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Environment and Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

July 2nd, 2008—9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Patricia Young and Joe Schuessler (*alternate*) – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Mike Warner and Patty Werner (*alternate*) - Lake County SMC, Jack Darin and Cindy Skrukrud (*alternate*) – Sierra Club, Karla Kramer – U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Pete Harmet - IDOT, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Lenore Beyer-Clow and Stacy Meyers Glen (*alternate*) – Openlands, Andy Kimmel (*alternate*) – Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts, Mike Rogers – IEPA Bureau of Air, Martin Jaffee and Moira Zellner (*alternate*)- University of Illinois at Chicago, Patrick Ryan-Village of Berwyn, Ken Anderson – Kane County, Melinda Pruett-Jones and John Oldenburg (*alternate*) – Chicago Wilderness, Amy Walkenbach – IEPA Bureau of Water, Jim VanderKloot – USEPA, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Joyce Coffee – City of Chicago DOE, Mel Nickerson – Environmental Law & Policy Center, Harlan Spiroff – Municipal, Lynn Boerman - IDNR

Staff Present:

Kerry Leigh, Hala Ahmed, Andrew Williams-Clark, Bob Dean, Randy Blankenhorn, Kermit Weis, Ross Patronsky, John Hallas, Tim Loftus, Gordon Smith, Diana Torres

Others Present:

Paul Heltne, Brooke Hecht, Anja Claus - Center for Humans and Nature, Ricca Slone, Betsy Tracy- IDOT, Rob Kaleel- IEPA Bureau of Air, Nancy Williamson – IDNR, Steve Byers – INPC, Dan Thomas - CTA

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 June 4th, 2008**

Andy Kimmel moved to approve and Pete Harmet seconded. Motion carried.

4.0 **Coordinating Committees Update – Chair Jack Darin**

Jack will be meeting with CMAP staff to discuss how the committees can interrelate more effectively.

5.0 **GO TO 2040 Indicators Development – CMAP staff**

5.1 Indicators Development – Andrew Williams Clark

Staff is still asking for input offline and have received the last deliverable from the consultants. Andrew commended this committee at being especially good at engaging in this process and directing staff to data over the last few months. Fortunately, environmental data doesn't have a lot of legal barriers. He asked the committee to look at the way staff has reorganized this data into broad categories. There will be 9 different stakeholder workshops held to make sure everyone is comfortable with the data, and for prioritization of the indicators. The workshops will also address how an indicator system can help stakeholders do their jobs.

5.2 Scenario Construction – Bob Dean

There was good consensus with other committees on the thematic approach. There will be a conference call at the end of next week or the week after for anyone interested to provide input. There will be continual opportunities throughout the summer to provide input for the scenario construction.

6.0 **Northeastern Illinois Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Attainment Demonstration – Rob Kaleel, Manager of IEPA's Air Quality Planning Section** 10:00

ACTION REQUESTED: Information & Discussion

The Illinois EPA will presented the analysis and strategy for attaining the 8-hour Ozone and PM2.5 air quality standards in the northeastern Illinois area. This is based on the 1997 standards. Rob outlined the CAA requirements and the general modeling steps for performance evaluation. EPA is constantly looking at research on impacts to human health and the most recent revisions were in 2006 for Particulate Matter and in 2008 for ozone. The powerpoint presentation will be posted to the web page.

7.0 **Snapshot Planning Impacts of Latino Population Growth**

– John Hallas, CMAP staff

10:20

ACTION REQUESTED: Information & Discussion

Staff presented the preliminary snapshot report for discussion & feedback. The powerpoint is on the web. Questions the committee presented were how should we, as a committee, be addressing these communities and what should this committee address?

How are Latino issues different and should special needs be addressed through our environmental programs? Also asked was if there was a study done on attitudes in the community towards natural resources. Kerry will work with Melinda, Andy and Joyce to come up with a program for the committees to have some 2040 input for CMAP.

8.0 Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) – Kermit Wies, CMAP staff 10:40
ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion & feedback to the Programming Coordinating Committee

Kermit presented the Programming Coordinating committees (PCC) draft DRI document outlining how a DRI is identified and referred to the CMAP Board, including the criteria and thresholds for identifying DRIs and the review process for a DRI. He noted that the document includes extended outreach in September and will be presented to the CMAP board in November. The overview included a description of the tiered review process which attempts to also answer the question of how will we deal with these once we know them? There will be no universal set of characteristics that identify a DRI and they are looking for transparency and disclosure for going through this process. The PCC agreed that they didn't want to create a separate process, and wanted to work through existing governmental processes.

The first question addresses how a DRI is referred to the CMAP Board and it must be regionally significant. Staff will be looking for a direct approval from the board to consider it a DRI. It would come up through the coordinating committees with sound arguments on the impacts on regional planning.

Some questions on the process raised by the committee included:

- Where are advocacy groups and citizens to bring projects before the Board?
There is a concern that there is no defined role or avenue for advocacy groups as some local governments may not be responsive to their concerns and may work against the protection of natural resources.
- There are only 2 mechanisms to bring the DRI forward:
The State statute states public and private entities, not just public entities. The Forest Preserve Districts, for example, may have independent governance and not be under county jurisdiction.
- On paragraph 2, page 3 the draft document states a DRI will affect significant numbers of people, however the enabling legislation language in Section 42 includes a clause for projects that will affect natural resources as well.
- Federal and state actions are limited, why not county or municipality?
- Concern the FPA process is exempted.
- Possible solution includes citizen petitions to achieve citizen access.
- Also need to look at regional benefits.
- What is the interface between the working and the coordinating committees?

- We need to also focus on the back end of the process, what happens after the DRI review? Perhaps enter into a MOA with state agencies to give CMAP comments some weight.
- Natural resource concerns need to be ratcheted up in the scoping process.
- Doesn't define a DRI criteria.
- The committee would like to see comments from the Land Use Committee and other committees

The next meeting of the PCC is in August and Jack will be making recommendations for change at that meeting, so there needs to be consensus on what he will be taking forward.

MOTION: Karla motioned for another meeting to specifically address DRI's so there is more time for committee discussion. Seconded by Lenore. Motion carried. Kerry and Jack will send out dates as Jack is not available August 6th, and Kerry will coordinate.

9.0 Discussion Items/Follow Up for Future Meetings

- Collaboration of the Working Committees
- How the committee can assist with Latino demographics issues/needs

10.0 Other Business

11.0 Public Comment

12.0 Adjournment

Mel moved to adjourn and Lenore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: July 24th, 2008 at 9:30 am