completion Report”) for the regional water supply planning project. He reported that state budget cuts had reduced the CMAP water supply budget by \$390,000 but that the most significant impacts were to the State Water Survey and State Geologic Survey.

**7.0 Agriculture, Ecology & the 2040 Plan** – Bob Heuer, Public Policy & Marketing Consultant  
Bob Heuer began with a presentation of the recommended agricultural preservation areas map from the NIPC *2040 Regional Framework Plan*, saying that the delineation of those preservation areas was only part of the farm preservation picture. He suggested that the business of agriculture on the edge of urban expansion was changing, shifting to higher value products for a local market from lower value commodities for a national market. He contrasted two views of farmland: a conservation mindset sees it as open space for protection, and a progress-oriented mindset sees it as empty space (i.e., ready to be developed). Another sensibility would see agriculture as an asset to be developed, calling this approach “agricultural development.” Bob suggested that CMAP consider following the lead of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to conduct a “foodshed” planning effort. He also recommended that CMAP continue to identify areas recommended for agricultural preservation, arguing that easement-protected land could be an anchor for agricultural development. He also suggested that the agricultural community should be involved more in regional planning.

**8.0 Update on Air Quality Snapshot** – Kristin Heery, CMAP staff  
Kristin Heery presented an analysis of existing conditions with regard to ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter concentrations and trends in the region as a follow-up to her presentation of the Air Quality Snapshot outline. A member asked whether the analysis had looked at hotspots in addition to regional conditions. It was thought that the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium had been examining monitoring data on a finer scale. Another question was whether the current mobile source emissions model (MOBILE6) could predict where hotspots were likely to occur. The response was that MOBILE6 cannot be used for subregional modeling, but that USEPA’s new model (MOVES), when it becomes available, may be able to do so.

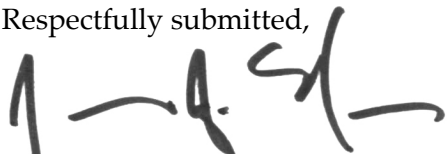
**9.0 Discussion Items/Follow Up for Future Meetings**  
No discussion.

**10.0 Other Business**  
None.

**11.0 Public Comment**  
None.

**13.0 Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Elam', written in a cursive style.

Jesse Elam  
CMAP staff liaison